

Colombia Harvest & Shipping Update

Asorcafe

The harvest at lower altitudes begins early May with the higher altitudes coming online closer to June 1. Leader Geovanny Liscano says that not much has changed in the greater Pedregal communities though all large gatherings have been cancelled and people are generally keeping a safe distance from those outside their own families. Producers can farm and maintain their harvests with their immediate family units. Asorcafe has had collection centers established in San Jose, San Antonio, Pedregal and Inzá for years which will help keep everyone as safely away from each other as possible once the harvest commences.

FUDAM/Manos de Mujeres

Leaders Raquel and Jeremias Lasso are isolating in their respective homes in Cartago, on the slopes up above La Union. Harvest at altitude in Northern Nariño will begin at the end of May. Each of their field techs have been designated a small area within the greater area that the association serves. As all of their membership are farming on just a couple of hectares or so they'll be doing their own labor before and during the harvest per usual. These folks aren't used to bringing in outside labor.

Raquel's biggest concern at this point is keeping her membership outside of La Union where there are instances of infected people. They'll eventually collect parchment at collection sites in each village to keep folks as isolated from each other as possible. Again, harvest won't begin until the end of May.

As an aside, Raquel is hoping to receive Fair Trade and Organic certification for all of her producer members this season, which can help bolster the strength of her offerings in a market more focused on grocery sales.

Cauca Smallholder Project

We operate this project in conjunction with the Comité de Cauca in Popayan and its director, Dr. Gerardo Montenegro. Dr. Montenegro let us know that the peak harvest season will begin in the areas surrounding Popayan in the first half of May. These producers are farming lots ranging from 1-3 hectares in size and are able to manage their work as family units. They don't rely on outside labor support.