

CONACADO (Confederación Nacional de Cacaocultores Dominicanos)

Haina (Dominican Republic)

<http://conacado.com.do>



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Founded:	1988; Fair Trade certification since 1995
claro-partner since:	2000
Location:	Port of Haina (registered office); various regional areas (production)
Number of producers:	8230 families of organic farmers
Products:	Cocoa beans certified as organic
Structure:	Umbrella organisation
Proportion of women:	Cocoa publication: poor
Sub-groups:	8 regional associations with a total of 182 village groups

The producers

The population of the Dominican Republic is largely made up of families of peasant farmers who live primarily from cultivating cocoa, which in many cases does not even provide them with enough to cover their costs. A regional group of peasant farmers founded the umbrella organisation *CONACADO* at the end of the 1980s with the aim of achieving better prices as a group. In collaboration with the European Fair Trade organisation, *CONACADO* was successful introducing the regulations for the organic cultivation of cocoa and meeting the criteria for Fair Trade certification. Today, *CONACADO* has eight regional associations nationwide and 182 groups of villages and employs over 80 people in the areas of administration, co-ordination, training and consulting. Thanks to continuous improvement in the fermentation, drying and storage of cocoa beans, staff are now also achieving significantly higher prices in the domestic market and in conventional trade. Almost 90 per cent of the farmers have organic certification; thanks to internal preliminary controls by their own trained staff, the costs of certification are not as high. As cocoa is traditionally an area dominated by men, *CONACADO* supports several women's groups, whose members now have specialist knowledge and an income thanks to the manufacture and marketing of various finished products and consultancy and training from *CONACADO*. With the aim of creating jobs and possibilities for diversification, *CONACADO* also manages an alternative tourism project. The Fair Trade premium helps, in part, to improve operating structures (e.g. drying units). It further enables drinking water and electricity supplies to be improved, medical stations to be maintained and training and grants etc. to be provided.

The product

To manufacture Mascao organic chocolate, *claro* uses organic chocolate together with raw materials from *El Ceibo* (claro code 623), *Cacvra* (code 688) and *Alter Trade* (code 291) cocoa butter from *CONACADO* cocoa beans that are certified by the German inspection body *BCS*.

The Fair Trade contribution

- payment of a minimum price that covers costs or the market price, if this is above the minimum price and the Fair Trade premium
- support for the conversion to organic cultivation by using a finished product
- creating added-value by using a finished product (cocoa butter)