YACAO – Dominican Republic

YACAO is PRONATEC's subsidiary in the Dominican Republic, sourcing, processing and exporting single-origin organic and Fairtrade cocoa. Founded with local partners in 2000, it works closely with FUNDOPO, one of the country's leading smallholder cocoa organisations, linking around 3'500 farming families directly to PRONATEC's value chain.

The Dominican Republic is one of the world's leading origins for organic cocoa. For many smallholders, organic and Fairtrade cocoa brings fairer prices, premiums and reliable market access.

YACAO buys cocoa directly from FUNDOPO's members and pays locally, ensuring prompt payment while handling processing and export. At its four centres in Navarrete, El Seibo, Medina and Yamasá, YACAO manages fermentation, drying and quality control, developing the mild, balanced profile of Hispaniola cocoa.

Since 2019, a barcode system has made it possible to trace cocoa back to its producers, strengthening transparency and YACAO's role as the link between FUNDOPO and PRONATEC.

Here's what YACAO stands for

YACAO, S.R.L.

- **Direct sourcing** of organic and Fairtrade cocoa from the Dominican Republic
- **Controlled fermentation** and drying in four local processing centres
- **Bean-to-bar traceability** through a barcode-based system
- **Agroforestry cocoa** that supports biodiversity and a no-deforestation approach
- **High soil fertility** by producing humus in the agroforestry system

"Successful harvests are built on committed people, sound decisions and long-term trust. Seeing these elements come together at YACAO makes me genuinely proud."
Michael Vogel, CFO YACAO

Here's how YACAO supports smallholder organisation FUNDOPO

- **Greater income stability** and no financial risk through local and direct purchases of FUNDOPO's harvest
- **Higher producer incomes** through organic and Fairtrade premiums and the Fairtrade Minimum Price
- **Organisational support** by providing tools and technical guidance for the digitisation of the ICS and EUDR compliance

Partnership built on local presence

PRONATEC founded YACAO with local partners to establish a permanent presence in the Dominican Republic and develop a reliable organic and Fairtrade cocoa supply chain at origin. Today, YACAO serves as the operational link between FUNDOPO's smallholder farmers and PRONATEC, coordinating purchasing, processing, quality assurance and export.

The partnership is built on direct sourcing, close local collaboration and long-term market access. YACAO purchases FUNDOPO's cocoa, oversees fermentation, drying and quality control at its processing centres, and prepares the cocoa for export to PRONATEC's international customers. This close cooperation helps secure reliable income for farming families while ensuring consistently high standards of quality, traceability, sustainability and transparency throughout the supply chain.

YACAO at a glance

DIRECTLY SOURCED

- Founded in 2000
- PRONATEC subsidiary in the Dominican Republic
- Management: Michael Vogel and Yves Kubli
- 97 employees, inclucing 27 women
  (plus 100 employees seasonal)
- Four processing centres located in Medina, Yamasá, Navarrete and El Seibo, as well as a central export warehouse near Santo Domingo Norte
- Focus: purchasing, fermentation, drying, quality control and export

pronatec.com/yacao-en

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