PRONATEC



FUNDOPO – Dominican Republic

FUNDOPO brings together 3'843 smallholder cocoa farmers in the Dominican Republic. Founded in 2000 by 84 farming families, the cooperative has been closely linked with PRONATEC and its local subsidiary YACAO from the start. YACAO helped establish FUNDOPO and has supported it ever since, from organic and Fairtrade certification to purchasing the full harvest and connecting its cocoa with international markets.

For many years, cocoa farmers in Medina, Yamasá and Puerto Plata struggled to make a living from conventional cocoa. Today FUNDOPO members receive fair prices for their organic beans and decide collectively how to use the Fairtrade premium. These funds support farm improvements, housing, health, water supply and local infrastructure.

PRONATEC's local subsidiary YACAO buys the full cocoa harvest from FUNDOPO's smallholders, pays locally and manages fermentation, drying, quality control and export. This connects their cocoa to PRONATEC's international organic and Fairtrade value chain.

Many members cultivate cocoa in diverse agroforestry systems, where cocoa trees grow alongside shade trees and food crops. Through tree nurseries, model gardens and training, FUNDOPO supports farm renewal, soil fertility, biodiversity and climate resilience.



Here's what FUNDOPO stands for

FUNDOPO

- **Organic and Fairtrade cocoa** from smallholder families in the Dominican Republic
- **Democratic use of Fairtrade premiums** for community development
- **Agroforestry systems** that support biodiversity and soil fertility
- **Training, tree nurseries and model gardens** for sustainable cocoa farming

"My children have benefited from the organic and Fairtrade premiums. They have helped us pay for food, school supplies and other important needs."

Felipe Bello, 70 years, member of FUNDOPO since 2000



LATEST FAIRTRADE PROJECTS

- **Improving quality –** warehouses, collection points, education centres
- **A safe space for sport and recreation –** construction of a backstop at the local baseball field for children, young people and adults
- **Improving the local water supply –** construction of an aqueduct

Here's how FUNDOPO supports local smallholder families

- **More stable income** through organic and Fairtrade premiums and the Fairtrade minimum price
- **Higher yields** through advisory services, training, seedlings and model gardens
- **Better living conditions** through housing, renovations and water supply projects
- **Health support** through coverage of medical treatment and medication costs
- **Community benefits** through investments in schools, infrastructure and local projects

Partnership built on local cooperation

FUNDOPO organises and supports its members through training, advisory services and community projects. YACAO complements this work by purchasing the farmers' entire cocoa harvest and managing processing, quality assurance and export. Together with PRONATEC, the two organisations connect smallholder farmers in the Dominican Republic with PRONATEC's international organic and Fairtrade value chain.

The partnership is built on a clear division of roles, close local cooperation and long-term market access. It helps secure more stable incomes for farming families while strengthening quality, traceability, sustainability and transparency throughout the supply chain.

FUNDOPO at a glance

- Founded in 2000 with 84 farming families
- Fairtrade certified since 2005
- 3'843 members, including 571 women
- 10'321 hectares under cultivation
- 6'712 plots (average 1.5ha)
- Based in the Dominican Republic

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