

An excellent cup of coffee – (Nicaragua)

Your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, through its partner Lutheran World Relief, help fund this development effort in Nicaragua.



For Flora del Socorro Montenegro, a good cup of coffee means more than just a caffeine fix. Her livelihood depends on it. Flora is a member of a Nicaraguan coffee farmer cooperative partnering with Lutheran World Relief to improve the quality of their coffee and increase their sales in the fair trade and organic markets.

With only a few acres of coffee, Flora began converting to organic production around four years ago. Last year Flora's cooperative obtained official organic certification of their farms.

"It's a lot of work, but definitely worth the effort," said Flora. "We spent a lot of time doing all the different tasks necessary to convert the farm into organic: digging water retention ditches, planting shade trees, and setting up organic fertilizer and pest control systems. I learned a lot about improving and maintaining the quality of my coffee."

In December of 2004, Flora won fourth place in Nicaragua's prestigious "Cup of Excellence" coffee competition. As a result, she was able to sell her entire year's harvest for significantly more than market price.

"The award came just at the right time for my family," said Flora. "When word came that I had won fourth place and that my coffee had been bought at auction at such an amazing price, my children came to me and said, 'This is great, Mom! Now we can get some new shoes and school uniforms!'"

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