

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE 9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SPP GLOBAL.

Gathered at the IX General Assembly of the Intercontinental Network of Small Producers' Organizations, Small Producers' Symbol Global, better known as SPP, those present, representing 500,000 families organized in more than 120 organizations of small producers of food and handicrafts from 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, and more than forty companies and civil organizations from 40 countries in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia, declare:

1.SPP IS STRENGTHENED AS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF SMALL ORGANIZED PRODUCERS.

The IX Assembly of SPP has agreed to deepen its presence as an authentic independent network of small organized producers from the countries of the South, in alliance with companies and other organizations from the North and the South.

SPP as an intercontinental network of small organic producers has contributed significantly to the political and commercial leadership of small organic producer organizations in Latin America, Africa and Asia in the fair trade and organic markets.

The small producers' organizations of SPP which are distributed in more than 24 countries around the world, produced more than 3,000 tons of products like coffee, cocoa, cane sugar, fruits, nuts and grains.



"Not only as Chair of SPP Global, but as a small coffee producer I feel fully identified with SPP, as a great need and historical success in the face of the reality we live in today. SPP represents what the planet needs to achieve its balance and the market to be fair to all."

Nelson Melo Maya,
Chair SPP Global,
Popayan, Cauca,
Colombia.

2.SPP IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON THE REAL AND UNNEGOTIABLE VALUE OF THE WORK OF SMALL ORGANIZED PRODUCERS.

The IX General Assembly strongly endorses the commitment of SPP to maximize the value of the products and work of small producers and their constructive contributions to a better world, as part of the *raison d'être* of SPP. Small producers do not seek charity, but real justice, without deceit.

Since its inception, SPP has fought to ensure that the prices paid to producers actually cover the costs of integrated production. One of the central reasons for the creation of SPP was that in other fair trade schemes the producers were not able to achieve minimum prices that were truly in line with the realities and needs of small producers.

The work of the families of small organized producers of SPP cannot and should not be compared with the work of private companies oriented towards the supposed financial and technological efficiency, based on a model of maximum exploitation of natural resources and devaluing human labor.

The successes of SPP demonstrate that it is possible for the market to pay truly fair and sustainable prices to small producer families and that we can truly build a different economy and world.



"The reality of the market has been difficult at the moment of negotiating prices derived from the fact that the strategic allies sometimes do not value that the product has a certification, in its majority they look for quality at a low price, it has been a fight that has been carried out for years by the SPP-label, so that the added value of being an organization of Small Producers is recognized".

Felicita Sic, Secretary SPP Global,
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

3.SPP IS A SYMBOL OF DEMOCRACY, EQUITY AND SOLIDARITY.

The IX General Assembly ratifies the Declaration of Principles and Values of SPP, which focuses on the fundamentals of participatory democratic organization of unprotected sectors, such as collectivity, equity, justice and respect for the small scale, cooperativism and local economy. We ratify the importance of SPP as an essential part of the struggle of organized small producers against the abuses of power in the different markets.

When SPP was created, the Principles and Values on which the Small Producers' Symbol was to be built were defined, as an alternative for small producers' organizations to other initiatives promoting the small producers' market and fair trade.

SPP has democratic decision-making structures, based on the principles of Participatory Democracy, Collectivity, Solidarity, Justice and Equity. SPP does not allow the abuse of power over each other based on the strengths of some against the weaknesses of others.

In the times of COVID 19 and "Black Lives Matter", showing in a renewed way the historical inequalities based on discrimination, oppression and exploitation, more than ever SPP has the opportunity and responsibility to present itself as one more example of equity and a process of successful re-conquest of the power of those who have been deprived of power for centuries, locally and globally.



"It is not easy to manage to sell fruit in SPP conditions, for us it is a pride and an immense joy each banana sold with this label that represents the effort and dedication in the field of a Small Producer".

Reymundo Villarreal,
Vice Chair, SPP Global,
Sullana, Piura, Peru.

SPP products reach hundreds of thousands of final consumers in more than 40 countries.

4.SPP IS OUR PRIDE.

All the organizations of small producers and companies that are part of SPP Global are convinced that SPP, its principles, values and achievements, is the best option in the organic fair trade market sector of small producers and we call on consumers and conscious companies to join us and make a real difference.

Today, we have achieved, after many years of work against the odds, growing public and private recognition of SPP as one of the main and most reliable fair trade initiatives in the world. The only one owned completely by organized small producers.

With the SPP we have also managed to consolidate a special market for our products from small producers that recognizes the integral quality of our products, paying prices that do real justice to our work, breaking with the exploitation implicit in the free market and in false models of sustainability at low prices.

So that the SPP market grows with greater speed and strength, we make a broad call for more and more consumers and companies to be convinced that SPP is the only real solution to generate a different future for organized small producers.

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Small Producers'
Symbol

