



February 22, 2024

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE XII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SPP GLOBAL

Having gathered at the **XII General Assembly**, on January 17/18 and February 21/22, 2024, the representatives of the SPP Global intercontinental network of Small Producers' Organizations, representing about **100,000 families** (500,000 people) organized into **129 small agricultural producers' organizations from 28 countries** in **Latin America-the Caribbean, Asia and Africa**, as well as the representatives of our **business partners from more than 60 companies and cooperatives from a dozen countries in Europe, North America, and Latin America**, declare the following:

The **SPP Small Producers and Fair Trade** initiative has proven to be effective and more necessary than ever so that Small **Producer families have the future prospects they deserve**, just like any other human being who is productive in terms of labor and economy.

As for our **XII General Assembly**, we wish to focus our reflections on the following **5 key points**:

1. After a slight downturn caused by the pandemic, towards mid-**2022** we experienced a **strong 17% growth in the market value of SPP products when compared to the same period in 2021**.

However, at the end of 2022 and at the beginning of 2023, the energy price crisis in Europe caused European **consumers** to, for the first time in history, **reduce their consumption of organic and Fair Trade** products, giving priority to basic needs.

This had a strong impact on several markets such as the **organic and fair trade coffee** market, causing SPP sales to drop over the course of 2023.

However, we observed that a **growth rate of about 15%** occurred by mid-2023, **which made us feel very optimistic**.





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8.00-11.30 GMT-5

Public Declaration
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2. We celebrate that in mid-2023 we managed to get SPP Global to establish a significant **increase in minimum prices for coffee** – from \$2.20 US to \$2.52 US in the case of washed Arabica coffee - sitting above the prices of other fair trade labels. In this way, SPP contributes to covering the **actual costs of quality organic production** and can continue to generate **Living Income** for small producer families.
3. On the other hand, in this XII General Assembly, SPP Global has managed to approve its new **SPP Environmental Standard**, following a five-year project involving research, consultation and development: with this, SPP is incorporating into its regulations not only the main criteria of the different **organic regulations**, but also criteria and principles pertaining to **Agroecology** and **Regenerative Agriculture**.

The Small Producers' Organizations, the companies and the commercial cooperatives that make up our big SPP family have always stood out for having a **strong commitment towards peasant agriculture**, i.e., agriculture that is based on polyculture fundamentals and seeks to protect **biodiversity** and groundwater, all while **regenerating soils** and protecting **forests**.

Our SPP partners have been **forerunners** speaking of the principles that have recently led the European Community to adopt their **Law Against Deforestation (EUDR)**. With our new **SPP Environmental Standard**, SPP Global reiterates its commitment regarding that same purpose, but **based on the realities of small producer families**.

4. This last year, SPP Global has achieved to have **13 new commercial partners join as members**, most of them from Spain and France, a country that continues to be the SPP market par excellence.

In addition, there are **advanced negotiations with various emblematic companies** in different countries and continents concerning different products (coffee, cocoa, fruits, nuts, etc.); we hope the outcome of these will help us give an important boost to the SPP market in 2024, so that we're able to consolidate and expand the SPP trade's impacts on more and more families of Small Producers in the global South.

We also found that several of our **current SPP business partners** are steadily increasing the **diversity and volumes of SPP products** they place in their respective markets.

5. In mid-2023, the **new SPP image** was launched emphasizing the 5 differences that distinguish SPP from other labels:
 - I. 100% by and for **small producers organized democratically**.
 - II. 100% **companies and commercial cooperatives fully committed** through their own mission.





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- III. 100% **Guaranteed minimum prices** for **high quality sustainable products** to allow a **living income**.
- IV. 100% Products coming from **organic** and agroecological **agriculture**, with full **physical traceability**.
- V. 100% **certification by independent bodies**.

SPP Global also adopted a new slogan: **"The empowering label"**. It represents the **origin and mission of SPP**, as well as collective strengthening of capacities and **economic empowerment for the families of small producers** who are at the head of our organization at all times.

For 2024, we hope to have the broad support of conscious **consumers, companies and development cooperation agencies**, to together achieve an **empowered future** and a strong boost to the well-being of hundreds of thousands of families of small producers worldwide.

SPP Global General Assembly

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SPP Global Contact:

com@spp.coop

WA: +52 55 2943 6204

