



DRWakefield

EST. 1970

Colombia

# SUAREZ



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<i>Location</i>	Cauca, Suarez
<i>Producers</i>	256
<i>Altitude</i>	1200 - 1850 masl
<i>Varieties</i>	Castillo, Colombia, Caturra, Typica
<i>Processes</i>	Washed
<i>Harvest</i>	April – July, November - January

Falling under the Northern region of Cauca 17,000 families from eight municipalities inhabited by Afro-descendant, Nasa, and mestizo communities, are responsible for producing Café del Norte. Located in the northern mountains of the Department, whose climate contrasts between cold temperatures and warm winds from the geographic valley of the Cauca River, 99% of growers produce on farms of less than 5 hectares. 94500 hectares are under coffee throughout Cauca. 17,000 hectares of that make up Café del Norte, or the Northern region of Cauca, and Suarez itself a much smaller portion of that.

The Federación Nacional de Cafeteros (FNC), Colombia's governing body for coffee, has adapted its recommendations to suit the unique conditions of the country's emerging coffee axis. Huila, Cauca, and Nariño each have distinct strategies shaped by climate, terrain, and farmer demographics.

For Cauca, where Suarez lies, focusing on smallholder resilience by promoting shade-grown using native trees like Inga and Gravilea to reduce erosion and regulate microclimates.

Intercropping with plantain, corn, and beans is also common to diversify income and improve soil health.

Racafe's CRECER project segues perfectly with this. "The objective of CRECER is to provide a framework to generate changes in the production systems of Racafé's coffee suppliers, based on a progressive process of continuous improvement, leading them towards sustainable practices in the social, environmental and economic factors associated with coffee production."

256 farmers are part of CRECER in Suarez. With them, RACAFE have developed many projects. These include gender equality with a female group of producers through to improving the management of coffee pulp after wet processing. They do this in a type of composting bed, to produce fertilizers from coffee pulp that can be re-incorporated into the crop as they are an important source of nitrogen for the soil that contributes to improved production for the next harvest. You can read more on this and our other projects [here](#)

