DRWakefield
EST.1970

Colombia

CENCOIC MUJERES

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Region	Cauca
Members	2750+
Altitude	1500 - 2000 masl
Varieties	Colombia, Caturra, Typica, Tabi, Castillo
Harvest	April – August
Processes	Washed

CENCOIC (Central Cooperativa Indígena del Cauca) is a cooperative founded in 1980 to support the economic autonomy of Indigenous communities in Colombia's Cauca region. It operates through a network of associations tied to Indigenous cabildos and resguardos, with a strong emphasis on cultural preservation, sustainable agriculture, and inclusive governance.

Women play a vital role in CENCOIC's structure, participating in production, administration, and leadership. Training for women is embedded in CENCOIC's broader development strategy. It includes theoretical and practical education in organic coffee cultivation, quality control, and certification standards. Women receive technical support through on-farm visits, helping them improve practices in fermentation, drying, and environmental management. These efforts are supported by Fairtrade premiums, which fund infrastructure improvements and reduce chemical inputs.

CENCOIC also integrates cultural education into its training, reinforcing indigenous identity and ancestral knowledge. Women are active participants in these programmes, which align agricultural practices with community values. This holistic approach ensures that women are not only skilled producers but also empowered contributors to cooperative governance.

The cooperative's decentralised model allows each community to manage its own operations, creating pathways for women to rise through local leadership structures. Through inclusive training, technical assistance, and cultural reinforcement, CENCOIC enables women to take on influential roles within their communities and the cooperative at large.

In sum, CENCOIC's support for women is woven into its ethos, promoting equity, sustainability, and indigenous resilience through practical training and inclusive leadership. By creating a coffee explicitly for a market that is looking to support this they can further build on the work they have already done.