

“Honey helps to provide education, to feed us, all the needs that we have. CIPAC pays us the fair price that we need.”

Carmelo Samayoa
Beekeeper, CIPAC
Guatemala.



Photo: Richard Else

Sweet success in the *cerro*

Carmelo Samayoa lives and works in the *cerro* (mountains) of north west Guatemala and has been keeping bees for around 25 years. He used to sell his honey locally, but now he's a member of CIPAC, the co-operative which supplies Traidcraft's Squeezy Honey and adds sweetness to Crunchy Granola Geobars.

The fair price Carmelo receives helps him provide for his wife and six children, but he receives support from CIPAC too.

“The work now is more economical. Before, we were ignorant. Thanks to CIPAC we have information on how to maintain the bees and technical knowledge. We also have credit when we need it.”



Photo: Richard Else

Fairer footprint

Traidcraft's Carbon Footprint Fund has invested in a tree planting project for beekeepers.

By giving them fruit trees to grow, it not only benefits the environment and helps prevent soil erosion, but provides vital nectar for bees – plus tasty fruit for youngsters like six-year-old Selvin to eat.

Family first

CIPAC has more than 140 members and sells honey gathered from over 5,000 hives by some 200 bee keepers. The area where they live and work is beautiful, but remote, and there are few work opportunities.

Pablo Hernandez used to go to Mexico to earn money through harvesting coffee, but now he keeps bees he can stay at home with his family.

“For 12 years I have not gone back to Mexico. With the bees I have not found it necessary to go back.”



Photo: Richard Else

Fighting poverty through trade

For CIPAC, Traidcraft is more than just a buyer. Working with them, we have identified ways to invest in the co-op, making it stronger and better for its members.

Our funding has helped bee expert, Yefin Herrera – pictured with CIPAC's first group of women beekeepers – to provide them with expert advice on coping with changing weather patterns, which affect the bees and the honey harvest.



Photo: Richard Else