

## Guest Profile



**Name:** Mr Oscar González

**Organisation:** Coomprocom R.L  
(Cooperativa Multisectorial de Productores de Café Orgánico de Matagalpa)

**Location:** Matagalpa, Nicaragua



### About Oscar González

Oscar was born in 1984 and grew up on a small coffee farm in Matagalpa. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife. He went to the university and graduated as a biologist in 2004. Then he studied accountancy in a National Technical Institute called INTAE. He then worked as a high school teacher for six years and also as a lecturer in a local university. For two years he was also the director of an International NGO with an office in Nicaragua.

He is now director of communications for Coomprocom and is in charge of the development of a gender policy, monthly reports to the various local committees, translation of international contracts and establishment of new commercial relationships with coffee companies globally.

*“Fairtrade is a bridge between producers and consumers. Sometimes the trading process is not as fair as it seems. Fairtrade takes into account a variety of conditions to make trade have equal benefits and responsibilities for all the participants. It means better prices to the producers that cover the costs of production, loan access, and long term commercial relationships. All these elements are essential in the development of a small-holder organisation.”* **Oscar González**

## Organisational Profile

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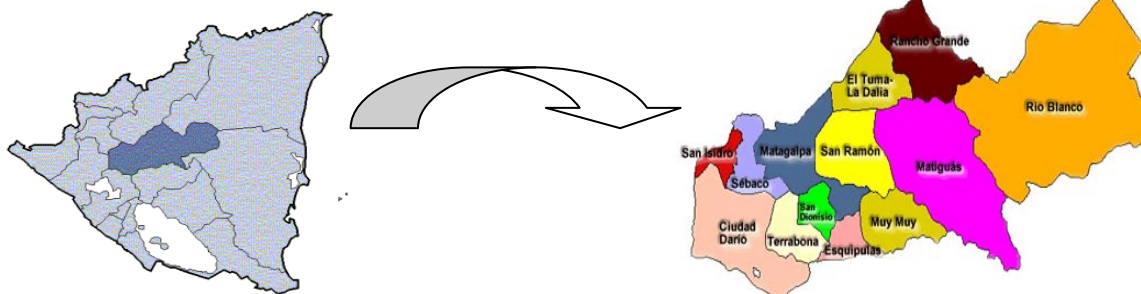
**Product:** Coffee

**Membership:** 178 (of which 19 are women)

**Established:** 2003

**Involved in Fairtrade:** December 2004

### Location of Coomprocom



### Background

Coomprocom is a cooperative with 178 members, all of whom are small scale organic coffee farmers. It is located in 15 communities in six different districts of Matagalpa province, in the central region of Nicaragua. The region has a widely varied climate and beautiful landscapes and fertile lands, perfect for the high quality coffee production. Coomprocom was established in the late 1990's and was legally registered as a cooperative in 2003. Democratic control of the cooperative was very important, in order to ensure the development of secure businesses and key services for the small growers. Protection of the natural environment and ecosystems by developing clean and sound production practices is also of great importance to the cooperative.

### Structure of the Cooperative

The members of Coomprocom elect a board of directors who employ a small core staff. Coomprocom's members are organised in a small network of committees. There is one committee in each of the 15 communities. There are also 15 internal field volunteer assistants who support the staff of Coomprocom responsible for the Technical Assistance.

### Fairtrade Social Premium

The social premium is used to fund projects for the neediest members. For example: digging wells, providing scholarships, improving housing and supplying of first aid kits. Coomprocom has also supported schools; technical centres; community health and safety plans, including improvements to water quality and reduction of environmental and workplace hazards.

## Nicaraguan Facts

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<b>Full Name:</b>	Republic of Nicaragua
<b>Population:</b>	5,891,199 (July 2009 est.)
<b>Capital City:</b>	Managua
<b>Languages:</b>	Spanish 97.5% (official), Miskito 1.7%, other 0.8% (1995 census) <i>note: English and indigenous languages on Atlantic coast</i>
<b>Currency:</b>	Córdoba (C\$)
<b>Major agricultural exports:</b>	Coffee, beef, tobacco, sugar and peanuts
<b>Life expectancy:</b>	71.5 years
<b>Adult Literacy Rate:</b>	67.5%
<b>HDI Ranking:</b>	120 out of 177

