

THE GRAND

FROM EQUAL EXCHANGE, YOUR COFFEE ROASTER



Connecting over COFFEE



CARLY & LYNSEY in Chiapas

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR RECENT DELEGATION

CHIAPAS, MEXICO

CO-OPS VISITED:

- Comon Yaj Noptic
- CESMACH
- Finca Triunfo Verde

We're often on the road. And sometimes that road is not paved, and it switchbacks up the precarious slopes of a coffee-studded mountain.

Much of our international travel is done by our Coffee Buying and Quality teams. But we don't stop there. We create time and opportunity for delegations to source, where our staff, and sometimes our customers, get to see the coffee chain - and Fair Trade impact - in action.

Within the first few years, all worker-owner staff at Equal Exchange are invited on a delegation to visit one of our producer partner co-ops. Whether our individual day job is at the roaster, in customer service, in the warehouse or elsewhere, we are each part of this alternative supply chain. Each piece is essential in making the whole chain work. The experiences we have at source - from being hosted in a farmer's home, to harvesting coffee for a day, to cupping at the dry mill - help us witness the other crucial pieces of the chain, and re-inspire us to do our own part with heart.



FROM LYNSEY, Co-Director of Advanced Coffee, ON THE FARMERS SHE MET:

"The unique passions of the people inspired me. On paper, the projects these co-ops create are impressive. They're preventing cervical cancer, preserving habitat of migratory songbirds from my home state, creating microenterprises in the remote mountains. In person, I also saw what I could never truly witness from afar: how dynamic each project is. Agustino shines when he talks of birds; Connie gives a playful shoulder shove as we explore a waterfall. Each project comes alive because of the creative people who are a part of it. And each person comes alive in their project."



FROM CARLY, our Green Coffee Buyer, ON THE CUSTOMERS WE WORK WITH:

"I was struck by the delegation participants' awe at the amount of work that it takes to harvest and prepare high-quality coffee. Each cafe owner had such earnest ways of thanking the farmers. The effort that it takes in the United States to sell these farmers' coffee is intense. Getting to know the farmers' struggle to gain a place in the market really illuminates the essence of our trade. My hat's off to our customers!"