



The cooperative called “Granja Vicarial de Rio Blanco” began producing coffee in 2013 after the ministry of agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and fisheries was promoting the “Ecuadorian Coffee Reactivation Project” aiming to enhance productivity, profitability, research, quality improvement, and institutional development within the coffee value. The cooperative is owned by the “Vicariato Apostolico de Mendez” in the province of “Morona Santiago” which is in the Amazon jungle in Southeast Ecuador next to the border of Peru.

The Cooperative is made up of mainly indigenous people called “Shuar”. They are revered warriors and use to shrink the heads of their enemies. The Shuar have 150 coffee producers that make up 26 communities in the Province. It is the custom of the Shuar people that the women will do all the planting and harvesting of the coffee. The men will go hunting while the women take care of the crops. This project has generated many employment opportunities for the Shuar and has helped their individual families to become more financially stable.

