



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
San Juan, PR

October 29, 2009

SUCCESS STORY

Hacienda Monte Alto Coffee Plantation in Adjuntas.

OUTLINE OF NEED:



Hacienda Monte Alto is located in the heart of the central mountain range of Puerto Rico in the town of Adjuntas. The combination of high altitude, cool weather, precipitation and soils found in Adjuntas, produce an environment for the coffee beans to ripen very slowly, allowing the flavor to concentrate and develop its coffee characteristic taste. The cost of processing the coffee is a huge one due, to continue rising of the propane gas.

HOW RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPED:



Rural Development provided a grant of \$14,062 to buy three toaster ovens that will use coffee beans shell as fuel, substituting propane gas currently used. The funding came from the Rural Energy for America, REAP, an initiative to help rebuild and revitalize rural America.

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THE RESULTS:

As a result of the incorporation of biomass to reduce the cost of energy required for coffee processing, this small Coffee Plantation will save 15 permanent jobs and 40 seasonal jobs. Now they can maintain a competitive cost without the hassle of the raising price of the propane gas.

Mr. Jimmy Román, the administrator of the Hacienda, is joined by his three sons in the planning, management and operation of all facets of the plantation's cultivation, processing and distribution of the highland Puerto Rican coffee.

Together this family is dedicated to restoring the coffee of Puerto Rico to its once exalted position, as one of the most coveted coffees in the world. They thank USDA Rural Development that helps them retain their business by reducing the cost of the coffee processing.

