Grounds for Empowerment (GFE) is a three year incubator program that provides promising women specialty coffee growers the business know-how, marketplace connections, and funds to reach their economic potential.

**The Challenge**

- Coffee is the second-most valuable commodity traded in the world.
- 25 million coffee farmers work in developing countries.
- Currently, women perform a majority of the fieldwork, harvesting, and sorting; however, they are underrepresented in the transportation, exportation, and ownership of coffee farms.

**Our Solution**

Transforming the potential inherent in excellent women coffee growers into genuine economic opportunities requires a holistic approach:

- **Business Know-how**
- **Marketplace Connections**
- **Funds**
IDENTIFIES
GFE works with partners on the ground to enroll three promising women coffee growers at a time.

LEARNs
GFE works alongside our Transparent Trade Coffee and Farmers to 40 programs to develop practical understandings that help small coffee growers participate more effectively in specialty coffee markets.

CONNECTS
GFE engages university-based communities on issues related to coffee, gender and economic development.

- GFE stimulates networks of specialty coffee market advisors and business-minded supporters.
- Every spring, GFE ensures that our growers attend the SCAA conference; every fall, GFE develops a week-long program in the U.S. for additional learning and connection opportunities.
- GFE works with partners in Nicaragua to allow U.S. based supporters to visit our growers on their farms and in their communities.

FUNDS
Every year, GFE imports and sells 750 pounds of coffee produced by each grower. Growers are paid $2.50 per green pound (f.o.b.) at export; the next $1.50+ per pound goes into a dedicated travel fund.

- Every year, the GFE student team conducts a crowd-fund campaign to promote our growers and double the size of their travel fund.

OUR CURRENT PARTNERS
University-Based Community  On-the-Ground Support  Roaster & Supply Chain Support  Funders & Advisors
![Social Enterprise Global Gateway](image)
![CECOCAFEN](image)
![octane](image)
![Bird Rock Coffee Roasters](image)

LEARN MORE
Follow GFE’s progress as we welcome two new coffee growers, launch a new website and develop new programming for the fall of 2016 on our Facebook page at:

Facebook.com/FarmersTo40

Support women coffee growers in Nicaragua by buying Finca Los Maderas coffee at:

Farmersto40.com/collections/groundsforempowerment