



COOMAP NEWS

IN THIS EDITION WE PROUDLY INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR SECOND GROUP OF SOCIAL PROJECTS. AS WE HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH WELL PLANNED AND DEVELOPED PROJECTS IT'S POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE OUR MEMBER'S QUALITY OF LIFE AND PREPARE THEM TO FACE MARKET CHALLENGES THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE, AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE HELP OUR COMMUNITY IN GENERAL TO DEVELOP.



SOCIAL VEGETABLE GARDENS

COOMAP promotes the creation of several vegetable gardens in order to provide vegetables for the inhabitants/students of several institutions like a home for the elderly, a school for people with disabilities, a school at an area with great social risk and at two nursery schools.



COOMAP provides all of the seeds, fertilizers, which are organic, training and technical assistance necessary for best production of these vegetable gardens. It's important to mention that this project not only provides food for the ones included in it, but teach them how to take care of

the vegetable gardens and approach children to nature and farm activities. A good example of the great results produced by this project is what happens at the home for the elderly in our town. In the past they used to spend about a thousand dollars a month and nowadays, not only they have all of the vegetables they need but they are even able to sell the extra production they get, what generates some income to the institution.



SOWING AND HARVESTING HEALTH



One of the greatest fears we find among growers and companies that buy products from them is the risk of pesticides contamination.

This is such a delicate subject that it's very rare to find detailed data about it, either because growers do not want to have it checked or because there isn't much interest from companies and governments to raise this discussion. On

the other hand, COOMAP has decided to face this subject through a project named Sowing and Harvesting Health.

At this initiative, COOMAP promoted, in a partnership with the University of Alfenas, a series of lectures at **4 different neighborhoods** from Paraguaçu town in order to explain to growers and their families the importance of using

personal protective equipment and the risks for health related to pesticides use and take blood samples for lab tests. Up to now 165 growers or their family members had blood samples taken and analyzed. It was checked contamination levels and other routine tests, like diabetes and cholesterol. First results have shown that 35 growers had results above accepted levels. These farmers were directed to doctors, who were also trained for this project. Our co-op members' area includes 11 rural neighborhoods, thus there are still 7 different areas to reach.

It's necessary to highlight, as it has been told on our previous edition, that COOMAP has a constant program to increase our members' awareness toward the importance of the pesticides use reduction and use of personal protective equipment.

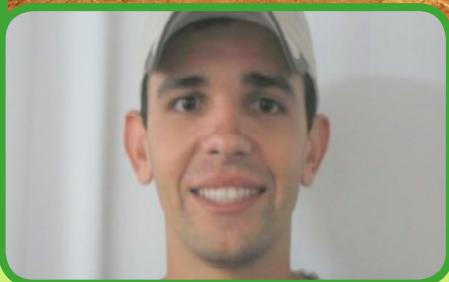
Not only COOMAP members are included in this project, but the whole community, including rural workers and their families that might get in touch with some kind of contamination through workers' clothes, equipment and so on.

Grower of the month

Hadas at his office at the co-op



Hadas with one of the members assisted by him.



Hadas when he started working at COOMAP at age of 21.

On our grower of the month story, we would like to do something different. We are going to let Hadas Marques, supervisor at our technical department and also a member at COOMAP tell you his life story. He took a part on another import project that COOMAP has: College Scholarship for members and employees. This has caused a deep positive impact in his life... Check it out:

Hello, my name is Hadas Marques. I am an Agronomical Engineer and I work at a COOMAP. I'm here to tell you a little bit about how I was able to grow up in my career because of coffee and also because of the co-op.

My family has a small farm in our town, Paraguaçu. So, since as I am able to remember I have been involved with coffee crops. In fact, my family has had coffee farms for more than 4 generations. When I was 21 years old I started working at COOMAP collecting soil samples. At this time, my grandfather was already a member at the co-op for many years. When I was 23 I signed up for the agronomical engineering major at a university nearby. I was only able to do it because it was available a scholarship for employees and members. In this same year, because of practical training I received during high

school I started working as an agronomical technician. Five years later I was able to graduate and I am sure that it was only possible because of the scholarship, since without it I wouldn't be able to pay for my major. By the way, when I was on the second year of my major I bought a five-hectare farm, thus I could plant my own coffee at the same time that I kept helping my family with theirs. These were very busy years! A few months after I got my degree I got a promotion and became a supervisor at the co-op technical department. After working as a supervisor for a year, I realized that I needed skills in business management. Once again I received the benefits of COOMAP scholarship and signed up for a MBA post-graduation at a very respected Brazilian institution. I graduated at the post-graduation last year and it has helped me a lot to improve my job as a supervisor. Ah, and to top it off, I have just been told that I will be trained to become the technical department manager in the future. About my farm, I still have the 5-hectare farm with a yield of 40 bags per hectare. Nowadays I am 30 years old and looking back on the past years I realize that I really like dealing with growers, farms and that everything I have up to now, like my car, house, my farm I owe to coffee. In fact, I don't really see myself doing anything else.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!