

COLOMBIA MILDRED NIEBLES HONEY MICROLOT



Mildred Niebles is a farmer and also the head of quality for Red Ecolsierra, an organic co-operative located in Santa Marta, Magdalena. She owns a 9 hectares coffee farm in Minca, Santa Marta, and produces mainly washed coffees (10.600 kg of dry parchment washed compared to 460 kg of honey). This honey micro-lot is funky and full-bodied, with notes of dark ripe fruits such as prune and red grape, with a honey sweetness.

Mildred is one of the few farm owners of Ecolsierra with a university education and Q-grader certification. She has also raised 3 children as a single mother and was shot at and expelled from her land during the armed conflict.

In 2001, Red Ecolsierra was founded in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains. Initially, and during the 2000s, the challenges were (a) the persecutions and fear spread by the illegal groups against the civilian population; (b) the little investment and state intervention in infrastructure in the region; and (c) scepticism about an agricultural model that promotes the protection and conservation of local fauna and flora. Today, the commitment of 352 producing families is to harvest and market certified organic and fair trade coffee in international markets, and therefore have a better price. With this, the families receive organic and fair trade premiums, which finance infrastructure, environmental management, and product quality projects in their farms, also the premiums contribute to funds on social investment and marketing, and education.