

For Immediate Release

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In the U.S., contact: Diane Dulmage
SCS Communications Associate
ddulmage@scscertified.com
510-452-8003

In Ecuador, contact: Roberto Boada
FAASCS Certification Manager
rboada@faascs.org
011-59-3-22279276

Ecuadorian Office Opens to Provide VeriFlora Certification Services On the Ground in South America

Quito, Ecuador — A new not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing sustainability certification services to farmers in Ecuador and throughout South America has opened its doors. The organization — the Andean Sustainable Agriculture Certification Services Foundation (FAASCS) — is working to promote farming practices that support a healthy agroecology, protect wildlife, conserve natural resources, promote fair labor practices and healthy community relations, and deliver outstanding quality to the marketplace.

“Our aim is to recognize the efforts of farmers here in Ecuador and throughout South America who are making a real difference for their communities, the environment, and their customers,” said Fernando Duran, FAASCS Executive Director. “FAASCS has been established to help guide farmers on the path toward sustainability.”

FAASCS has been fully trained by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) of Emeryville, California, to conduct independent on-farm audits for final certification review by SCS under the VeriFlora® Certified Sustainable Grown label. It is the first independent South American organization to be authorized to conduct VeriFlora certification audits on the ground.



FAASCS Opens Its Doors in Quito, Ecuador

From left: Roberto Boada, Fernando Duran, and Diana Grajales

“Farms in South America are leading the way in sustainability practices, and setting an important example for others to follow,” said lead FAASCS auditor, Roberto Boada. “Farms of all sizes are now qualifying for certification,” he added.

To launch its efforts, FAASCS has begun to provide training and education services to farms throughout Ecuador, focusing on the technical aspects of sustainability practices. Several farms are now in the process of being certified. The FAASCS website, VeriFlora@faascs.org, will be launching soon.

“We are delighted to see the progress that FAASCS is making in reaching out to farms in the region, and believe that it will be instrumental in elevating the profile of farms in the floriculture sector and beyond that are engaged in sustainable agriculture practices,” said Dr. Michael Keyes, SCS Certification Manager for Sustainable Agriculture.

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Oficina Ecuatoriana abre para proveer servicios de certificación VeriFlora en el campo para Suramérica

Quito, Ecuador — Nueva organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a proveer servicios de certificación para la Sustentabilidad a agricultores en toda Suramérica abre sus puertas en Quito, Ecuador. La Fundación para la Agricultura Sustentable y servicios de certificación (FAASCS) —trabaja para promover prácticas que soporten una agroecología saludable, protección de la vida silvestre, conservación de recursos naturales, promover prácticas justas de trabajo, relaciones saludables con la comunidad y entregar calidad de producto sobresaliente a los puntos de distribución.

“Nuestra intención es reconocer los esfuerzos de los Agricultores en Ecuador y Suramérica que| originan reales cambios con sus comunidades, el medio ambiente y sus consumidores,” manifiesta Fernando Duran Director Ejecutivo de FAASCS.

FAASCS ha sido instruida por Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) de Emeryville, California, para conducir auditorias independientes en las fincas a ser certificadas por SCS bajo el certificado de Sustentabilidad para cultivadores VeriFlora®. Es la primera organización independiente en Sur América en ser autorizada para conducir auditorias de certificación VeriFlora en el campo.

“Fincas en Suramérica están liderando prácticas de Sustentabilidad, definiendo un importante ejemplo a seguir por otros,” comentó el auditor Líder de FAASCS, Roberto Boada. “Fincas de distintos tamaños ahora están calificando para la certificación,” agregó.

Para el lanzamiento de sus esfuerzos, FAASCS ha empezado a proveer servicios de educación y entrenamiento a fincas por todo el Ecuador, enfocándose en aspectos técnicos de prácticas de Sustentabilidad. Varias fincas están ya en el proceso de iniciación para la certificación. El website de FAASCS, VeriFlora@faascs.org, será concebido próximamente.

“Nosotros estamos encantados de ver los progresos de FAASCS que están enriqueciendo a las fincas de la región, y creemos que fortalecerá el perfil de los productores en el sector de la floricultura, más allá de eso están comprometidos con las mejores prácticas de agricultura Sustentable,” enunció el Dr. Michael Keyes, Gerente de Certificaciones para Agricultura Sustentable.

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About Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) — SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental improvements, social accountability and product performance. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, flowers and plants, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and retail. Additional information about SCS and VeriFlora can be found at www.scscertified.com and at www.VeriFlora.org.