



## Edison Mamallacta Visits Chicago to Share Story of Amazon Chocolate Bar

Edison Mamallacta is the Marketing Director for the Kallari Association of Kichwa cacao growers. He was elected to this position in March 2010, but his involvement has been over a decade, as he first started as an extension staff member in 2001. Today Mamallacta is responsible for the quality control of the cocoa sourcing from the 850 Kallari farms and hundreds of other families that are in the organic certification process. His role includes the preparation of the beans for export and chocolate making.

Although still young, Mamallacta graduated as an engineer in Agricultural Business in 2005. He is a bilingual Spanish and Kichwa speaker, and is from the Community APAII - producers from the islands near the town of Ahuano, on the Napo River in the Ecuadorian Amazon. He recently traveled to Europe to promote Kallari chocolate, but this is his first visit to the United States.

This young man's efforts in the "seedling stage" of this now successful cooperative has been essential for the survival of Kallari. He worked on a team with a handful of individuals from the nearby indigenous villages to educate and provide materials to hundreds of cacao farmers. Their achievements forged the framework of the world's only indigenous cocoa grower organization that exports and markets their own line of gourmet chocolate to four continents.

[www.kallari.com](http://www.kallari.com)

