



FAIRTRADE'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A REALITY FOR FAIRTRADE FARMERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

These vulnerable rural communities are affected the most, yet have contributed the least to causing climate change.

Up to 70 percent of the world's food supply is produced by smallholders. Due to the effects of climate change, productivity of certain agricultural crops is declining, having a direct impact on Fairtrade farmers revenues and food security. Fairtrade recognizes that farmers need to adapt to climate change and sustainably develop, to be able to protect their livelihoods.

It is everyone's responsibility – including organizations, businesses and consumers – to reduce their carbon emissions, and support climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in the communities most affected by negative impacts. Many farming and community groups are already taking action to adapt, but need more financial and technical support to confront these new challenges.

FAIRTRADE'S RESPONSE

Fairtrade provides unique benefits, such as the Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium. Our standards foster organizational development, environmental and financial sustainability, and greater autonomy; providing a strong foundation for farmers to begin implementing climate change adaptation measures. But we also recognize that producers need additional support and funding to effectively deal with the multi-faceted effects of climate change.

That's why Fairtrade has developed a climate change strategy, focusing on support for climate change adaptation projects, climate change mitigation and adaptation activities through the Fairtrade Climate Standard, and producer-driven advocacy. Our overall aim is to enable vulnerable producers to adapt to climate change and support them to mitigate the impacts, while promoting further sustainable development practices.

“THERE IS A CHAIN ON EARTH THAT STARTS AT THE BOTTOM WHERE THE PRODUCERS ARE. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE ONES WHO GET THE LEAST HELP, AND CARRY ALL OF THE BURDEN. IT'S NOT FAIR.”

BAYARDO BETANCO, PRODECOOP FAIRTRADE COFFEE COOPERATIVE, NICARAGUA

“I THINK ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOLS IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IS INFORMATION. IF FARMERS DON'T GET PROPER INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE, THEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACT.”

RAÚL CASO YUPANQUI, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF COOPERATIVO AGROINDUSTRIAL SONOMORO, PERU, AT COP20 IN 2014



SUPPORTING FARMERS TO ADAPT

Fairtrade is raising awareness on climate change amongst producer organizations, and supporting them to develop adaptation plans. Through additional expert technical support, field schools, and demonstration sites, producers are learning how to implement adaptation measures in their own farms and communities using the training-of-trainers approach. Fairtrade producer networks are coordinating the projects and supporting farmers to share best practices.

With the help of public and private funding, Fairtrade has developed a number of adaptation projects, including activities such as planting varieties of coffee bushes more resistant to leaf rust in Central America, and creating demonstration farming plots with tea farmers in Kenya.

FAIRTRADE CLIMATE STANDARD

Fairtrade has recently published the Fairtrade Climate Standard, in partnership with the Gold Standard, an internationally recognized organization with expertise in climate and development certification projects. We aim to increase producer participation and expertise in carbon projects, create stronger links between producers and buyers, provide greater transparency in the carbon market, and allow communities to become more resilient to climate change. Communities and farmers will gain greater access to the carbon market and more of the income generated from sales.

Businesses are required to assess their carbon footprint, put in place carbon reduction measures, and compensate what cannot be further reduced with Fairtrade carbon credits, in compliance with the Fairtrade Climate Standard. This provides companies with a way to lead the way with positive climate action, in line with their greater emissions reduction programme and corporate social responsibility targets.

The Fairtrade Climate Standard was developed in consultation with social carbon experts, NGOs and farmer representatives.

A VOICE FOR FARMERS IN THE CLIMATE DEBATE

The Fairtrade producer networks, with the support of Fairtrade International, have also got involved in climate change advocacy activities, focusing on international climate change negotiations. This has enabled Fairtrade producers to take part in events such as COP21, and make the views of smallholders heard in the international climate debate.

For more information visit Fairtrade at our booth at COP21, or contact Carlos Canales, Climate Change Programme Manager – c.canales@fairtrade.net

Read more about our climate change work on our website: www.fairtrade.net/climate-change

“IT IS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE FAIRTRADE CARBON CREDIT BUYERS THAT FARMERS WILL BE ABLE TO BUILD THEIR RESILIENCE AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.”

VICTOR BIWOT, OPERATIONS MANAGER, SIREET FAIRTRADE TEA COOPERATIVE, KENYA

“WE HAVE TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT OUR EMISSIONS ARE, TO MAKE THE BIGGEST EFFORT POSSIBLE TO REDUCE, AND ONLY THEN COMPENSATE WITH FAIRTRADE CARBON CREDITS TO HELP THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.”

CARLOS VARGAS, CLAC REPRESENTATIVE (NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN FAIRTRADE PRODUCERS)