Fairtrade coffee helps build **sustainable livelihoods** that support farmers, the **environment**, and the **future** of coffee.

### Fairtrade Coffee Facts & Figures:

- **872,000** coffee farmers
  - 59% in Africa and the Middle East
  - 29% in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - 12% in Asia Pacific

- **663** Fairtrade coffee producer organisations
  - 75% Latin America and the Caribbean
  - 15% in Africa and the Middle East
  - 11% in Asia Pacific

- **1,153,000** hectares are farmed under Fairtrade coffee certification
  - 66% Latin America and the Caribbean
  - 26% in Africa and the Middle East
  - 8% in Asia Pacific

**Coffee farming is mostly a family business, handed down through the generations.**

- It’s also a hard way to earn a living these days.
  - Low incomes, high costs and price volatility mean farming families struggle with the day-to-day, and aren’t able to invest in farm improvements.
  - **Climate change** means crop loss or lower quality, which also reduces income.
  - Young people don’t see a future in coffee farming.

Fairtrade is working with farmers to improve livelihoods today, and for the next generation.

**Most trusted ethical label globally**

Eight in ten consumers who have seen the Fairtrade label have a positive impression of brands that carry it. Coffee is the most recognised Fairtrade product. (GlobeScan 2023)
What difference does Fairtrade make?

1. Stable prices to plan for the future

The Fairtrade Minimum Price provides a safety net for farmers.

From 2011 through 2022, the Fairtrade Minimum Price was above the New York C price for Arabica beans **53% of the time**, providing much needed stability. Our new minimum prices better cover farmers’ actual costs to grow coffee, so they can invest in their farms and have a decent standard of living.

2. Contributes to better livelihoods and higher incomes, depending on the context

Farmers in Papua New Guinea reported standard of living benefits thanks to Fairtrade prices and Premium: improved housing; increased ability to purchase basic household items and pay school fees; increased household savings; improved access to health care; and improved nutrition.¹

Fairtrade also sets voluntary living income reference prices for companies that want to go further in their sustainability commitment.

To date, Fairtrade has set **5 country or regional Living Income Reference Prices** for coffee: Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia’s Aceh region, Uganda

Learn more: [www.fairtrade.net/issue/living-income-reference-prices](http://www.fairtrade.net/issue/living-income-reference-prices)

3. Strong, democratic cooperatives

Well managed cooperatives support farmer members, including to improve agricultural practices, provide access to credit, and support in times of crisis.

Farmers who are members of strong Fairtrade cooperatives – ones that provide farm extension services (training), access to credit, have good connections with traders and stronger collective action – had higher net revenues, and in some cases higher incomes, as compared to those that provide fewer services. ²

Fairtrade coffee farmers in Indonesia were 15% more likely to receive support from their cooperative during the COVID-19 pandemic than non-Fairtrade farmers. The Fairtrade coffee households were also rated 13% more resilient than non-Fairtrade (including economic, environmental, social wellbeing and governance factors). ⁴

The Fairtrade Premium is an extra sum paid on top of selling price to cooperatives, who decide democratically how to use it. Premium funds have a significant impact on production practices and farmer incomes:

€82.3 million
Fairtrade Premium earned by coffee cooperatives in 2021

How coffee cooperatives invested their Fairtrade Premium funds in 2021:

- 30% improving production, including quality
- 29% business & organisational development
- 26% financial benefits for farmers
- 14% social investments

222,328 metric tonnes
of Fairtrade coffee were sold by Fairtrade producers in 2021

- 84% from Latin America and the Caribbean
- 10% from Asia Pacific
- 6% from Africa and the Middle East

In 2021, coffee cooperatives sold on average 24% of their coffee on Fairtrade terms. This has declined since 2016 (34%), as coops’ production growth outpaced Fairtrade sales growth on average.

95% is Arabica coffee.

30% of Fairtrade coffee produced is also organic.

Organic production doubled since 2016.

1 in 6 Fairtrade coffee farmers are women.


4. Tackling climate change and deforestation

Broad studies are limited on these topics, although programmes have provided encouraging results. The Fairtrade Coffee Standard is being reviewed in 2023 to update deforestation and climate change resilience requirements.

- **272 coffee farmers**
  - participated in a Fairtrade Climate Academy in Kenya, including learning sustainable land management practices (organic farming, agroforestry). For instance, farmers’ use of shade trees more than doubled compared to non-participants.¹
  - 10,000 farmers in Kenya and 1,200 in Ethiopia are taking part in the next phase.

- **272 Fairtrade coffee cooperatives**
  - designed climate change adaptation plans in 2021-2022

- **120 women coffee farmers**
  - in Peru are working to improve biodiversity and reforest land, while also improving their coffee quality and participation within their cooperative.

5. Opportunities for women and the next generation of farmers

Fairtrade cooperatives must have a gender policy to promote the inclusion of women, and are encouraged to create opportunities for young people as well.

- **In a study of 6 coffee cooperatives from Guatemala**, Indonesia and Kenya, Fairtrade cooperatives had more women in leadership than non-Fairtrade cooperatives.
  - **Women’s committees** have been successful in raising issues and finding solutions, such as access to credit or training for women.²

- **More than 500 women coffee farmers** in Kenya improved their coffee yields by 40% and their coffee quality by 60% through the **Fairtrade Growing Women in Coffee programme**, plus launched their own brand: **Zawadi Coffee**.³

- **9 coops in Bolivia** trained young people, who then built demonstration plots to showcase **sustainable agricultural practices**. 330 farmers reported a 57% increase in their production as a result of adopting the practices.⁴

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¹ Fairtrade climate change projects: Learning from experience, 2021. We also published a free guide and videos for other coffee producers to benefit from the same insights (https://www.fairtrade.net/library/climate-academy-guide-for-coffee-producers-kenya-2021)
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