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| **Consultation document for Fairtrade Stakeholders:**Review of the Tea Fairtrade Standards and Pricing for Small-scale Producer Organizations / Hired Labour and Traders Second round of consultation |
| Consultation Period | **13 November – 12 December 2020** |
| Standard Project Manager: | Oksana Forkutsa o.forkutsa@fairtrade.net |

**1. General Introduction**

Fairtrade Standards support the sustainable development of small-scale producers and workers in the Global South. Producers and traders must meet applicable Fairtrade Standards for their products to be certified as Fairtrade. Within Fairtrade International, Standard & Pricing (S&P) is responsible for developing Fairtrade Standards. The procedure followed, as outlined in the [Standard Operating Procedure for the Development of Fairtrade Standards](https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user_upload/content/2009/standards/SOP_Development_Fairtrade_Standards.pdf) is designed in compliance with all requirements of the [ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards](https://www.isealalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL_Standard_Setting_Code_v6_Dec_2014.pdf). This involves wide consultation with stakeholders to ensure that new and revised standards reflect Fairtrade International’s strategic objectives, are based on producers’ and traders’ realities and meet consumers’ expectations.

The second round of consultation of the full review of Tea Fairtrade Standards for Small-scale producer organizations, Hired Labour and traders is taking place from October to November 2020. You are kindly invited to participate in the second round of consultation of this review. For this purpose, we kindly ask you to provide your input on the topics suggested in this document and encourage you to give explanations, analysis and examples underlying your statements. All information we receive from respondents will be treated with care and kept confidential.

**Please submit your comments to** **standards-pricing@fairtrade.net** **by 12 December 2020.** If you have any questions regarding the draft standard or the consultation process, please contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

Following the consultation round S&P will prepare a paper compiling the comments made, which will be emailed to all participants and also be available on our Fairtrade International website.

**2. Background and objectives of this consultation**

One of the objectives of the Tea standards review is to seek solutions from stakeholders to resolve standard related issues. During the 1st round consultation and the research phase, Tea HL stakeholders brought to our attention their interest to explore an opportunity on expanding the market potential through extension of the scope of Herbs and Herbal teas standard for Hired Labour organizations to sell dried spices.

Fairtrade would like to consult with all relevant stakeholders on the proposal to extend the scope of certification for Tea HL organizations.

**Objectives of this consultation are:**

* while exploring the market opportunities for Tea HL to also sell dried spice, to ensure to have a full understanding on the risks related with scope extension and avoid creating any disadvantages for Herbs & Spices and Tea small-scale producer organizations.
* to ensure fair competition on the market for Fairtrade Black Pepper.

The objectives, project timelines and process of the Tea standards review can be found [here](https://www.fairtrade.net/standard/tea-standards-and-pricing-review-2019).

**3. Confidentiality**

All information we receive from respondents will be treated with care and kept confidential. Results of this consultation will only be communicated in aggregated form. All feedback will be analyzed and used to draw up the final proposal. However, when analyzing the data we need to know which responses are from producers, traders, licensees, etc. so we kindly ask you provide us with information about your organization.

**4. Acronyms and definitions**

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| FI | Fairtrade International |
| FP | Fairtrade Premium |
| HL | Hired Labour |
| NFO  | National Fairtrade Organization, Fairtrade country organizations in the consumer markets |
| PN | Producer networks, regional Fairtrade organizations in the producer Markets |
| PO | Producer Organisation |
| PLA | Plantation Labour Act |
| SC | Fairtrade International Standards Committee  |
| SPO | Small Producer Organization |
| S&P | Standards &Pricing  |

**The target groups of this consultation are:**

* Herbs & Spices producers already certified or interested in becoming certified under the Fairtrade Standard for Herbs & Spices for Small scale producer organizations.
* Licensees and traders certified / interested in becoming certified under the Fairtrade Trader Standard and the Fairtrade Standards for Herbs and Spices.
* Producer Networks, National Fairtrade Organisations, Fairtrade International, FLOCERT, NGO´s, researchers, etc.

When you have finalized, **please save the document** **in Word** format (*do not convert to PDF\**)

***\*Please note:*** *The consultation document is a ‘Fillable format of MS Word form”, for that reason you can fill in / provide your input* ***ONLY*** *in the designated spaces and grey boxes.*

**All questions are single-choice questions; you may choose ONLY ONE response from the list**

**Please take as much space as you need to respond to the questions.**

**This consultation is divided into the following sections:**

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[Topic: Inclusion of Herbs & Spices in the certification scope of Tea HL organizations 4](#_Toc54980515)

[0. General comments/ feedback 6](#_Toc54980516)

# Information about your organization

**Q0.1** **Please provide us with information about your organization so that we can analyse the data precisely and contact you for clarifications if needed. The results of the survey will only be presented in an aggregated form and all respondents’ information will be kept confidential.**

Name of your organization *Click here to enter text*

Your name *Click here to enter text*

Your email *Click here to enter text*

Country *Click here to enter text*

FLO ID *Click here to enter text*

**Q0.2** **Are your responses based on your own personal opinion or is it a collective opinion representing your organization?**

[ ] Individual opinion

[ ] Collective opinion representing my organization/company

**Q0.3** **What is your gender? (Note: this is for data analysis purposes only)**

[ ] Female

[ ] Male

[ ] Other

**Q0.4 What is your main responsibility in the supply chain?**

**!** *tick* ***one*** *box only, that corresponds to your main responsibility*

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| [ ] Producer[ ] Exporter[ ] Importer[ ] Other (e.g. PN, NFO, FLOCERT, FI), specify below | [ ] Processor[ ] Retailer[ ] Licensee |

# Topic: Inclusion of Herbs & Spices in the certification scope of Tea HL organizations

Fairtrade standards for organizations in producing regions are segregated into organisational setups like SPO, Hired labour, Contract Production with a particular scope of products. In regards to producers of herbs and spices, when it comes to different setups, the standard applicable for Hired Labour organizations defines the Product Description as follows:

The Fairtrade Standard for Herbs and Herbal Teas for Hired Labour applies to all herbal products indicated in the Fairtrade Herbs and Spices list as “HL and SPO" and to all countries inside Fairtrade's geographical scope. **It does not apply to spices. Spices are indicated as “SPO only” in the Fairtrade Herbs and Spices list.**

This means that the scope for [Herbs & Herbal Teas standard for Hired Labour organizations](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/HerbsHerbalTeas_HL_FR.pdf) allows companies to produce and sell fresh and dried herbal products as Fairtrade, where fresh herbs are only those that are for culinary purposes and for processing into essential oils while dried herbs are only allowable for tea products.

During the Tea standards review consultation, the Fairtrade Tea HL organizations expressed the interest to expand the scope of the Herbs & Herbal Teas standard for HL, allowing Tea HL to also sell dried black pepper *(Piper Nigrum L.).* Under current scope limitations, it is not permitted for HL organizations to do so.

Black pepper (*Piper Nigrum L)* is mainly grown as a rainfed crop but can also be grown as irrigated crop when it is growing under the shade trees in tea or coffee plantations. Thus, on tea plantation areas pepper is generally an intercrop for the high altitude tea, as a creeper covering the shade trees and hedge crops. In such case, this circumstances and conditions it’s not very cost demanding to maintain this crop production.

**The proposal aims at:**

* exploring possibility to expand the scope of Herbs & Herbal teas standard for HL organizations to allow to sell dried Black Pepper only when it’s grown as intercrop on Tea plantations of HL organizations;
* understanding the demand, opportunities and risks related with scope extension, to avoid creating any disadvantages for tea small-scale producer organizations and ensure fair competition on the market for Black Pepper.

**Proposal 1:** **to expand the scope of the Herbs and Herbal teas HL standard, to include Black Pepper (as dried spice) in the certification scope for Tea HL organizations only under following restricted conditions**:

* HL organization is certified for tea as a primary product
* black pepper (*Piper Nigrum L*) is grown as an intercrop on certified tea plantations
* dried black pepper can not be sold as Fairtrade when tea is not sold as Fairtrade
* in case a company is decertified against tea HL standard, black pepper as a secondary crop is removed from the certification scope as well.
1. **Do you grow and sell dried Black Pepper (***Piper Nigrum L***) as Fairtrade?**

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

[ ] Not relevant

1. **Do you agree that the scope of Herbs & Herbal teas standard for HL is expanded to allow sales for dried Black Pepper (***Piper Nigrum L***) for Tea HL organizations only when it is grown as intercrop on Tea HL plantations?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**Please explain your rationale here:**

1. **Do you agree that the scope restricts the sales of dried Black Pepper (***Piper Nigrum L***) only to those Tea HL companies who are certified for tea as their main (primary) product and Black Pepper is their secondary product which is grown as intercrop?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**Please explain your rationale here:**

1. **Do you agree that in cases where the company (certified organization) does not make sales of the tea continuously for a defined period, the sale of Black Pepper (***Piper Nigrum L***) should be also prohibited?**

*(for example: if the Tea plantation produces Black Pepper as an intercrop on tea plantations does not sell Fairtrade tea continuously for 1 year, will not be able to sell Fairtrade dried Black Pepper)*

[ ]  Yes (and this period is restricted to 1 year)

[ ]  Yes (but with other period, please specify in the box below)

[ ]  No (there should be no restrictions)

**Please explain your rationale here:**

1. **Do you agree that the scope addition for secondary crop (intercrop) should be removed in case of removal of the primary crop from the certification scope?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**Please explain your rationale here:**

1. **As a small-scale producer organization, do you have any concerns with extension of the scope of Herbs & Herbal teas standard for HL organizations to Tea HL, allowing them under restricted conditions to sell dried Black Pepper as Fairtrade?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

[ ]  Not relevant

**Please explain your rationale here:**

# General comments/ feedback

In this section you are invited to provide additional general comments. If you are referring to a particular requirement, please include the requirement number where possible and your comments.

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| **Topic/ requirement number** | **Comments/ feedback** |
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If you need some more information before commenting on this document do not hesitate to contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

When you have finalized, please save the document **in Word** format (*do not convert to PDF\**) and **send** to standards-pricing@fairtrade.net or o.forkutsa@fairtrade.net **latest by the 12th December 2020.**

If you have any problems or need additional support, you can consult the latest information from our website [here](https://www.fairtrade.net/standard/tea-standards-and-pricing-review-2019) or contact us at standards-pricing@fairtrade.net.