## Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations

### Interpretation Notes

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>05 February 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>SPO Standard</td>
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</table>
| Affected standard requirement(s) | **Introduction (page 6)**  
The term small-scale producers include gatherers / collectors of wild crops. Therefore, the Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations is applicable to associations of gatherers / collectors of wild crops such as shea tree nuts, brazil nuts, argan nuts, baobab fruits, coffee and honey when these are wild harvested. |

#### 1.2.1 NEW 2019*** Share of members that are small-scale producers

| Core | Fairtrade defines a small-scale producer organization as an organization where at least two thirds (2/3 or 66%) of its members are small-scale producers. If your members produce less labour intensive products (cocoa, coffee, herbs and herbal teas and spices, honey, nuts, oliveseeds and oleaginous fruit, cereals, fibre crops), they are small-scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:  
- The farm is operated /managed by members and their families;  
- Farm work is mostly done by members and their families;  
- Members work on their own-account and do not hire workers on a continuous basis;  
- In particular circumstances when the farmer is not able to carry out work on the farm (e.g. due to age, incapacity) and the work of the family members is not sufficient, hiring permanent labour is allowed.  
If your members produce highly labour intensive products (cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit & vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables, tea), they are allowed to hire workers to work alongside members and their families. Members are considered small-scale producers if they comply with the criteria mentioned above, in case they don't depend on hired workers on a continuous basis, or with specific product indicators on land size defined by Fairtrade International.  
Please see the table for SPO indicators for farm size and average number of workers for more information.  
For the certification of Fairtrade products the definition of a small-scale producer prevails in case there is national legislation that defines a small-scale producer in the regional context. |

| Year 0 |

#### 1.2.2 NEW 2019*** Restriction on size of cultivated land

| Core | The maximum size of the cultivated land where a member grows a Fairtrade crop is equal to or below 30 hectares. |

| Year 0 |

Guidance: See the Fairtrade Fresh Fruit Standard and the Fairtrade Prepared and Preserved Fruit Standard for SPOs for exceptions on this rule for orange juice, oranges for juice and wine grapes.  
***Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022. |

| Interpretation | Is the definition of a small-scale producer also applicable to gatherers of wild crops? |
The definition of small-scale producers in 1.2 is focused on agricultural production. As gatherers of wild crops don’t carry out agricultural work, the following criteria are not applicable to wild gatherers:

- requirement 1.2.1: “The farm is operated /managed by members and their families and farm work is mostly done by members and their families”.

It is however important that gatherers are members of the organization and they work on their own account and do not hire workers.

- requirement 1.2.2: the maximum land size of 30ha.

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| 1.2.1 | **NEW 2019*** Share of members that are small-scale producers  
You are an organization of small-scale producers. Fairtrade defines a small-scale producer organization as an organization where at least two thirds (2/3 or 66%) of its members are small-scale producers. If your members produce less labour intensive products (cocoa, coffee, herbs and herbal teas and spices, honey, nuts, oilseeds and oleaginous fruit, cereals, fibre crops), they are small-scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:  
- The farm is operated /managed by members and their families;  
- Farm work is mostly done by members and their families;  
- Members work on their own-account and do not hire workers on a continuous basis;  
In particular circumstances when the farmer is not able to carry out work on the farm (e.g. due to age, incapacity) and the work of the family members is not sufficient, hiring permanent labour is allowed.  
If your members produce highly labour intensive products (cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit & vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables, tea), they are allowed to hire workers to work alongside members and their families. Members are considered small-scale producers if they comply with the criteria mentioned above, in case they don’t depend on hired workers on a continuous basis, or with specific product indicators on land size defined by Fairtrade International. Please see the table for SPO indicators for farm size and average number of workers for more information.  
For the certification of Fairtrade products the definition of a small-scale producer prevails in case there is national legislation that defines a small-scale producer in the regional context. |
| 1.2.2 | **NEW 2019*** Restriction on size of cultivated land  
The maximum size of the cultivated land where a member grows a Fairtrade crop is equal to or below 30 hectares.  
Guidance: See the Fairtrade Fresh Fruit Standard and the Fairtrade Prepared and Preserved Fruit Standard for SPOs for exceptions on this rule for orange juice, oranges for juice and wine grapes.  
***Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022.
Interpretation

How is the SPO definition applied in the case of “meeiros” in Brazil?

The FLOCERT requirements on meeiros are applicable in Brazil (mostly coffee). They specify that a member of an SPO can give land to a meeiro who then cultivates the land and in return has to give a certain percentage of the production to the land owner.

In order to determine whether the land owner is a small-scale producer or not, it is necessary to clarify:
- If meeiros are considered permanent workers of the land owner
- What counts as the land of the land owner, i.e. all the land that is owned by him/her, or only the land that is directly cultivated by him/her

All meeiros that are also members of the organizations are considered as individual members. All meeiros that are not members of the organization are considered permanent workers of the land owner. In products where small-scale producers are defined by not having permanent work force such as coffee, the land owner is therefore not considered a small-scale producer in this case. Additionally, the land owner as member of the SPO can only have up to 30ha of land where the Fairtrade crop is cultivated (including the land that is rented to meeiros).

In case meeiros are not members, the organization has to ensure the traceability of Fairtrade products, in order to minimize the risk of non-member sales.

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Organizations that start their certification on or after the 1 July 2019 will need to comply with all applicable requirements.

Organizations that are certified before 1 July 2019 will need to comply with all applicable requirements following their regular certification cycle. The transition periods are as follows:

- Requirements marked **NEW 2019** apply from 1 July 2019
- Requirements marked **NEW 2019** apply from 1 April 2021
- Requirements marked **NEW 2019** apply from 1 January 2022
- Requirements that are related to members who employ more than 10 workers working for more than 30 hours per week that are present for one month or more during a year will be applicable from 1 April 2021.

| Interpretation | **Which requirements are applicable to organizations that were audited before 1 July 2019 but the certification decision was taken after 1 July 2019?** |

Audits are based on compliance criteria that are developed built on the Fairtrade Standards.

As the new requirements only became applicable as of 1 July 2019, any audit taking place before this date was based on the previous version of the standard and respective compliance criteria.

Hence, for any organization that started their certification or is certified before 1 July 2019, the previous SPO standard version 1.5 applies. Transition periods for these organization apply as for any other organization certified before 1 July 2019. Any organizations certified against the previous compliance criteria and Fairtrade requirements have to be aware that the new requirements will become applicable to them after the transition periods indicated.