



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL

Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations (03.04.2019_v2.3)

Interpretation Notes

Date	10 June 2020			
Reference	SPO Standard			
Affected standard requirement	<p>1.2.2 Definition of an individual small-scale producer</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Core</td> <td rowspan="2"> <p>All small-scale farms are operated and managed by members and their families. This means that members and their families are directly involved in farming activities (unless not possible due to age, incapacity etc.)</p> <p>Your members are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members do not hire workers on a continuous basis and they work on their own-account • Farm work is mostly done by members and their families; 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. <p>If your members produce cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit and vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables or tea, they are allowed to hire workers on a continuous basis to support the farm work.</p> <p>In this case, they are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the specific product indicators on land size defined by <u>Fairtrade International</u>. Please see the table for <u>SPO indicators for farm size and average number of workers</u> for more information</p> <p>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.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 0</td> </tr> </table> <p>Guidance: Family and small-scale farming is a means of organizing agricultural production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, both women's and men's. Seasonal workers are allowed to work along with family members in peak seasons (e.g. harvest).</p> <p><i>***Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022. Until then, the requirement 1.2.1 of the <u>Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5</u> applies.</i></p>	Core	<p>All small-scale farms are operated and managed by members and their families. This means that members and their families are directly involved in farming activities (unless not possible due to age, incapacity etc.)</p> <p>Your members are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members do not hire workers on a continuous basis and they work on their own-account • Farm work is mostly done by members and their families; 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. <p>If your members produce cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit and vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables or tea, they are allowed to hire workers on a continuous basis to support the farm work.</p> <p>In this case, they are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the specific product indicators on land size defined by <u>Fairtrade International</u>. Please see the table for <u>SPO indicators for farm size and average number of workers</u> for more information</p> <p>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.</p>	Year 0
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Interpretation	According to requirement SPO 1.2.2, workers are only allowed if they support the farm work in addition to members and their families working on their own fields.			

	<p>In Mauritius, are members allowed to take on regular jobs outside of the farm and not be present on their fields, while they hire workers to carry out the farm activities?</p> <p>In Mauritius, some smaller SPO members hire workers to do the farm work while the members themselves have additional regular jobs outside of the sugar farming to have sufficient income to make a living. Small-scale members in Mauritius that have less than 10 hectares of cane sugar are allowed to pursue other economic activities outside of sugar farming and hire workers to carry out the farming work on the sugar fields. In these particular cases, the criteria that workers are only allowed if they work in addition to members does not apply.</p>
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Date	27 March 2020				
Reference	SPO Standard				
Affected standard requirement	<p>4.1.7 General Assembly approval of Fairtrade Development Plan</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Core</td> <td>Before you implement the Fairtrade Development Plan, you present it to the General Assembly for discussion and approval. You document the decisions.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td> <p>If you are a 2nd or 3rd grade organization, your General Assembly of members (or if delegate system, then of delegates) at the 2nd/3rd grade level decide on the use of the Fairtrade Premium. Delegates need to consult with the members from their respective organizations.</p> <p>If Fairtrade Premium is channelled to the member organizations directly, the General Assemblies of the member organizations decide on the use of the distributed Fairtrade Premium share. You ensure that the Fairtrade Premium received is channelled to the member organizations without delay according to the allocation system agreed.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Guidance: The intention is to guarantee transparent and democratic decision making. Only the General Assembly is authorised to approve the content and form of the Fairtrade Development Plan. It is possible that the Fairtrade Development Plan may need to be changed in between General Assembly meetings. This might be necessary in situations where, for example, you receive more or less Fairtrade Premium money than planned or where members or the community are affected by an unexpected event and you wish to respond. If this happens, you will need to document the decisions to make the changes, and explain the changes and get ratification from the General Assembly retrospectively.</p>	Core	Before you implement the Fairtrade Development Plan, you present it to the General Assembly for discussion and approval. You document the decisions.	Year 1	<p>If you are a 2nd or 3rd grade organization, your General Assembly of members (or if delegate system, then of delegates) at the 2nd/3rd grade level decide on the use of the Fairtrade Premium. Delegates need to consult with the members from their respective organizations.</p> <p>If Fairtrade Premium is channelled to the member organizations directly, the General Assemblies of the member organizations decide on the use of the distributed Fairtrade Premium share. You ensure that the Fairtrade Premium received is channelled to the member organizations without delay according to the allocation system agreed.</p>
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Interpretation	<p>Can the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, be considered and unexpected event to have more flexibility in terms of decision making on Premium use?</p> <p>Yes. The guidance in requirement 4.1.7 highlights the circumstances under which the Fairtrade Development Plan may need to be changed in between General Assemblies. If the organization identifies Premium investments to minimize the</p>				



	<p>spread of the disease and/or to mitigate any potential negative effects on farmers, workers and their communities, it is possible to make these Premium investments without prior GA approval. Changes in the Fairtrade Development Plan need to be documented.</p> <p>Once a General Assembly (GA) of members is possible, the management of the organization needs to explain the changes and ratify the Premium use retroactively.</p> <p>For guidance on basic protective measures against the COVID-19 outbreak please consult the information provided by the World Health Organization. The organizations are required to maximize the number of members and workers that benefit from these investments and that they benefit equally.</p>
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Date	05 February 2020				
Reference	SPO Standard				
Affected standard requirement(s)	<p>Introduction (page 6)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.2.2 Definition of an individual small-scale producer</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">Core</td> <td>All small-scale farms are operated and managed by members and their families. This means that members and their families are directly involved in farming activities (unless not possible due to age, incapacity etc.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 0</td> <td> <p>Your members are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members do not hire workers on a continuous basis and they work on their own-account • Farm work is mostly done by members and their families; <p>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.</p> <p>If your members produce cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit and vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables or tea, they are allowed to hire workers on a continuous basis to support the farm work. In this case, they are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the 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.</p> <p>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.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Guidance: Family and small-scale farming is a means of organizing agricultural production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, both women's and men's. Seasonal workers are allowed to work along with family members in peak seasons (e.g. harvest).</p> <p><small>***Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022. Until then, the requirement 1.2.1 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011 v1.5 applies.</small></p>	Core	All small-scale farms are operated and managed by members and their families. This means that members and their families are directly involved in farming activities (unless not possible due to age, incapacity etc.)	Year 0	<p>Your members are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members do not hire workers on a continuous basis and they work on their own-account • Farm work is mostly done by members and their families; <p>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.</p> <p>If your members produce cane sugar, prepared and preserved fruit and vegetables, fresh fruit, vegetables or tea, they are allowed to hire workers on a continuous basis to support the farm work. In this case, they are considered small- scale producers if they comply with the 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Interpretation	<p><i>Is the definition of a small-scale producer also applicable to gatherers of wild crops and beekeepers?</i></p> <p>The definition of small-scale producers in 1.2 is focused on agricultural production. As gatherers of wild crops and beekeepers don't carry out agricultural work, the following criteria <u>are not applicable to wild gatherers and beekeepers</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - requirement 1.2.2: "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 and beekeepers are members of the organization and they work on their own account and do not hire workers. - requirement 1.2.3: the maximum land size of 30 hectares. 				

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Interpretation	<p><i>How is the SPO definition applied in the case of “meeiros” in Brazil?</i></p> <p>The FLOCERT requirements on <i>meeiros</i>¹ are applicable in Brazil (mostly coffee). They specify that a member of an SPO can give land to a <i>meeiro</i> who then cultivates the land and in return has to give a certain percentage of the production to the land owner.</p> <p>In order to determine whether the land owner is a small-scale producer or not, it is necessary to clarify:</p>								

¹ See FLOCERT’s compliance criteria 1.2.0.03 and 1.2.0.04, <https://www.flocert.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/small-producers-compliance-criteria.pdf>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- If <i>meeiros</i> 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 <p>All <i>meeiros</i> that are also members of the organizations are considered as individual members. All <i>meeiros</i> that are not members of the organization are considered as if they were 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 30 hectares of land where the Fairtrade crop is cultivated (including the land that is rented to <i>meeiros</i>).</p> <p>In case <i>meeiros</i> are not members, the organization has to ensure the traceability of Fairtrade products, in order to minimize the risk of non-member sales.</p> <p>The question whether <i>meeiros</i> are members or are considered workers of the land owner is in this case only relevant for the SPO definition.</p>
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Reference	SPO Standard
Affected standard requirement(s)	<p>Introduction (page 6)</p> <p>Organizations that start their certification on or after the 1 July 2019 will need to comply with all applicable requirements.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements marked NEW 2019*: applicable from 1 July 2019 • Requirements marked NEW 2019**: applicable from 1 April 2021 • Requirements marked NEW 2019***: applicable 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	<p><i>Which requirements are applicable to organizations that were audited before 1 July 2019 but the certification decision was taken after 1 July 2019?</i></p> <p>Audits are based on compliance criteria that are developed built on the Fairtrade Standards.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Hence, for any organization that started their certification or is certified before 1 July 2019, the previous SPO standard version 1.5 applies.</p> <p>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.</p>