Revised Tea Standards for Small-scale Producer Organizations, Hired Labour and Traders

Dear partners,

During its meeting that took place on 26 March, 7 May and 30 June 2021, the Standards Committee decided on a revised version of the Fairtrade Standard for Tea for Small-scale Producer Organizations (SPO) and for Hired Labour (HL), respectively. For details on the decision please refer to the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting available on our website here.

The approved changes are the result of a full standards revision as part of the monitoring and review cycle. The revised Tea Standards for SPO and HL are available in English on our website under https://www.fairtrade.net/standard (under Tea in SPO section and HL section). Translations into Spanish and French will follow soon.

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Tea for HL has increased its focus on worker participation in Fairtrade through the introduction of a Fairtrade Compliance Committee and has strengthened those requirements related to worker awareness on the company’s commitments under Fairtrade standards; new requirements on a rights-based approach are in place for companies to act in case of risks of forced labour and gender based violence and to enhance gender equality with the introduction of a gender policy; more benefits for workers through strengthened requirements to the terms and conditions of employment amongst other changes.

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Tea for SPO has improved requirements on trade including purchase and sale of green leaves, retro-certification and pre-finance.

The revised standards replace the previous versions and will become applicable as of 1 April 2022. Organizations that start their certification on or after the 1 April 2022 will need to comply with all applicable requirements. For already certified producer organizations there is a transition period for some requirements as indicated in the standard.

A detailed overview of the changes to the Fairtrade Standard for Tea is presented in a separate main changes document, available in English (SPO, HL) on our website.

For more information, please contact Oksana Forkutsa at: o.forkutsa@fairtrade.net.

Best regards,

Gudrun Schlöpker