



## FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGNS

# Fair Trade and Environmental Sustainability

Use these facts to educate about Fair Trade's environmental standards

### Fast Facts

- Over **12 million people** have experienced poverty as a result of climate change
- Due to climate change, the **amount of suitable land for growing coffee on a global scale could be cut in ½ by 2050**
- **Organic farming has been shown to sequester 7,000 pounds of carbon dioxide** per acre per year
- Approximately 30% of Fair Trade producer organizations invested a portion of their community premiums in environmental initiatives
- **52% of all Fair Trade producer organizations hold organic certificates**

### Fair Trade & Environmental Sustainability

By paying farmers and producers fair prices, Fair Trade provides security in an ever-changing environment. This increased financial security, combined with standards and incentives for environmental stewardship, makes Fair Trade the best choice for the planet and its inhabitants.

If a producer wants to become Fair Trade Certified, they must meet a variety of environmental standards which focus on:

- **Biodiversity and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
- **Agrochemicals -- limited and safe usage**
- **Soil and Water Management**
- **Genetically Modified Organisms -- GMOs are prohibited**
- **Pest & Waste Management**



Many producers invest their premiums into achieving organic certification, resulting in **over half of all Fair Trade Certified products being organic**. With two certifications, farmers are able to receive double the economic gains.

### Climate Change

From coffee to cocoa to bananas, farmers' yields around the world are increasingly impacted by drought and disease as a result of the changing climate.

With Fair Trade premiums for community investment, farmers can spend more time and money on things like environmental education, training, quality testing and equipment efficiency. These premiums help producers adapt to the changing climate while ensuring the sustainability of their lands for future generations.

## Soil and Water

Fair Trade standards for soil and water preservation include:

- **Limiting water use overall**
- **Sourcing water sustainability**
- Employing **sustainable irrigation practices** which preserve soil nutrients
- **Maintaining soil quality** through the use of animal and green manure, agro-forestry and crop rotation

## Pesticides, Waste and GMOs

Fair Trade standards for pests and waste ensure farmers and producers are:

- **Controlling pests in a sustainable, environmentally sound manner**
- **Educated on the use of certain approved pesticides**
- **Exploring alternatives to chemical pest control**
- **Developing safe disposal plans for hazardous waste**
- **Not using any genetically modified seeds or plants**

## More Information

- For more info on **how Fair Trade helps farmers adapt to climate change**, [check out this video on Fair Trade coffee farmers in Peru.](#)
- For more info about **the connection between Fair Trade & climate change**, [check out this video from Fair Trade Bristol.](#)

## Resources

- <http://www.fairtrade.net/single-view+M50fa2253a5d.html>
- [http://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/content/2009/resources/2010-04\\_Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_Fairtrade\\_Position\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user_upload/content/2009/resources/2010-04_Climate_Change_and_Fairtrade_Position_Paper.pdf)
- Warner, K.; Erhart, C.; Sherbinin, A. de; Adamo, S. (2009), Care International. In Search of Shelter: Mapping the Effects of Climate Change on Human Migration and Displacement, p. 2
- <http://dailycoffeenews.com/2014/12/18/report-climate-change-may-cut-available-coffee-growing-land-in-half-by-2050/>
- <http://fairworldproject.org/blogs/fair-trade-in-a-world-of-climate-change/>
- [http://fairtradeusa.org/sites/all/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Environmental\\_Standards\\_Fair\\_Trade\\_USA.pdf](http://fairtradeusa.org/sites/all/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Environmental_Standards_Fair_Trade_USA.pdf)
- <http://www.triplepundit.com/special/future-of-fair-trade/protecting-people-protecting-planet/>
- <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/media-centre/blog/2014/march/climate-change>
- [http://fairtradeusa.org/sites/all/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Environmental\\_Standards\\_Fair\\_Trade\\_USA.pdf](http://fairtradeusa.org/sites/all/files/wysiwyg/filemanager/Environmental_Standards_Fair_Trade_USA.pdf)



*"We have planted trees and reduced the amount of pesticides we use by 80 percent in the last ten years. We've used the Fairtrade premium to buy environmentally friendly ovens to dry our coffee [...] which mean we no longer need to cut up to 50 acres of forest every year."*

*-Gerardo Arias  
Camacho, Coffee Farmer  
and Member of the  
Llano Bonito (COOCAFE)  
Cooperative in Costa Rica*

