



Fair Trade and Environmental Sustainability

Use this information to educate yourself and others about how Fair Trade protects the environment.

Fast Facts

- **75 percent** of the world's poor and food insecure people rely on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods.
- Over **12 million** people have experienced poverty as a result of climate change.
- Due to climate change, the amount of land suitable for growing coffee on a global scale could be cut in half by 2050.
- Organic farming has been shown to sequester **7,000 pounds** of carbon dioxide per acre per year.
- Deforestation and forest degradation account for **10-11 percent** of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Approximately **30 percent** of Fair Trade producer organizations invested a portion of their community premiums in environmental initiatives.
- Over **50 percent** of Fair Trade certified farms hold organic certificates.

Fair Trade and 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
- Limited and safe use of agrochemical
- Soil and water management
- Pest and 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 receive greater 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 safe 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

Fair Trade Premium Projects

- In Kenya, members of the tea cooperative Sireet OEP have used premium funds to establish tree nurseries, and provide trainings on organic composting, diversification, and reducing deforestation.
- After leaf rust or *la roya* devastated coffee crops across Latin America, Fair Trade cooperatives supported farmers in replanting and provided training to limit future risk. Farmers invested in new, more resilient varieties of coffee plants, and organic pesticides to protect against the disease.
- Banana growers in St Lucia have reduced the use of agrochemicals, protecting local wildlife. This change has also increased the amount of land available for grazing livestock and planting other crops, which can now safely be done on land closer to the banana plants.

“We have planted trees and reduced the amount of pesticides we use by 80 percent in the last ten years. We’ve used the Fair Trade 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 COOCAFE
Cooperative in Costa Rica