

DBC Eco Church Newsletter

Welcome to our Newsletter.

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Will you Support Fairtrade?

In this issue of the newsletter I want to focus on Fairtrade.

Fairtrade is launching a worldwide campaign to raise awareness of the lack of power and influence in global supply chains that keeps farmers and workers in low-income countries poor.

Fairtrade is asking supporters to sign up to a fairer future by committing to three pledges by 11 June this year. **The three ways to Make Your Mark with Fairtrade include: Choose Fairtrade, Spread the Word, and Vote Fair.**

The fact is that producers are at the end of long supply chains, disconnected from consumers, and they lack negotiating power to make their voices heard when business deals are being made.

To address these issues, the farmers need a proper seat at the table when laws and regulations are being developed to make sure their concerns are listened to and their interests protected.

Without fair pay and a proper say and long-term trading relationships, millions of farmers and workers simply won't survive in the coming decades, Fairtrade warns.

Farmers' voices across Latin America, Asia, and Africa are consistently ignored or marginalised by powerful business interests in the north – a legacy of the colonial era and slave trade.

June 2024

We can all make a difference if we demand change, says Fairtrade. Consumers in the UK are now feeling the effects of climate change in their own pockets – bread prices this year will rise as extreme weather causes smaller grain harvests.

In the UK alone, 110,000 supporters already actively support Fairtrade's advocacy asks. It is expected that thousands more campaigners in other Fairtrade markets and producer origins around the world will join together to show their support.

Stefan Donnelly, The Fairtrade Foundation's Senior Campaigns Manager said: "Farmers are telling us climate change, unfair trade and lack of representation in decision-making forums is making life impossible: poverty forces families to choose between essentials like medical care, children's education and decent food.

The more people buy Fairtrade goods, be it coffee, chocolate, bananas, wine, cotton, or any of the other thousands of products available in the UK where you see the distinctive mark, the more power it gives the farmers."

Fairtrade Minimum Price creates a safety net and stable income for producers. Otherwise, they struggle to afford food, schooling for their children and adequate housing and healthcare. Fairtrade Premium, an additional payment for farmers, provides funds for training in soil improvement, disease prevention and biodiversity to mitigate climate change, and invest in farms so they can continue as going concerns.

Colombian banana farmer Louis Caldo Verduga warns that it has never been so urgent. Climate change, causing unpredictable weather patterns, is making it much harder to farm.

He said: "It used to be colder and now it's much hotter. Bit by bit it has continued to become hotter. This could mean the end of the

banana. There won't be water to irrigate them quickly, as it will take several months before the rain fall."

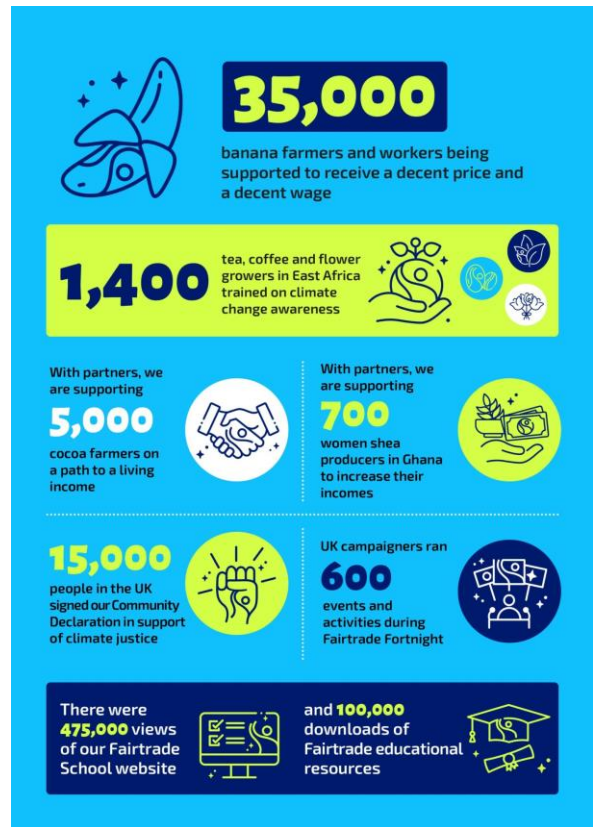
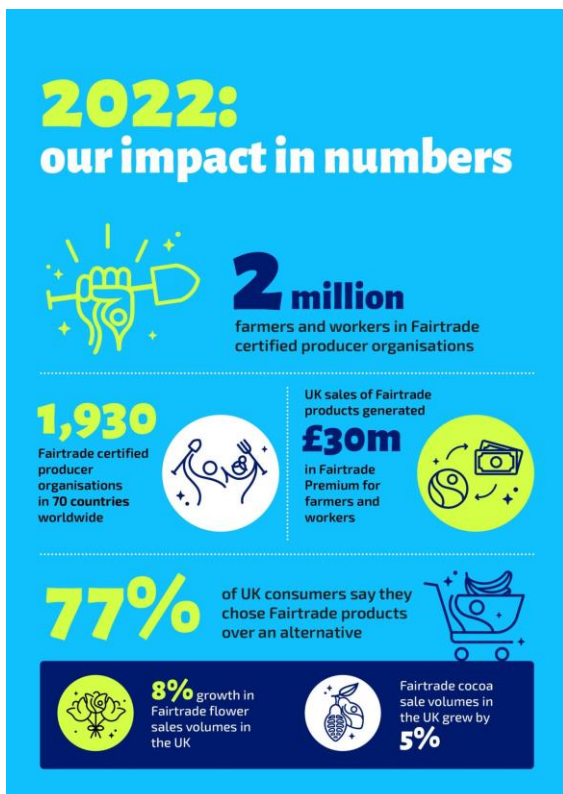
The hot sun dries the wells, pests and diseases spread more easily and the plants are smaller and thinner, Louis added.

Colombian coffee farmer Judis Camacho from Fairtrade co-operative Red Ecolsierra describes how if consulted, farmers themselves could propose solutions to challenges they face such as deforestation.

"The markets demand a lot of us, but sometimes it is very difficult. Put yourself in our shoes, so to speak, so that you understand us a little, and there is a negotiation, a talk between you and us to see what can be improved between you and us... we ourselves could provide some solutions.

"Here we are protecting nature, we do not deforest, we are protecting animals, trying to ensure that the land is not damaged, that it is conserved.

Some facts and figures from Fairtrade's annual report



A Native American Apache Blessing

May the sun bring you new energy by day,
 May the moon softly restore you by night,
 May the rain wash away your worries,
 May the breeze blow new strength into your being,
 May you walk gently through the world and know it's beauty all the days of your life.

(Native American History)

Dronfield Baptist Church Freecycle

Just send me an email – margaret.keen@talk21.com with details of what you would like me to include with a photo and any relevant sizes etc. and I will include it in the next Newsletter.