



FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS

Climate change related events are on the rise, notably in developing countries. Smallholder farmers are increasingly feeling the brunt of climate change effects, including higher temperatures, increased rain, floods, and droughts. As the effects become more evident, Fairtrade producers need additional technical and financial support to confront these new challenges.

Fairtrade has developed a climate change strategy, focusing on support for climate change adaptation projects, climate change standards, and producer-driven advocacy. Our overall aim is to enable vulnerable producers to adapt to climate change and support them to mitigate the impacts, while promoting further sustainable development practices. Here is a snapshot of adaptation projects Fairtrade farmers already have underway.

BUILDING RESILIENCE OF COFFEE PRODUCERS IN PANGOA, PERU

Fairtrade has been working with the Cooperativa Agro Industrial Sonomoro to build the adaptive capacity of organic coffee smallholders in Satipo, Peru, with support from Lidl Germany. Using the 'training-of-trainers' approach, farmer promoters were trained on climate change risk and opportunity assessments. They are now providing support to other farmers and monitoring implementation of adaptation measures in their farms.

During the first year of the project farmers identified deforestation as a major problem in the area, so the scope of the project was extended to include Cooperativa Agraria Sangereni and benefit more than 200 producers. A local forestry engineer supported farmers to successfully plant 40,000 shade trees among coffee plants, and as live fences and wind barriers to control erosion.

In 2012 – 2013, Latin American coffee farmers experienced the worst outbreak of coffee leaf rust disease since the seventies, resulting in major loss of crops. Farmers in Sonomoro were supported to plant 72,000 new coffee plants using coffee rust resistant varieties. Farmers will attend field schools during 2015 to learn best agricultural management practices, with a focus on integrated pests management, to increase the resilience of their plants and improve soil fertility.

**“FOR ME, IT’S BEEN VERY IMPORTANT
THIS WORK WITH FAIRTRADE ON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT
BECAUSE WE LEARN TO TAKE CARE OF
OUR ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVE OUR
FARMING TECHNIQUES.”**

**MAGDA REZA, TRAINED PROMOTER,
SONOMORO, PERU**

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SUPPORTING ORGANIC BANANA FARMERS IN SULLANA, PERU

Fairtrade organic banana producers in Peru were severely affected in 2013 by an outbreak of red rust thrips, triggered by climate change. The pests reduced the quality of their bananas for export purposes, disturbing the whole value chain and affecting producers' incomes.



Sponsored by Kaufland Germany, Fairtrade is supporting more than 200 producers from the Association of Small Organic Producers from Querecotillo (APOQ) in Sullana, Peru to find local measures to adapt to climate change. Through field schools, farmers are improving their knowledge on soil conservation, cultural management, and integrated pest management, and implementing these measures in their plots. A demonstration plot has been created, enabling training on irrigation techniques for the organizations technical staff.

In partnership with the Agronomic Faculty of the University Nacional of Piura, students and farmers are experimenting with local plants and herbs to develop an organic eco-friendly repellent, which farmers can produce and apply themselves.

TRAINING TEA PRODUCERS IN EAST AFRICA

Tea production in the East African region has been affected by changes in rainfall patterns and higher temperatures, together with extreme weather events such as drought, floods, frost and hail. Smallholder tea producers are particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on rain-fed production and exposure to general environmental elements. Many have experienced financial losses as a result.

Fairtrade, in partnership with Vi Agroforestry and funded by the Nordic Climate Facility, is working with smallholders in East Africa to adapt to climate change.

More than 10,000 Fairtrade tea farmers from 21 small producer organizations in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda begun training in March 2013. Farmers, will be trained by Vi Agroforestry on sustainable agricultural land management practices such as use of crop residues, farm or crop diversification, irrigation, as well as better agronomic practices like early planting, intercropping, and efficient fertilizer applications. These practices have been put in place in demonstration plots to display the production technologies and good practices.



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“WE HAVE STARTED RE-FORESTATION PROJECTS TO TRY TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. WE ARE RAISING TREES IN OUR NURSERIES FOR FARMERS TO INTER-PLANT WITH THEIR TEA CROPS. THE TREES PROVIDE SHADE TO THE TEA, AND PROTECT IT FROM HAIL AND FROST, HELPING TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.”

VICTOR BIWOT, OPERATIONS MANAGER, SIREET FAIRTRADE TEA COOPERATIVE, KENYA

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