

THE FAIRTRADE SYSTEM AND MARKS FOR FAIR PRICES AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The registered Fairtrade Marks that appear on more than 35,000 products coming from 28 world countries, are implemented by the Fairtrade International Organization with its members and partners. [Fairtrade is a global system](#) that connects farmers and workers from developing countries with consumers and businesses across the world to change trade for the better.

Founded in 1997, [Fairtrade International](#) is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization co-owned by more than 1.8 million farmers and workers who earn fairer prices, build stronger communities, and have control over their futures. In particular, Fairtrade associates three global producer networks, 25 [national Fairtrade organizations and marketing organizations](#) and it is supported by countless schools, universities and sponsor groups. Fairtrade employs about 70 staff members at its central offices in Bonn, Germany.

[Fairtrade contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations Assembly in 2015.

Products carrying the Fairtrade Marks have been certified against the criteria established in the [Fairtrade Standards](#), designed to support the sustainable development of small producer organizations and agricultural workers in developing countries. The Standards include the following range of economic, environmental and social criteria that must be met by producers and traders in order to acquire or retain Fairtrade certification:

- *Economic criteria* include the Fairtrade Minimum Price which aims to provide producers with a safety net against falling prices and allow long-term planning, along with a fixed Fairtrade Premium that provides farmers and workers with additional money to invest in improving the quality of their businesses and communities.
- *Environmental criteria* emphasize ecologically and agriculturally sound practices, including responsible water and waste management, preserving biodiversity and soil fertility, and minimal use of pesticides and agrochemicals. Fairtrade prohibits the use of several hazardous materials and all genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- *Social criteria* for small-scale producers include requirements on democratic self-organization (typically in cooperatives), participatory decision-making, transparency, and non-discrimination (including gender equity). In plantation-type settings where hired labour is the norm, the standards require companies to operate with non-discriminatory employment practices, pay rates equal to or higher than the legal or regional minimum wages, freedom of association and collective bargaining rights for the workforce, safeguards for worker safety and health, and facilities to allow workers to manage the Fairtrade Premium. Forced labour and child labour are prohibited under the Fairtrade Standards.



[These Standards are part of a series of principles and working methods adopted by Fairtrade](#) that characterize it within the framework of the many solidarity trade organizations and ensure its socio-economic impact:

- Fairtrade is 50 percent owned by farmers and workers themselves, giving them an equal say in the system's decision-making.
- A concerted system has been established to define the fair prices to pay farmers for their products and workers for their labour. Fairtrade offers price stability through a Minimum Price for all major commodities.
- Fairtrade offers specific Premiums for farmers and workers to invest in their businesses and communities.
- Fairtrade producers are required to organize collectively, in cooperatives or workers' organizations with a democratic structure and transparent administration, so they have greater bargaining power and control over their businesses.

Working in collaboration with its member organizations, over the years Fairtrade has built a [complex system of Marks for a wide variety of products](#) capable of creating a great impact on the living conditions of farmers and workers around the world. The web page presents the features of the [leading Fairtrade products](#). The Organization has also developed the [Trader Standard](#) which applies to traders who buy and sell Fairtrade products. It defines rules around the product composition, traceability and use of the Mark, to ensure that the Fairtrade Marks are credible. It also includes requirements and voluntary best practices to ensure that Fairtrade products are traded in fair and sustainable ways that contribute to producer empowerment. All companies and producers trading Fairtrade products must meet this standard.

Fairtrade also developed other specific tools as for example the Fairtrade Climate Standard to support smallholders and rural communities [to produce Fairtrade Carbon Credits](#) and gain access to the carbon market; The [Fairtrade Textile Standard](#), to facilitate change in textile industry adopting an approach that engages manufacturers and workers in the supply chain to bring about better wages and working conditions, and engages brands to commit to fair terms of trade; the [Gold and associated precious metals Standard](#) that applies to artisanal and small-scale mining organizations (ASMOs) and to traders buying and selling precious metals produced by ASMOs.

The Fairtrade website presents the [key facts showing the impact](#) of the organization around the world:

- over 1.8 million farmers and workers are involved in the Fairtrade system worldwide.
- 1822 producer organizations are involved in the Fairtrade system representing workers and farmers worldwide.
- 72 countries and territories are the places where Fairtrade producers operate.
- more than €871 million in Fairtrade Premium were earned by Fairtrade producers in the past 5 years.
- more than 35,000 products are available to shoppers
- Fairtrade products were sold in 145 different countries during 2019.

In addition, in the Library section of the Fairtrade website [relevant reports published in 2022](#) on the impact achieved in different participating countries can be found.

[Fairtrade International invites all interested actors to become a partner of this global organization](#). A map showing the distribution of Fairtrade organizations in different countries of the world allows to establish contact with the nearest organization to know more and to participate as producer, trader, supporter or shopper.



To know more

[Fairtrade.net website](https://www.fairtrade.net)

[About Fairtrade International](#)

[The Fairtrade system](#)

[The Fairtrade Marks](#)

[Fairtrade Standards](#)

[Fairtrade producers overview](#)

[Fairtrade Impact](#)

[Fairtrade products](#)

[How Fairtrade differs from other labels](#)

[Fairtrade International - Library](#)

[2016 FairtradeTheoryOfChange.pdf](#)

[2022 Fairtrade monitoring report.pdf](#)

[Fairtrade Africa website](#)

[Fairtrade Africa 2020 Annual-Report in fairtradeafrica.net](#)

[To contact Fairtrade.net](#)

