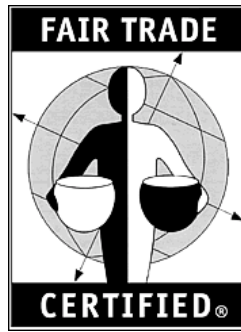


FAIR TRADE QUESTIONS and ANSWERS



WHAT IS FAIR TRADE?

Fair Trade is a process that ensures that farmers, workers, and artisans:

- 1) are paid a fair price for their products or labor
- 2) have long-term and direct relationships with buyers
- 3) are either small-scale producers working in democratic co-ops or workers on larger farms who receive a living wage and can bargain collectively
- 4) don't use child labor or forced labor, and have healthy and safe working conditions
- 5) use sustainable and environmentally-friendly production methods
- 6) have access to credit and technical assistance
- 7) are provided with equal employment opportunities.

Products that meet Fair Trade standards are marked with the "Fair Trade Certified" label. The Fair Trade Labeling Organizations International (FLO) is the worldwide Fair Trade standard setting and certification organization. FLO guarantees that products sold anywhere in the world that carry the Fair Trade label conform to Fair Trade standards and contribute to the development of disadvantaged producers. Currently there are over 800,000 producers and workers in more than 45 countries that benefit from the Fair Trade label.

Fair Trade Products are typically agricultural products, although manufactured products are quickly becoming future candidates for Fair Trade certification. Fair Trade Products include coffee, tea, cocoa, fresh fruits, rice, juices, sugar, honey, crafts, flowers, and sports balls.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FAIR TRADE?

- Fair Trade ensures better lives for farmers and workers by helping them to afford health care, ensures safe working conditions, and helps them to keep their children in school.
- Fair Trade producers set aside funds for community projects such as the construction of schools and clinics.
- Fair Trade encourages women's leadership in cooperatives and supports programs that benefit women.
- Fair Trade supports farmers that use efficient and environmentally-friendly techniques.
- Fair Trade promotes democracy; producers and workers belong to democratically-run cooperatives or organizations.
- Fair Trade results in economic stability by supporting small-scale agriculture and offering long-term partnerships between buyers and producers.



For more information on Fair Trade and how you can get involved, contact **MPIRG** at:
(phone) 612.627.4035 OR (web) www.mpirg.org