

Principles: Fair Trade Standards



Fair Trade USA's standards will allow the many different producers of agricultural commodities to participate and compete in international markets in ways that are fair and equitable today and help them to progress and acquire greater business capacity over time.

<p>Empowerment</p>	<p><i>Inclusive Participation and Transparency</i> Empowerment can take many forms such as farmers joined together in cooperatives or workers on large farms joined together in workers' associations. In all cases, Fair Trade USA standards require democratic and transparent decision making.</p> <p><i>Premium Management</i> Groups of farmers and workers are empowered to determine how to spend community development premiums in the ways that best meet the needs of their communities.</p> <p><i>Focus on training and capacity building</i> Fair Trade USA standards require training in areas such as workplace safety freedom of association, freedom from discrimination, financial management, pricing and international market mechanisms.</p>
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p><i>Stable business partnerships</i> Fair Trade contracts are honored so that stable trade relationships can develop and small producer organizations are better able to commercialize their products.</p> <p><i>Pre-determined Premiums</i> Fair Trade USA standards require pre-determined community development premiums for every sale.</p> <p><i>Pricing and Wages</i> Fair Trade guarantees minimum prices in some commodities and focuses on increasing wage levels for workers.</p>
<p>Social Responsibility</p>	<p>Fair Trade prohibits child labor, ensures health and safety measures are established in order to avoid work-related injuries and follows International Labor Conventions (ILO). Workers are guaranteed access to healthcare and community development premiums can be used to provide greater access to /quality of healthcare and education.</p>
<p>Environmental Stewardship</p>	<p>For Fair Trade Certified products, the most toxic chemicals are not used and there are no GMOs. Fair Trade organizations develop a strategic approach to integrated pest management, the safe use and handling of agrochemicals, responsible waste management, protection of soil and water and biodiversity, and reduction of energy and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

Fair Trade standards also establish a foundation for transparent reporting through which businesses and consumers can be assured that Fair Trade prices and premiums for community development are paid to farmers and workers. Each year, Fair Trade USA publishes a broad array of impact documentation that can be viewed or downloaded at www.FairTradeUSA.org.