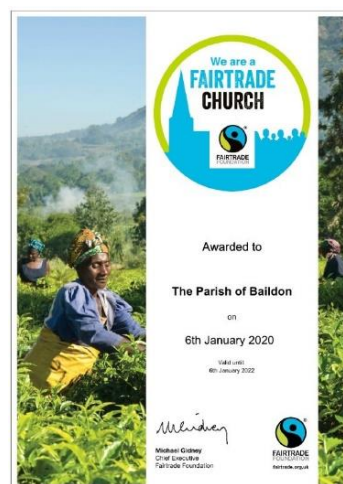


BAILDON FAIRTRADE GROUP REPORT JULY 2020

Good News from the home front:

1 Just a year ago, Bradford Council unanimously renewed its commitment to Fairtrade Community Status. This means it will actively promote Fairtrade, including the use of Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and colleges. In a conference call, members of Bradford Fairtrade Zone met with Ian Westlake, Head of Procurement, who is committed to implementing the Council's resolution to purchase Fairtrade products wherever possible, and to the inclusion of Fairtrade considerations in any contracts going out to tender.

2 Local churches, Baildon Methodist Church and the Parish of Baildon, have both recommitted to Fairtrade Church Status. The Fairtrade Foundation: *Once again, congratulations on becoming a Fairtrade Church and thank you for supporting positive change for people and planet.* In order to achieve this status, the churches have confirmed that the tea, coffee and sugar used are all Fairtrade, that other items are Fairtrade wherever possible, and information about Fairtrade is shared in as many ways as possible. Both churches support Fairtrade through regular Traidcraft stalls and members of both churches are active members of the Baildon Fairtrade Group



3 Home deliveries: Many of us are discovering the range of companies doing home deliveries of groceries and other items. Have you tried a home delivery from Traidcraft? They offer a wide range of groceries – not just chocolate – which includes Zaytoun products. Have a look at their web-site. We have been delighted with the 2 deliveries we have had.

(<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>)



Matters of concern:

1 News of concern from Zaytoun about the Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley:

The latest newsletter from Zaytoun states that 'as the world's attention is diverted during the COVID pandemic, under the new 'Unity Deal' Israel has been escalating plans for land confiscation and annexation in the Jordan Valley area of Palestine's West Bank. This planned land theft has been condemned internationally. In the UK, nearly 140 MP's signed an unprecedented cross-party letter calling on the Prime Minister to place sanctions on Israel if these plans are carried out.'

Many producers of olive oil for Zaytoun will be affected by this action. We can continue to support them by purchasing olive oil and other Zaytoun products. (www.zaytoun.org) (www.zaytoun.org/zaytoun_organic_fairtrade_olive_oil.html)

2 COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis is a global humanitarian challenge. Fairtrade continues to work to advocate and support small-scale farmers and workers in developing countries. The farmers and workers Fairtrade serves are some of the most vulnerable and the least prepared for a pandemic.

In Kenya, tens of thousands of workers on Fairtrade certified flower farms have lost their jobs, with no local work alternatives and there is concern about the long-term financial stability of flower farms if shipments do not resume soon.

The drop in retail sector sales has resulted in a sharp decline in demand and price for cotton. And some fashion companies in the West are refusing to honour their contracts to buy clothing already made, for example, in Bangladesh.

You can read more in the attachment to this report.

Also at: Fairtrade Foundation (www.fairtrade.org.uk)

3 Co-op cocoa price rescue on World Chocolate Day 07.07.2020

COCOA prices have fallen by nearly 40% as a result of COVID-19, a Co-op study warns today. The cocoa industry has been hit hard by the crisis due to disruptions in international trade and purchasing restrictions, the group said. In March 5,000-6,000 tonnes of beans were stuck at Lagos port in Nigeria due to lockdown restrictions.

The fall in value has led to fears that farmers could face a long-term impact to their income, the Co-op warns, and as a result the group has today pledged £300,000 to support the most vulnerable farmers in the supply chain with food packages, PPE and funds to put up people who need to self-isolate in hotels. The funds will go to a cocoa co-operative in Peru, the world's ninth-largest cocoa producer, to coincide with World Chocolate Day.

From Morning Star newspaper 7.07.2020

4 NESTLE AND KITKAT

Compounding the impact of COVID-19, after a decade of buying Fairtrade cocoa and sugar, Nestle have announced that KitKat will no longer be Fairtrade. This means 27,000 farmers from co-operatives in Cote D'Ivoire, Fiji and Malawi will lose nearly £2m in Fairtrade premium each year – despite Nestle reporting global profits of more than £10bn last year.

We need to make sure that the voices of farmers losing these benefits are heard loud and clear. Please sign a petition – there are several on social media, or go to the Fairtrade Yorkshire website and sign the petition started by co-ordinator, Joanna Pollard on [change.org](mailto:change@e.change.org). (change@e.change.org)

You can read more in the attachment to this report.

Also at Fairtrade Yorkshire (www.fairtradeyorkshire.org.uk)

Elaine de Villiers

Baildon Fairtrade Group & Bradford Cathedral

Effect of COVID-19

Extracts from information from the Fairtrade Foundation

Fifty percent of the food we buy in our supermarkets comes from abroad, with 10 – 15% from developing countries, grown by smallholder farmers and farm workers, supporting global food and clothing supply chains. COVID-19 is laying bare the precariousness of people in all societies, but farmers and workers in the global south, who were already struggling to get by, are among the world's poorest people. They are often living in communities with weak or non-existent safety nets, inadequate health care, water and sanitation, and at risk of hunger and malnutrition. According to the latest UN forecasts, more than half a billion people could be pushed deeper into poverty by the effects of the pandemic.

Working with over 1.7 million farmers and workers, Fairtrade is already seeing the impact of COVID-19 unfold in these communities on a daily basis.



In Africa, flower farms are exporting less than a third of their daily production to Europe, which makes up 70 percent of their export market. Many workers have already been laid off or are on compulsory leave, and it's a story repeated across the region's other main flower growing countries, including Uganda and Ethiopia. Flower workers don't always earn enough money to have savings and many now face the reality of not having enough money to feed their families.

Meanwhile, tea workers felt the impact of the virus early as the price of tea plunged by 40 percent due to import restrictions imposed by some of the world's biggest buyers, devastating an already fragile industry.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fairtrade International has announced increased flexibility in its standards to enable producer organisations to take immediate action to protect the health and livelihoods of farmers, workers and their communities.

The new guidance confirms that producer organisations can spend the Fairtrade Premium funds more flexibly to minimise the spread of disease, such as by purchasing and distributing face masks or other personal protective equipment, or by implementing hygiene campaigns.

In hired labour organisations, whose employees are likely to be hardest hit by loss of sales or inability to harvest, the worker-run Fairtrade Premium Committees may distribute up to 100 percent of their Fairtrade Premium funds as direct cash distributions to workers, effective through 30 September 2020. This is an increase from the usual 20 percent, or 50 percent in certain circumstances.

Fairtrade International has also called on organisations, particularly those employing workers, to continue to respect fundamental rights and freedoms, to continue paying workers including those required to self-isolate, and to enable workers to keep appropriate safe distance from each other while performing tasks, among other things.

Sadly, COVID-19 has now arrived in producer countries in Africa making life even tougher than it already is for producers. Howard Msukwa, a producer of Kilombero rice in Malawi, reports that there are more than 25 cases of COVID-19 with 3 deaths so far. Just Trading Scotland (JTS) set up a Total Giving page to raise funds which are already making a difference in Malawi. (<https://www.jts.co.uk/shop/>)

The best thing we can do is to continue buying Fair Trade products. Most Fairtrade suppliers are supporting their workers with orders even though they are unable to receive the goods while countries remain in lockdown. Using online shopping means that we have to search more for Fairtrade, but every Fairtrade purchase you make continues to support farmers, suppliers and retailers.

Elaine de Villiers

Baildon Fairtrade Group & Bradford Cathedral

Keep Kitkat, Made In Yorkshire, Fairtrade

KitKat was invented in York in 1935 and a billion bars a year are still made in the city; Nestle has offices there. From its earliest beginnings in York, Rowntree like many of the city's Quaker chocolatiers was known as a good employer, providing pay, working conditions and housing and healthcare far beyond what other employers at the time were doing. Fairtrade now does the same thing for people who live in desperate poverty in low income countries growing the food we eat. Which is why Fairtrade campaigners in Yorkshire were delighted when Nestle announced that KitKat – its best-selling brand – would bear the Fairtrade mark, meaning all the cocoa and sugar which Nestle sources for KitKat is bought on Fairtrade terms.

Just last year, there was a 23 percent increase in Fairtrade cocoa sold in the UK, including new commitments from Lidl and Waitrose. And 10 years of Fairtrade KitKat has made a big difference on the ground too.

However, in June Nestle announced that from October they will stop using Fairtrade cocoa and sugar for KitKat bars. For those cocoa and sugar farmers, the timing is terrible. With the global health and economic crisis threatening their future, cooperatives representing 27,000 farmers now face losing almost £2m of Fairtrade Premium each year, along with the security and power Fairtrade has offered over the past ten years. The affected farmers the Foundation has spoken with have said they want to remain Fairtrade.

In the past ten years, cocoa farmers in Cote D'Ivoire, and sugar farmers in Fiji and Malawi have benefited from increased prices and community premiums which have transformed their lives and the lives of their families. Nestle intends to source all its sugar from European sugar beet farmers which means around 10,000 small scale sugar farmers losing out. The brand plans to continue buying from its cocoa farmers but not on Fairtrade terms which means 16,000



famers losing the premiums which they allocate democratically based on their communities' needs. It's undemocratic and risks sending the message that cocoa farmers aren't able to make decisions about their own lives.

The Ivorian Fair Trade Network has spoken out because Fairtrade offers these farmers a secure, fairer income and the power to decide how to spend that income.

For example, they have used their KitKat Fairtrade Premiums to build more classrooms and dispensaries, as well as investing in support for women to grow their businesses. Writing on their behalf, Atse Ossey Francis, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ivorian Fair Trade Network, said 'It is with deep regret and deep concern that we have learned that after proudly producing cocoa and KitKat in the UK for a decade, small cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire will no longer enjoy the benefits of selling their cocoa on Fairtrade terms. Nestle is one of the leading buyers of Fairtrade certified cocoa through its KitKat brand and we are grateful for all this decade of partnership where we have

contributed to the success of Nestle. A non-Fairtrade trade relationship means regression and continued poverty.'

'We invite Nestle to continue negotiating with us producer representatives and the Fairtrade label in order to find ways of agreement so as to reconsider their decision not to buy on Fairtrade terms.'

When a typical cocoa farmer in West Africa lives below the extreme poverty line and earns on average 74p a day – less than half of a living income, but only a few pence more than the price of a KitKat – it is not surprising cocoa farmers are so anxious about losing further income through this move.

Besides the new global health pandemic, farmers remain deeply affected by long-term endemic poverty. Lack of services, low and unpredictable income and climate change. Fairtrade means access to children's education, access to health centres, electricity to enable children to learn, as well as improved living and working conditions for farmers in the most remote areas where cocoa is grown.

Michael Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation writes: 'We urge Nestle: listen to farmers, do not choose this moment of global crisis to exacerbate the inequalities in the cocoa industry. Be part of the solution and keep KitKat Fairtrade.'

We need to make sure that the voices of farmers losing these benefits are heard loud and clear. Please sign a petition – there are several on social media, or go to the Fairtrade Yorkshire website and sign the petition started by co-ordinator, Joanna Pollard, on Change.org. (change@e.change.org)

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