



Programa
Cooperación
para el **Desarrollo**
PROYECTO INTERCAMBIO: INCIDENCIA
Y LIDERAZGO EN CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO



Programa de
Cambio Climático

FAIRTRADE YOUTH DEMAND URGENT climate actions



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The generations of Fairtrade producers—including us, young men and women—make a significant contribution to national and local economies. Nevertheless, we find our means of subsistence threatened by the adverse effects of climate change on production. These effects include harvest losses, low production, poor crop quality, and the spreading of pests and diseases. In addition, we are confronting the crisis resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, despite all the difficulties in agriculture, we are committed to sustainability, to ensure our survival today and that of future generations.

As young people, we also confront other challenges to participating in agriculture, resulting from various factors, such as the increasing migration from rural areas to urban areas in the search for “better opportunities.” The FAO (2014) points to “youth’s insufficient access to knowledge, information and education,” and also to land, as well as “inadequate access to financial services.” Furthermore, our level of participation in public policies and in the structures of producers’ organizations continues to be minimal. Even though we are confronting significant challenges, there are also many opportunities for us in Fair Trade. For example, it is important for us to access financial instruments that facilitate access to resources for implementing adaptation plans.



Our COMMITMENT

As Fairtrade youth, we see ourselves as part of the territory where we live, and we are thus aware of the importance of living in a healthy environment. Because we live in the countryside, we understand the correlation between biodiversity and integral well-being. This is why we maintain a close relationship with the environment. We love, care for and respect nature, because we are a living expression and extension of it.

We are aware that we must take action now to care for, preserve and manage natural resources in a sustainable manner, in order to leave a legacy for future generations. We understand the importance of taking personal responsibility, assuming our role as agents of change. And we understand the urgency of positioning the climate change agenda as a matter of collective interest for all generations and vital to the sustainability of all life forms inhabiting the planet.

We recognize the value and the work of all the generations who came before us and who dedicated their lives to agriculture, working hard to produce high-quality food products that meet Fair Trade standards.

Our fathers, mothers and grandparents have actively contributed to the national, local and family economies, to developing our communities, and to caring for and preserving the environment. As we follow their example, we are adopting agricultural practices that help us to adapt to climate change and that allow us to create a place for us in national and international markets.

Through our voices and our experiences, we are contributing to generating awareness in other young people. We are promoting climate action through agro-ecological production practices, reforestation and sustainable soil management. We are protecting water sources and forests, and thus, protecting biodiversity. We are also recuperating ancient practices that enable us to move toward Food Sovereignty, with the production of healthy food, and to become more resilient as we confront the adverse effects from climate variability and change. We are committed to stay informed and make changes in our consumption habits at individual, family and organizational levels.



Our DEMANDS

In this framework, as Fair Trade youth, we are raising our voices to share our concerns and our proposals to the world. We are making a call to:



REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



Take urgent actions at individual and collective levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Doing nothing will be more costly and is already endangering our livelihoods and those of all small producers.

1

JOIN EFFORTS



Join efforts to reduce the effects from climate change, through more decisive, continuous actions with tangible results and real impact.

2

AGROECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION



Support, promote and recognize agro-ecological, environmentally-friendly production as an alternative that should become common practice for sustainable food development that does not endanger natural resources.

3

FORMAL EDUCATION



Advocate for the incorporation of content and learning experiences associated with climate change in formal education, turning environmental education classes into opportunities for climate actions. Education is the tool for ensuring that current and future generations develop the skills for living in an endangered world, and that they understand and incorporate values that emphasize living in harmony with nature.

4

5

Promote high-level alliances and agreements that support the use of our resources for managing risks in the most vulnerable areas, and that facilitate ongoing investment in production models that have a low impact on the environment.

PROMOTE ALLIANCES



6

Encourage other organized youth in the region to become involved in climate action at local, national, regional and international levels, to add their voices and to exert influence in political entities, demanding that our governments take urgent action and generating collaborative actions to enable small producers to gain a place at the table where decisions are made for our present and our future.

COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS



Investing in youth is investing in the present. In order to reverse the pattern of migration from rural areas to urban areas, the efforts made to adapt to climate change must be accompanied by better conditions for making a living from agriculture. To the contrary, those of us in younger generations will experience increasing levels of vulnerability. It is necessary to revitalize the rural economy and provide

greater access to and better distribution of financing, which can become an engine for growth and development. Currently, there is a significant gap between the available financing and the financing we young producers need to implement agricultural systems adapted to climate change. If actions are not taken in this regard, the option of working in agriculture will no longer be attractive to our generation and future generations.

We—the younger generation of producers—are agents of change. We grew up in rural areas, and are thus those most interested in caring for the natural environment where we live with our families. Our participation in climate action is vital to empower our communities, to promote our leadership, and to have a greater impact on future generations, to whom we have a **HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY: to give them the opportunity to live in a more sustainable, just world.**



CLAC'S COMMITMENT to YOUTH and to CLIMATE CHANGE

The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fair Trade Small Producers and Workers (Coordinadora Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Pequeños(as) Productores(as) y Trabajadores(as) de Comercio Justo ([CLAC](#)) has published three position papers (in 2011, 2018 and 2020) on the importance of taking action in response to climate change. In each of these declarations CLAC has emphasized calling on all stakeholders in the value chain to share responsibility in mitigation and adaptation efforts, since the adverse effects of climate change threaten the subsistence of the most vulnerable, including small producers and Fairtrade youth, who are the least responsible for the problem of climate change.

The inclusion of youth in Fairtrade organizations is one of CLAC's cross-cutting areas for action. CLAC recognizes the importance of working with a generational focus in which everyone's participation is promoted. It also recognizes that young people are especially inclined toward change and innovation, and can thus contribute in a unique way to organizational and entrepreneurial processes in each phase of our organization's life.

It is also necessary to take into account that the effects of climate change have a particular impact on women producers and on girls living in rural areas, and this makes it necessary to consider a gender perspective when designing policies and programs.



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