



Alivera Kiiza, from Tanzania is to launch Fairtrade Fortnight 2006

Last July, Alivera Kiiza, from the Karagwe Cooperative Development Union (KDCU), a coffee cooperative in Tanzania, attended the G8 summit in Scotland. She was one of 8 African women (the W8) who went to Edinburgh to tell their stories to the G8 leaders about challenging poverty in their own countries. By all accounts Alivera's passion for her work; as the coffee coop's first woman manager, and her work with women in her community made an impression. One of her first achievements has been to get the coffee cooperative to allow women farmers to own coffee trees so they could become full members of the coffee coop – in many countries coffee is seen as a mans crop.

In her own words;

“My name is Alivera Simon Casta Kiiza, I am a woman aged 29years old. I am the last born among seven children in my family and I am living with my husband Edger and we have only one son aged 4years. My self I am living in the house were I am renting and my husband he has no job. I joined with Karagwe District Cooperative Union Ltd since 2000 as Office assistance in the Marketing Department.

Karagwe District Cooperative Union Ltd (KDCU) was established in 1990.Karagwe ranks high in coffee production in the Kagera Region.

KDCU Ltd is formed by 67 member rural primary societies scattered in the district and till the present we have about 16,000 members and 5,000 are women.”

Fairtrade and KDCU

“A significant effect of the Fairtrade is that is allows KDCU to regularly bid for its own coffee and sell through Fairtrade. Fairtrade provides a reliable income (Premium) for a small proportion of the coffee sold by KDCU each year. This is because the Fairtrade system guarantees a minimum price for coffee.

We normally use our Premium from Fairtrade by:

1. Running our secondary school called Nyaishozi
- 2, To conduct workshops on organisational strengthening in which many issues about woman were discussed.

Through such workshops women have been encouraged to take leadership positions in the cooperative and to own coffee as men do which was quite different. At the present women have say on coffee unlike in the past years and it is a good of the money paid under the Fairtrade business.

Let me on behalf of women of Karagwe still ask Fairtrade to keep on encouraging such workshops and to keep on buying our coffee so that women coffee growers may continue to be enlightened on issues related to their rights.”

Alivera will be in Ireland for the two weeks of Fairtrade Fortnight (6-19 March) and will attend events in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Galway, Limerick, Maynooth, Mullingar, Thurles, Westport, and Wexford.