

YAHYA MSANGI, TRADE UNION ORGANISER



My name is Yahya Msangi, I am a project coordinator. I have an MSc in Environmental Resource Management from UCD in Dublin. I work with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (TPAWU) and the Tanzania Association of Occupational and Public Health Experts (TAPOHE).

TPAWU is a trade union established in 1996 with a current membership of 32,000.

TAPOHE offers training to workers and communities on matters related to human rights, occupational health, public health and environmental management.

From my point of view, the benefits of Fairtrade are the payment of a premium and better working conditions. The premium in particular makes Fairtrade stand tall amongst many other similar initiatives. Workers and communities receive tangible measurable benefits. In Fairtrade farms working conditions are better than in the other farms – with access to training, welfare facilities and medical treatment.

For example, at Kibena tea factory in Southern Tanzania, the salaries are higher than on any other tea estate in Tanzania, protective clothing is provided and machinery has extra safety precautions, women and men enjoy equal pay and rights, and they now have two nursery schools, an estate shop, plots for growing food, a fruit tree nursery, a bicycle track along the road for safe cycling - the first bicycle track in Tanzania!