

PRESS RELEASE

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 (22nd February – 7th March) marks the start of a new climate campaign asking the Irish public to get behind Fairtrade so that farmers in developing countries can benefit from the resources needed for tackling the climate emergency.

In Ireland, supporters, schools and commercial partners are being invited to take part in virtual events and this is a first for Fairtrade Ireland . These events will be educational, informative and fun and include; a Chocolate Truffle Making workshop: Women in Cocoa Farming , a live chat with Deborah Osei – Mensah, a young cocoa farmer and a leader in her cocoa cooperative, in Asunafo, Ghana; The End of the Road? – An exhibition of photographs by Sean Hawkey about climate change and Fairtrade farmers; Bitter or Sweet? A teachers workshop on issues to do with cocoa and poverty in West Africa. See list of public events here <https://www.fairtrade.ie/lineups/>

Fairtrade is committed to fighting the climate crises. Fairtrade Standards encourage producers to protect the environment by improving soil, planting trees, conserving water and avoiding pesticides, while Fairtrade’s programmes include climate academies for farmers to share best practice. At the same time, Fairtrade makes training available to producers so that they can use the latest agricultural methods, such as intercropping and shade-grown coffee to adapt to conditions.

As global trade changes in ways we could not have imagined a year ago, poverty will continue to be a key contributor to further environmental degradation and the inability for farmers to adapt to environmental shocks. Farmers in developing countries need investments for mitigation, adaptation, diversification and resilience strategies in the face of the climate crisis.

Fairtrade coffee farmer Bayardo Betanco, of the Prodecoop co-op in Nicaragua, said:

‘There is a chain on earth that starts where the producers are. They are the ones who suffer the consequences of climate change, the ones who get the least help, and carry all of the burden. It’s not fair.’

Peter Gaynor, Executive Director with Fairtrade Ireland, said;

‘Since 1850 when measurements began, developing countries have contributed just 8% of total carbon emissions. Rich countries have contributed 92% of emissions. Our climate change strategies need to acknowledge the rich world’s primary responsibility for the world’s climate problems.’

Because the worst weather impacts happen in a band around the equator called the Tropics, farmers in many developing countries already have to adapt to the worst climate problems. Increased storms, drought, floods and changing rain patterns already damage farmers' lands and crops. We need a Just Transition, Read More Here <https://www.fairtrade.ie/blog/>

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