

Climate change and economic justice



**'CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL ISSUE. WE,
THE FARMERS, HAVE TO DEAL WITH ITS
CONSEQUENCES EVERY DAY.'**

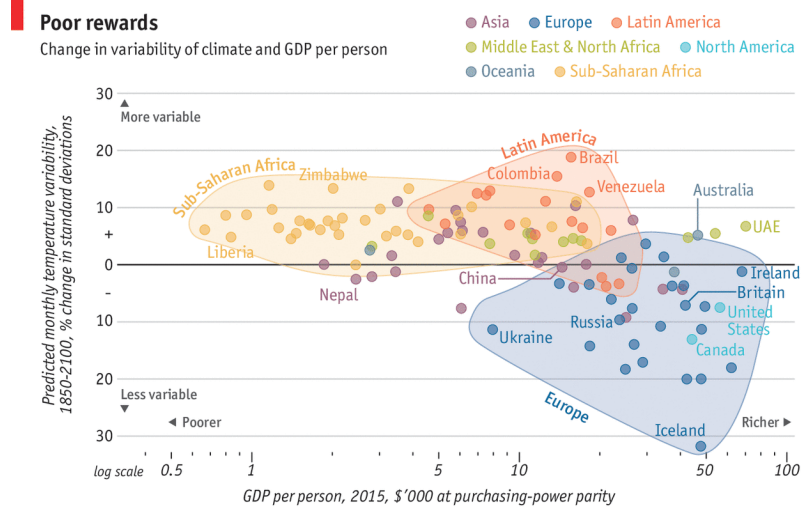


Question:
What is one thing that's made you think 'I need to take action on this' about the Climate Crisis?





What would you like to know more about by end of this session?



Source: "Climate models predict increasing temperature variability in poor countries", by Sebastian Bathiany, Vasilis Dakos, Marten Scheffer and Timothy M. Lenton, *Science Advances*, May 2018

What does the climate crisis mean for fairtrade producers?

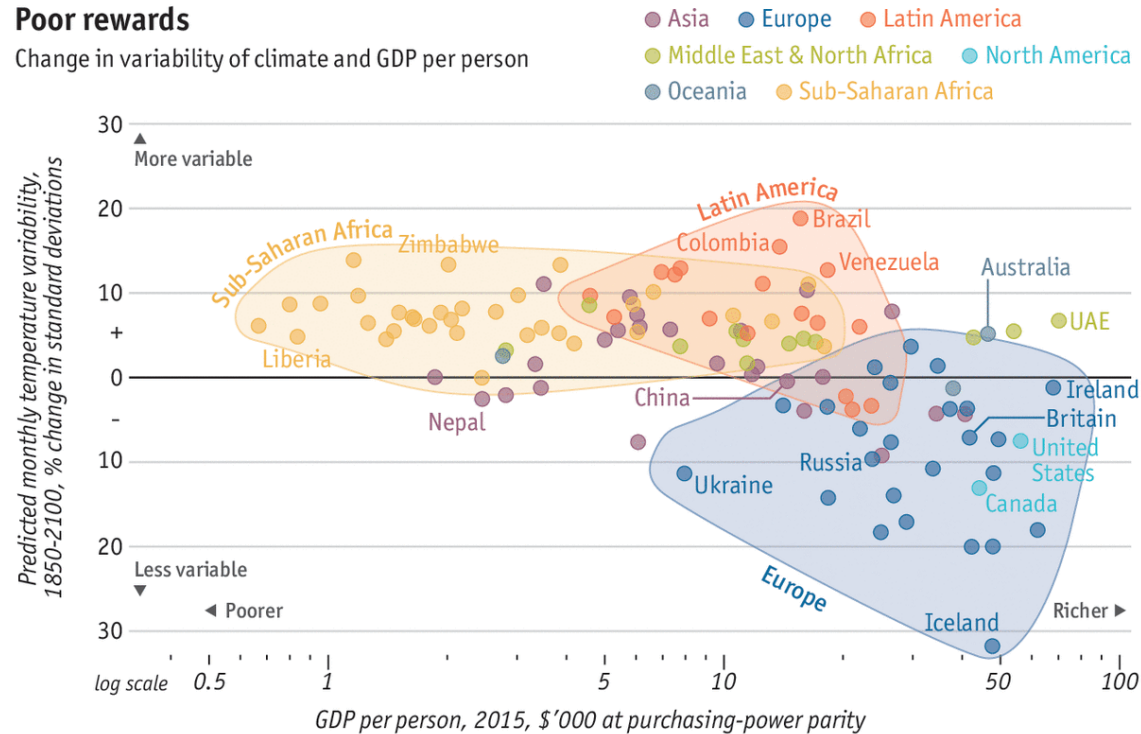


- More volatile, less predictable seasons make agriculture harder
- Heavy rains causing more plant diseases
- Weather extremes leading to lack of food
- Many Fairtrade crops – especially coffee – extremely vulnerable to small changes in temperature
- 25% of current coffee farms in Brazil & 37% in Indonesia likely to be lost to climate change if no action taken
- Huge growth in fungal diseases destroying coffee plants in past decade
- More frequent droughts, wet seasons and weather extremes hit production & cause plant diseases
- Farmers get lower incomes
- 97% of tea smallholders in Assam say climate change is threatening their future

Contributed least, getting hit the hardest

Poor rewards

Change in variability of climate and GDP per person



Source: "Climate models predict increasing temperature variability in poor countries", by Sebastian Bathiany, Vasilis Dakos, Marten Scheffer and Timothy M. Lenton, *Science Advances*, May 2018

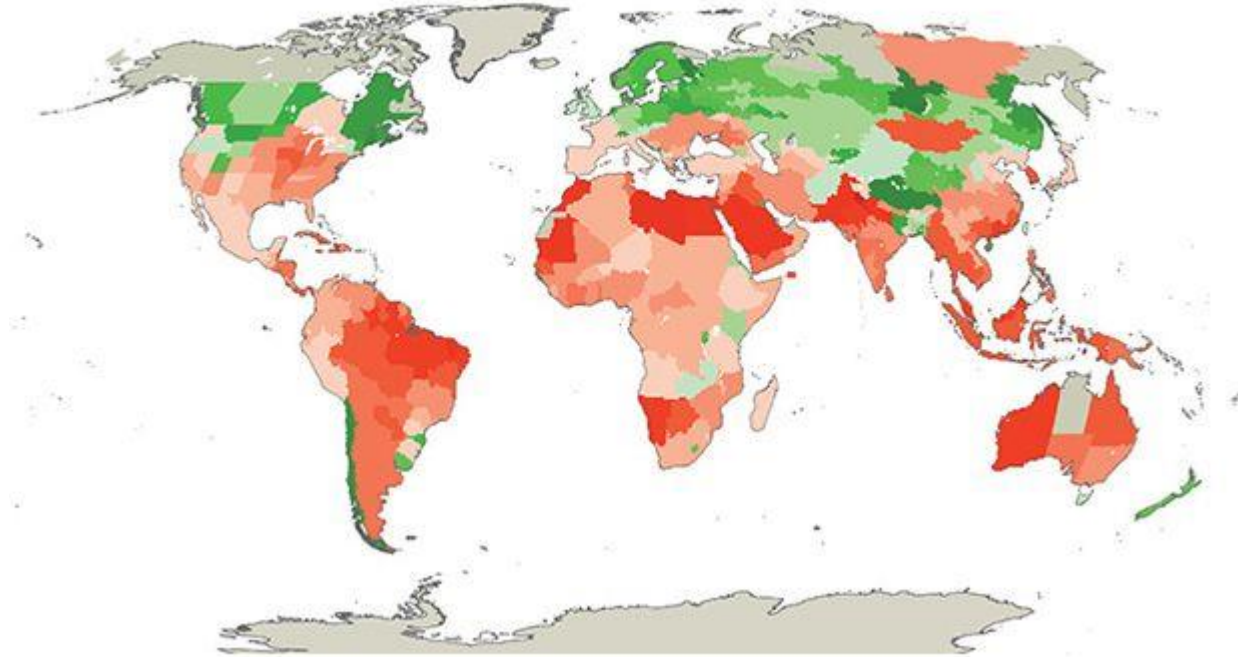
Economist.com

- Fairtrade farmers contributed the least to climate crisis – but are already feeling the worst effects
- 21 people from Cote d'Ivoire have same carbon footprint as one person in the UK
- things are expected to get worse

Contributed least, getting hit the hardest

Estimated impact of +3 degrees C change on crop yields by 2050

-50% change 100% change No data



Source: World resources institute

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What will happen without action?

- 50% less land suitable for coffee growth across the world by 2050 – what will this mean for 25m people who earn an income from coffee?
- Increased weather extremes in India to reduce tea production – and increase diseases that destroy crops
- Wine production in South Africa to fall by 50%, 40% in Chile
- Many current cocoa growing regions in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire to become too hot to grow cocoa by 2050.
 - Higher altitude areas, currently valuable forested, biodiverse areas, will likely be cleared to become cocoa farms

WORLD • ENVIRONMENT

Your Morning Cup of Coffee Is in Can the Industry Adapt in T



Workers weed coffee plants at a Starbucks-owned coffee farm in Costa Rica, where climate change could damage the health of the industry. George Steinmetz for TIME

Why fairtrade needs to act on climate change

- Because of everything we just read!
- But also because it's the priority for so many farmers and workers we speak with – **it's a damaging reality for their communities right now**
- We're part-owned by farmers, so their priority is our priority

How fairtrade can help tackle the climate crisis

Fairtrade can not solve the Climate Crisis on it's own. But we can be an important part of tackling it through:

- **Advocacy** – as campaigners in this country making sure producers pleas for action are heard
- **Adaption** – Climate change is already harming communities. Fairtrade is helping them adapt.
- **Avoiding emissions** – Our Fairtrade Standards aim to minimise the emissions produced in any Fairtrade products.



The fairtrade standards and tackling the climate crisis

- All Fairtrade products have to meet the Fairtrade Standards
- Strict provisions on environment, including measures to tackle climate change like:
 - Monitoring and reducing carbon emissions
 - Prohibiting on deforestation
 - Tackling soil erosion
 - Reducing water wastage

Question: How do you think these Fairtrade Standards help farmers? And how do they link the climate change?

Fairtrade minimum price and premium: how does that help tackle the climate crisis?

- The higher income Fairtrade Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premium can provide is **vital** in allowing Fairtrade producers to focus on better environmental protection
- Allows sustainable, long-term planning
- Allows farmers to practice more environmentally-friendly farming.
- And Fairtrade Premium projects are frequently invested directly in environmental protection measures – **for example**



Fairtrade Premium projects: fighting for the environment

- COOCAFE, coffee producing cooperative in Costa Rica



COOCAFE have started a Foundation, part-funded by Fairtrade Premiums, committed to reforestation, water recycling and other environmental initiatives to tackle climate change.

Fairtrade Premium projects: fighting for the environment

- Suminter India Organic Farmers, cooperative in Kerala, India



Invested Fairtrade Premium in Solar Panels, meaning halved the amount of wood they need to burn to dry seeds.

Fairtrade Premium projects: fighting for the environment

- Coobana, banana producing cooperative in Panama



Coobana Co-operative in Panama use a slice of their Fairtrade Premium to protect endangered turtles that hatch on beaches nearby. These banana eating river manatees even won the support of members!

Fairtrade Premium projects: fighting for the environment

- Growing Women in Coffee, Kenya

Invested in biogas stoves so no longer need to cut down near-by trees for firewood. Lessening emissions and protecting local environment.

Note: You can now donate to directly support this project through our new Live Fair initiative
(<https://donate.fairtrade.org.uk/page/48939/donate/1>)



Farmers are taking action – but what can we do?

Educate – our research shows people don't associate Fairtrade with tackling the climate crisis. We need to change that.

Campaign – We don't need to do it alone – let's make friends!

Who can we link up with?

- At a national level – Fairtrade is a member of the Climate Coalition
- Many Fairtrade Foundation organisations are active in campaigning on Climate Crisis – Oxfam, CAFOD and Christian Aid for example
- At a local level – you know best! Extinction Rebellion? Church groups? the WI?



Why is it important we get involved?



Question: What opportunities there are for you to campaign on climate change and economic justice in your area? Who could you link up with?

Myth-busting: fairtrade

- **Myth:** “Fairtrade is about price, labour rights, things like that. Other certifications do environment.”

Environmental protection has always been at the heart of Fairtrade Standards, and recently they’ve got even stronger. Fairtrade rewards and encourages farming and production practices that are environmentally sustainable.

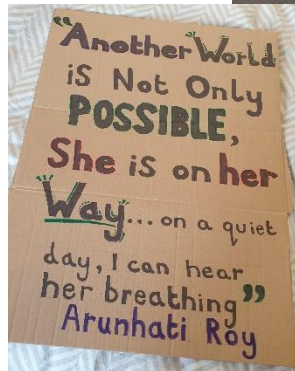
- **Myth:** “Fairtrade products have huge carbon footprints because flying products in”

Actually climate and production method often means products produced on Fairtrade terms have a lower carbon footprint than those produced closer to the UK. For examples, Kenyan vs. Netherlands roses/





What's on your sign?



Thank you for coming!

Any questions?