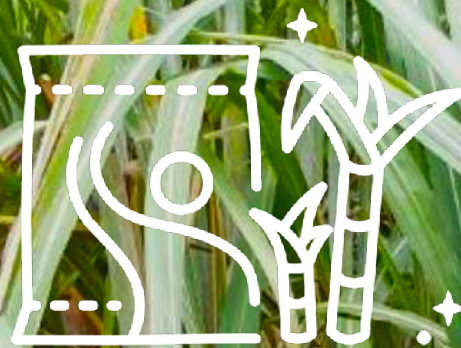


# SWEET NEWS

## Fairtrade Sugar Newsletter

July 2022



*Julita Richard, a farmer from Kasinthula Cane Growers Association, Malawi.*  
© KCGA

### Dear Fairtrade Sugar Partners

Welcome to the fifth digital edition of Sweet News.

Just as the impacts of the pandemic on people and agriculture begin to fade in many countries, the war in Ukraine is beginning to affect many sectors, including parts of the sugar industry. The shortage of shipping containers, coupled with increased energy costs, will have a negative influence on sugar exports.


Extreme weather events and climate impacts continue to make life challenging for Fairtrade sugar producers and growers. In this issue we report on flooding in southern Malawi caused by a 'moderate' tropical storm which destroyed both property and sugar cane crops, and we hear from Fiji which is still recovering from a series of disastrous cyclones in 2020 and 2021.

Fairtrade wholeheartedly agrees with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), which states that "A cleaner and more equitable world will deliver real benefits for people and the planet". Fairtrade is your partner to improve socio-economic pathways in countries where Fairtrade sugar is produced, and we have developed a series of Carbon & Water footprint studies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in supply chains whilst improving sustainable and climate resilient sugar cane production.

With kind regards,

[Monika Berresheim](#) | Senior Advisor Sugar | [m.berresheim@fairtrade.net](mailto:m.berresheim@fairtrade.net)





Fairtrade sugar farmers  
in Karnataka, India.  
© Fairtrade NAPP

## What you will find in this issue

### Global sugar trends

#### Focus on Malawi

- Floods update
- Perceptions of poverty and wealth
- Kasinthula: a rising star?

#### Focus on Mauritius

- Mauritius Impact Assessment: positive agriculture and environmental behaviour change
- Fairtrade Africa visit to Mauritian Fairtrade certified sugar cane producers
- Cluny CCS: how the Fairtrade Premium supports old, disabled and sick sugar growers
- "Acting and working together": how co-ops benefit from Fairtrade certification

#### Driving change in Fairtrade sugar supply chains

- New Fairtrade impact presentation
- After the storm - Fiji's road to recovery
- Cuba: what does the future look like for Fairtrade organic sugar?
- New Belize National Child Labour Policy and Strategy launched
- ED&F Man, one of Fairtrade's longest committed partners

#### Standards news

- New group and mass balance factsheet published
- Amendment to cane sugar standards approved

#### Update: Carbon & Water footprint studies

- How Fairtrade sugar supply chains are cutting harmful emissions

#### New opportunities

- Biofuels: could sugar by-products be the answer to unreliable energy supplies?
- New Fairtrade-financed sugar initiatives

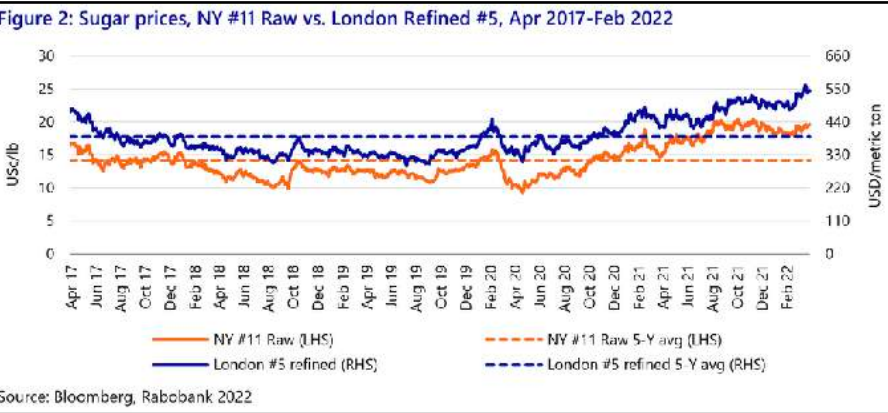
#### News in brief

- Indian sugar producers feature in EU financed documentary film
- Italy: Fairtrade sugar sales up
- Ragus underlines importance of Fairtrade and Organic
- \$10m loan for Fairtrade certified Eco Farm Moçambique
- Evaluation and baseline research: Fairtrade sugar producers in Belize report published
- EU sugar sector shows "satisfactory overall resilience"

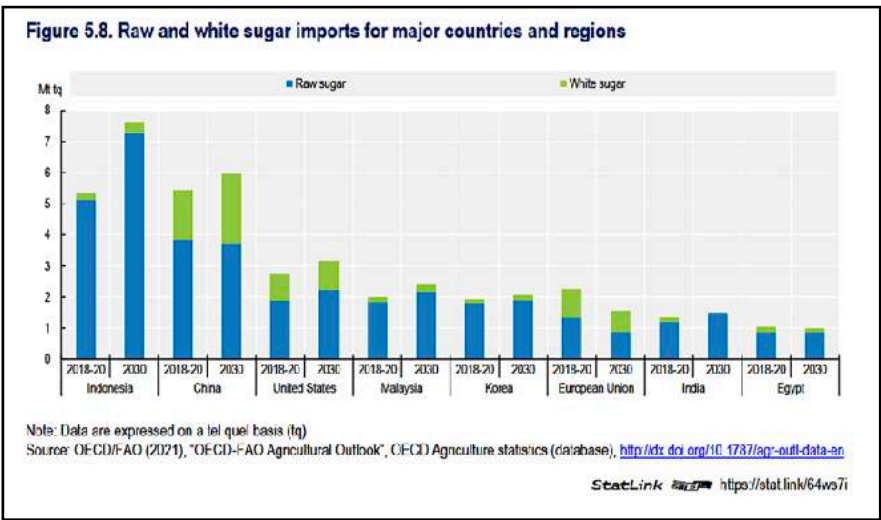


Global sugar trends

After a short period of global deficit, [Rabobank forecasts](#) a 2.5m metric ton sugar surplus for the upcoming 2022/23 season, driven by production increases mainly from Asia, Brazil and the EU. High energy prices and the war in Ukraine are expected to fuel higher sugar prices.



Following a pandemic-induced global downturn in consumption, the [International Sugar Organization](#) (ISO) predicts a modest one percent growth this year. Major sugar consuming markets include India, the EU, China, Brazil, the US, Indonesia, Russia, Pakistan, Mexico and Egypt.



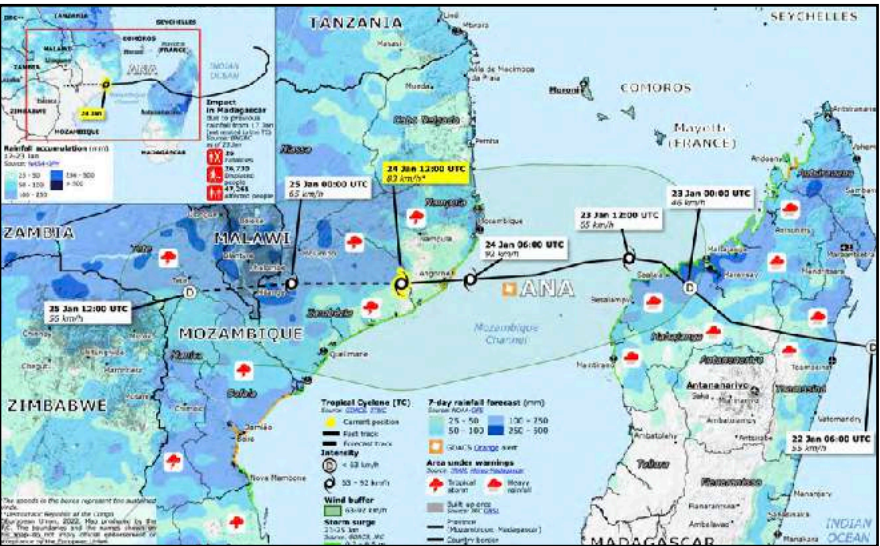
Sugar crops are also a significant source of bio-energy, including sugar-based ethanol and biomass electricity generation. However, [according to the UN FAO](#), the diversion of sugar crop crushing to ethanol production will continue to challenge sugar production over the next decade.

You can find out more about how Fairtrade sugar products and by-products help to diversify growers' incomes and reduce dependence on fossil fuels [here](#).

Focus on Malawi

Tropical storm Ana

In January 2022, 'moderate' rated [tropical storm Ana](#) devastated crops, homes and other infrastructure across southern Malawi. The region around Mulanje was [worst hit](#), with around 200,000 people made homeless, crops washed away and sugar cane production significantly damaged. Initial support was provided by Agricane, the International Red Cross, the EU and UN, while Fairtrade and Fairtrade buyers supported farmers and co-ops in the region.



Map showing the path of Tropical storm Ana  
© European Union

[Agricane](#), which manages the Fairtrade certified Kasinthula and Phata co-ops in Malawi, has appealed for funds to support farmers and surrounding communities to rebuild their houses. Anyone who can help should [contact Bouke Bijl](#). "It's the worst we have ever had," said one Agricane official. "Rising river levels and flooding as side effects from cyclones are devastating the region more regularly, so that we shall be supporting the establishing and improving of a flood defence as an important measure to look into in the future."

## Focus on Malawi

### Perceptions of poverty and wealth

Lisa Marie Pyka of Fairtrade Germany, who visited Kasinthula and Phata to research how Fairtrade is helping alleviate poverty, reports that most of the co-op farmers were affected, and that four months after the floods, Fairtrade farmers were still struggling with the consequences. "Besides sugar cane, most farmers grow food crops close to the river, which were destroyed," says Lisa Marie. "There are fears it will affect the food security of the families within the next months. Most of the farmers I interviewed report that they do not yet know what they will eat in the next months, and that they will face food shortages for some periods during the year."

The flooding also deposited sand in the fields, making them harder to cultivate, and some farmers also lost livestock. Food prices have also risen. "Profit from sugarcane alone is insufficient to secure most of the families' livelihoods," she adds. "The biggest impact of the Fairtrade certification on poverty reduction is due to the Premium, which they use to buy corn for their families and meet their basic needs in times of food shortages. All the farmers I interviewed greatly value Fairtrade certification and emphasise its importance for their livelihoods. All of them want to stay certified, and many of them convinced their neighbours to join the co-ops."



Co-op members join a focus group to discuss poverty and wealth. © Lisa Marie Pyka

As part of her research, Lisa Marie organised six focus groups with members of the Kasinthula and Phata co-ops, to discuss their perceptions of poverty and wealth. Participants were asked to draw pictures showing what poverty means for them and what they need for a life without poverty - such as a bicycle, motorbike or car.

Vehicles are important to reach remote hospitals in emergencies, as well as to transport crops in time to markets. Vehicles were therefore an important indicator for a life without poverty.



A house and a bicycle are important indicators of life without poverty for both men and women. © Lisa Marie Pyka



For the majority of women and men, the biggest challenge of poverty meant inadequate housing (for example, with no roof, floor or toilet, or having an outside kitchen) or worse, not having a house at all. "Adequate housing is important when you live in a country with both hot sunshine and heavy rainfall. The majority of farmers and community members still live in tents since the storm destroyed or wiped out their homes," says Lisa Marie.

Want to know more? Contact Lisa Marie at [L.Pyka@fairtrade-deutschland.de](mailto:L.Pyka@fairtrade-deutschland.de)



## Focus on Malawi

### Kasinthula: a rising star?

The Fairtrade certified Kasinthula (KCGA) co-op is a case-study in resilience, hard work and perseverance. Set up in 1997 with support from the Malawi government, Kasinthula was the first Fairtrade certified sugar organization and initially, at least, the co-op thrived.



*Tree seedlings awaiting planting © KCGA*

By 2019, however, yields had fallen from 135,000 to 49,000 tonnes, and the co-op was saddled with a debt of nearly US\$1 million. "The farmers were desperate," says Aubrey Chilenje, an original member and now KCGA Chairman. "Kasinthula was our only income and the dividends stopped because the debt was unsustainable. Farmers who were employed in the fields went to work for eight months with no pay. That's how badly they wanted those jobs."



*The new Youth Training Centre © KCGA*

In a deal brokered by [Agricane](#) - whom Kasinthula approached to step in again - the UK Government gave a US\$1 million grant to kick-start the business, while [AgDevCo](#) invested another US\$ 4 million. Sugar cane production is now predicted to hit 130,000 tonnes, and 85 percent of the Fairtrade Premium goes to welfare and community development. Projects include water boreholes, a Youth Training Centre with a welding workshop and a community kiosk and restaurant.



*A classroom damaged by a tropical storm was repaired just a few months later © KCGA*

Read more about Kasinthula's remarkable turnaround [here](#) and [here](#).



## Focus on Mauritius

### "Positive change" in Mauritian sugar cane sector

Initial findings from an evaluation study carried out by **Agricane Consulting International** suggest that Fairtrade is "driving positive change in the Mauritian sugar cane sector."

*Impact on the contributions of Fairtrade towards driving positive change in the Mauritian sugar cane sector was commissioned by Fairtrade International and will be published later this year. In the meantime, however, Agricane agreed to share a short summary of their findings.*

***"Fairtrade interventions have led to positive agricultural and environmental outputs and outcomes. The combined influence of the Fairtrade standards, technical training, and Premium usage has enabled positive agriculture and environmental behaviour change across the certified Mauritian SPOs."***

***"At an industry level, the Fairtrade standards have also shown some signs of broader influence. Fairtrade has helped to raise awareness of key challenges associated with both climate change and good labour practices. For example, the millers report positive changes to their own labour standards which have been influenced by the Fairtrade standards."***

***"Fairtrade certification has brought additional resilience to the industry by ensuring that the mills have a sufficient amount of sugarcane to be processed from small producers, sustaining employment, and giving more visibility to the sugarcane sector."***

### Mauritian sugar growers boosted by FTA visit

With COVID travel restrictions eased, a team from Fairtrade Africa (FTA) visited Mauritian Fairtrade certified sugar cane producers to support certification, gender and youth inclusion, good agricultural practices, advocacy, capacity strengthening and business diversification.

Reporting on his first visit to Mauritius, FTA's Commercial Manager for Southern Africa, Paul Colditz, says it was a great opportunity to work directly with Fairtrade producers.

"They have an acute understanding of their financial situation. It is no secret that the average age of a sugar cane grower in Mauritius is rising, but enthusiasm for the future of Fairtrade sugar and opportunities remains high and there is eagerness to engage in new business. The business acumen and excitement for the future were two aspects that stood out consistently."



*Mauritian sugar producers with the FTA team © FTA*

Want to know more? Contact FTA Commercial Manager Paul Colditz [p.colditz@fairtradeafrica.net](mailto:p.colditz@fairtradeafrica.net) or Zinhle Dlamini Ndlovu, FTA Head of Region [z.dlamini@fairtradeafrica.net](mailto:z.dlamini@fairtradeafrica.net)

### Making life easier for the elderly, sick and disabled

Cluny CCS, one of the three best co-ops in the 'Excellence Award for Cooperatives' by the Ministry of Business Enterprise Cooperatives and twice winner of a trophy in the sugar sector, stands out not only as an example to the country, but also to its own members.



*Retired Cluny CCS co-op members receive a food parcel funded by the Fairtrade Premium © Cluny CCS*

The co-op supports elderly members to find alternatives to labour-intensive cane production and for members to increase production and cut production costs. To buffer rising costs, members received a subsidy to alleviate the burden of cane cutting and loading, transport and buying fertiliser.

When some members of the Fairtrade certified Cluny CCS sugar co-op had to abandon or transfer their sugar cane plantation due to old age, poor health or disability, the co-op stepped in to help. The cost of living crisis has made life even harder for these families, some of whom have had to retire because of illness or accidents.

## Focus on Mauritius

### Investing in bigger yields and increased sustainability

Fairtrade certified Rose CCS has seen sugar cane yields climb from 3,700 tonnes in 2011 to nearly 8,900 tonnes in 2021 - thanks in part to investment in training. "We've been trained in good agricultural practices to improve the quality of our sugarcane to secure a stable income based on the extraction rate," says co-op member Renuka Cooshna. "The Fairtrade Premium enables me to fertilise my sugarcane field at the right time."



*Lunch to raise funds for the school for the disabled © Cluny CCS*

Rose CCS' empowerment programmes for women and young people raise awareness about respecting buffer zones, the importance of biodiversity conservation and recruiting new, younger farmers.



*The co-op environment team collecting plastic waste © Cluny CCS*

The Premium has also been used to fund a sports tournament to encourage young people to get involved in co-op activities, and to support a centre for disabled children. "Fairtrade gave a new direction to the objectives of the cooperative and has given our work more value in the sugarcane sector," says former Board member Nandini Mahadoo.

### Fairtrade encourages collaboration and resilience

As Fairtrade Africa's Support Manager stationed in Mauritius, Soomitra Ladsawut gets to see at first hand the impact of Fairtrade certification. "Co-ops have always existed here," she says, "but before Fairtrade, members didn't always collaborate and tended to take decisions independently. Through Fairtrade they act and work together like an organization."

Soomitra has noticed other benefits too. "Fairtrade certified producers feel more environmentally resilient. Fairtrade certified co-ops can afford to train members on good agricultural practices and promote climate resilient agriculture."

Two co-ops, Rose CCS and Valton CCS, have reduced pesticide use by employing casual labourers to weed by hand - but that means more work and more money. "They wouldn't have been able to afford that if it hadn't been for Fairtrade," says Soomitra. "All the Fairtrade certified co-ops have invested in Integrated Pest Management training."

Some co-ops have diversified to boost their income. L'Esperance MCS, for example, built a duplex tourist villa using Fairtrade Premium and now rents it out for €1750 a month - money which is then re-invested into the community. Others use the Premium to support vulnerable members. "They can reach vulnerable groups, offering upward mobility and support such as school materials for disabled children or medical assistance elderly people."

To find out more contact FTA Support Manager Soomitra Ladsawut [s.ladsawut@fairtradeafrica.net](mailto:s.ladsawut@fairtradeafrica.net)



*Sunghutter Toonarain, a sugar farmer with the Century CCS co-op in Mauritius © Miora Rajaonary / FTDE*



## Driving change in Fairtrade sugar supply chains



Fairtrade International has produced a presentation about our impact in sugar supply chains for use by all Fairtrade stakeholders. Individual slides present Fairtrade's impact globally, by theme and by origin. If you would like a ppt or pdf version please contact [Monika](#).

### After the storm: supporting Fiji's sugar sector

More than a year after tropical cyclones devastated more than 70 percent of Fiji's sugar cane production, Sarah Lagente and Mukesh Kumar of Fairtrade Australia-New Zealand together visited the three Fairtrade producer organizations to see how they were coping and to offer support.

"One of the main aims was to support the organizations to promote good governance and compliance with Fairtrade Standards," says Sarah, Producer Support Program Manager at Fairtrade ANZ. "We participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Labasa Cane Producer Association, which was a great opportunity to emphasise strategic Premium investment and proper reporting. That's important for communicating Fairtrade impact to existing and potential Fairtrade sugar buyers."

The pair also met representatives from the Fiji Sugar Corporation, which exports Fairtrade sugar from Fiji. Sarah reports that in a clear demonstration of Fairtrade's impact, "The Sugarcane Growers Council agreed to propose amendments to the contract template between sugarcane growers and cane cutters to ensure compliance with Fairtrade Standards and to promote good labour practices."

Contact Sarah Lagente [sarah@fairtrade.org.nz](mailto:sarah@fairtrade.org.nz) for more details.

Fairtrade and the Fijian sugar supply chain have also initiated an independent Carbon & Water (C&W) Footprint study (see below for more details).

Lastly, a partnership between Fijian protection agency [Empower Pacific](#), Fairtrade ANZ and NAPP has been concluded. The project provided bespoke support and training to the Fairtrade producer organisation on risk mapping and safeguarding child labour, forced labour and gender-based violence.

### 12 years on: Cuba's organic Fairtrade programme

The easing of travel restrictions enabled CLAC's Gilbert Ramirez and Andrea Fuentes to visit Cuba and take stock of the organic Fairtrade programme which has been running there since 2010.



*The CLAC strategic sugar analysis team together with sugar farmers and others involved in the supply chain © CLAC*

Four Fairtrade certified organizations produce organic sugar which is processed by CAI Balino in Santa Clara, but prolonged drought, weak tourism revenue, the global economy and low Fairtrade sugar sales have reduced Premium income and hindered development.

Discussions covered agricultural diversification for increased food security, monitoring and identifying challenges and solutions. Workshops on audits, certification and standards were held, as well as meetings with HEI Italia who provide technical support and are committed to sell more Cuban sugar as Fairtrade.

If you are interested in sourcing Fairtrade sugar from Cuba, please contact [mattia.baldini@hechoenitalia.it](mailto:mattia.baldini@hechoenitalia.it) or any of the Fairtrade organizations.



## Driving change in Fairtrade sugar supply chains

### New Belize National Child Labour Policy and Strategy launched

Fairtrade's vision for sugar supply chains free of child labour has taken a major step forward with the launch of the new Belize National Child Labour Policy and Strategy 2022-2025.

The launch is a significant success for Fairtrade and the Fairtrade certified Belize Sugar Cane Farmers' Association (BSCFA), who jointly developed the policy with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and the Government of Belize.

To coincide with the launch, BSCFA Chairman Andy Westby signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government. The MOU aims to formalise their commitment to eliminate child labour and provide decent work for young people in the sugar supply chain. In addition, the mandatory minimum school age has been increased to 16.

"Child labour is a complex issue and requires strong partnerships, social dialogue and collaboration," [notes the Ministry](#). "The policy seeks to reduce its incidence by eliminating the worst forms by 2025.

"The new policy makes several new commitments and removes all ambiguities in the Labour Act as to what constitutes child labour. It also harmonises the definition of a child across legislations, establishes clear inter-agency communication and data sharing protocols in child labour cases, and fosters within the private sector the development of a socially responsible code of ethics that protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation."

The Cabinet gave its approval for the development of the policy in April 2021 and, since then, the Child Labour Committee of the Labour Department has been working with several partners to craft the new policy.

[Speaking at the MOU signing ceremony](#), Labour Minister Oscar Requena said, "I am happy to see that the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association sign the MOU, committing to engage with children in labour in their organization. It would be good to see other associations

do the same - not only other sugar cane associations but other agricultural sectors across the country - to ensure that our children are not used as a form of child labour."

"We take it very seriously," continued Minister Requena. "We have a duty to ensure that our children are safe, that they go to school, that they're afforded good health opportunities and that they are not deprived of their ability to be children."



(l-r) Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government; Ramiro Ramirez, Minister of State; Valentino Shal, Ministry CEO. © Government of Belize

Fairtrade International's Senior Advisor for Social Compliance and Development Anita Sheth was instrumental in supporting BSCFA in getting to this point.

"We could only have accomplished such an important milestone as an organization and ultimately to productively contribute nationally and internationally as a result of the invaluable support and guidance of Fairtrade International," says BSCFA's Environmental Officer Zune Canche. "Anita and I know of the sleepless nights, the sweat and tears, the heated discussions, but this is the result that makes them all worthwhile."

A digital copy of the policy can be found online [here](#).



## Driving change in Fairtrade sugar supply chains

### "Fairtrade plays an ever more valuable role"

Established in 1783, **ED&F Man** is an employee-owned agricultural commodities merchant with 5,500 people in 50 countries, trading sugar, coffee, molasses, animal feed and pulses.

"ED&F Man are proud to have such a long and strong history of moving Fairtrade certified sugars from farmers to consumers," says the company's sustainability lead for sugar Daniel Polak. "Fairtrade is widely recognised as a leading certification to promote social and environmental standards in origins, and that's why ED&F Man works to increase volumes of Fairtrade sugars moved, by sourcing products to meet clients' demands and meeting with clients to explain the merits of Fairtrade to increase overall demand.

"Primary sales of the Fairtrade sugars we move are into the EU and US, where the Fairtrade mark is widely respected. The association between the mark and the impact at origin are widely known by consumers. Awareness and trust in the certification is essential and it's important we continue to educate and inform consumers of the progress and achievements delivered by the Fairtrade Premium.

"ED&F Man have worked with Fairtrade certified sugars from Asia, through Southern Africa, to the Caribbean and the Americas," adds Daniel. "We have visited many Fairtrade co-ops and seen the impact of the Premium - one memory which stands out was a visit to a Fairtrade co-op India where we were given the most generous of welcomes. We met with the co-op board and saw the investments made with the Fairtrade Premium, including a new tractor, warehouses for seeds and tools and improved sanitation for the local community. The welcome from the villagers was so warm and friendly, afterwards we shared a meal together and discussed the future plans and aspirations of the co-op.

"Going forwards, we believe Fairtrade plays an ever more valuable role in improving standards for smaller farmers. We at ED&F Man look forward to continuing to help with this progress, with farmers, mills and our customers in destination markets."



*A tractor bought with Fairtrade Premium working on a sugar co-op in India © Daniel Polak / ED&F Man*

### Standards news

**Confused about Fairtrade standards on group mass balance and single site mass balance?** Fairtrade International has produced a factsheet which explains different types of mass balance and how they relate to Fairtrade certified sugar products. You can download it [here](#).

**An amendment to the cane sugar standard which updates the guidance 'like for like' rule has been approved.** The amendment comes amid increasing numbers of requests for exceptions to allow the exchange of white refined sugar for the purchase of special raw brown sugars. As exceptions are not considered a sustainable solution - especially when production and trade patterns change, such as the removal of EU beet production quotas in 2017 - an internal and external review concluded that more flexibility would maximise benefits to small-scale cane sugar producer organizations.



## Update: Carbon and Water (C&W) footprint studies

In addition to the studies executed in Mauritius, Costa Rica and El Salvador, Fairtrade commissioned [Soil and More](#) to carry out C&W footprint studies in Fairtrade sugar supply chains in Belize and Eswatini, with Fiji expected to be finalised soon. A similar study will start in August in Indian supply chains (both organic export and non-organic national sugar markets).

For more information, please contact Fairtrade sugar supply chains in each country, and look out for further communications from Fairtrade International. In the meantime, here are some of the highlights:

- sugar cane can effectively store [high amounts of stable carbon in the soil](#) through 'plant stones' or phytolith-occluded carbon
- if surplus electricity generated from bagasse is sold to the local grid, emissions are avoided by replacing fossil fuels
- the vast majority of Fairtrade sugar farms have moved from conventional to reduced till, with subsequent positive impact on overall emissions
- carbon sequestration in soils and biomass has a large impact on global emissions and is the main determinant of agricultural emissions
- in most Fairtrade sugar origins, irrigation either minimal or completely unnecessary
- sugar cane pesticides are not generally applied preventatively, but as needed once the crop emerges
- some Fairtrade sugar growers invest in manual weeding to reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides (see our story on Premium use in Mauritius)
- some Fairtrade producers make their own local bio-fertilisers, which cuts emissions from shipping and boosts yields

Training on the [Cool Farm Tool](#) - which already has been used to assess C&W footprints - will be rolled out to the NAPP team and others in the Indian sugar supply chain in August 2022.

### Why C&W footprint studies matter

"Fairtrade is envisioning ways in which supply chain actors can become accountable for their climate commitments and therefore, be consistent with our aim to empower producer and increase their resilience," says Juan Pablo Solis, Senior Advisor Climate and Environment at Fairtrade International.

"The studies to measure carbon and water footprints in cane sugar are a great way to identify areas of improvements and make trading sugar more climate friendly," he adds. "They also demonstrate the positive environmental performance of Fairtrade producers - not only in sugar production, but overall."

**Fairtrade International has also engaged a consultant to communicate the main findings and impacts of the C&W footprint studies to a wider public through a series of factsheets which will be available by the end of the year.**



*Sugar farmer Zoila Coto on her co-op in El Salvador*  
© CLAC



## Update: Carbon and Water (C&W) footprint studies

### Tate & Lyle back Belize C&W footprint study



*Adelaida Che, a sugar farmer from the Fairtrade certified Progressive Sugar Cane Producers' Association in Belize. © Tate & Lyle Sugars*

"ASR Group [Tate & Lyle's parent company] has completed our climate action roadmap, which illustrates how we will achieve three ambitious commitments: to reduce CO2 in [scope 1&2](#) by 50% by 2030; to be carbon neutral in scope 1&2 by 2040; and to be net zero including scope 3 by 2050. We have committed to a science based approach and a just and fair transition towards these goals," says Julia Clark, Director of Sugar Ethics at Tate & Lyle.

"We were therefore pleased to participate in a study of the carbon footprint of our mill in Belize and the Fairtrade certified smallholder cane farmers associations who supply it. The study provides a robust platform from which to work towards a lower carbon, more sustainable sugar industry."

Sarah Singer, Senior Supply Chain Manager at the Fairtrade Foundation in the UK, adds: "We look forward to Tate & Lyle Sugars sharing their experiences of the C&W study in Belize as an active participant of our newly formed [Climate Network](#) - a forum which brings together committed UK businesses to help them build sustainable supply chains in which farmers are supported to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

"The forum is a learning space with opportunities to hear from Fairtrade, farmers, and industry peers, and a space to facilitate collaboration between businesses facing similar challenges. The network is open to all Fairtrade partners who sign our Climate Pledge, committing to pay fair prices and be long-term partners with farmers, to measure and report their emissions and speak out to ask for climate justice."



*Trucks loaded with sugar cane on its way to be processed in Belize. © UN FAO*

"The study provides the Fairtrade certified cane farmers in Belize with a technical diagnosis and information to improve agricultural and environmental practices and help them face increasing challenges of rising costs and competitiveness," concludes Fairtrade International's Senior Advisor for Sugar Monika Berresheim.



## New opportunities

### A future fuelled by sugar

Does sugar have the potential to change the world? Fairtrade International's Senior Adviser, Sugar Monika Berresheim certainly thinks so. "There are enormous possibilities for sugar and its by-products. In a changing world where countries aim to become independent from coal and oil, sugar by-products will not only boost energy security but will contribute to income diversification for sugar producers."

Many countries such as Malawi suffer from frequent electricity outages, especially in remote rural areas. Sugar producers have to put up with disrupted supplies which mean they can't run the pumps to irrigate their fields. In the case of Fairtrade certified Kasinthula (see our story above), constant power blackouts were one of a number of factors which contributed to declining yields.

In Malawi, **ethanol is produced from molasses** - itself a by-product of cane sugar. "Biofuels made with ethanol could make Malawi less dependent on crude oil," says Monika. "My dream is for income diversification and a stable electricity network for farmers and communities in the region. It would be amazing if ethanol and other by-products were sold with a Fairtrade Premium, and producers were able to invest this money in renewable energy to become independent from unreliable electricity."

### New Fairtrade-financed sugar programmes to improve labour and environmental practices

In an upcoming visit, Fairtrade Africa's Jean-Philippe Zanavelo will support the "first phase" producers in Mauritius to complete their training on Better Labour Practices and to draft relevant policies.

FTA is supporting the expansion of the programme to an additional 12 SPOs in Mauritius, a country suffering from labour shortages and competition for jobs from the tourism sector. The programme is an important and welcome opportunity for farmers and co-ops to foster long-lasting relationships between farmers and workers and to boost compliance with Fairtrade standards.



*Better Labour Practices in Mauritius © Miora Rajaonary / FTDE*

In addition, two projects based on findings from the C&W footprint studies in Mauritius will aim to reduce GHG emissions in sugar supply chains. Applying biofertiliser will help farmers cut emissions generated by importing fertiliser, improve soil health, increase yields and reduce costs. If successful, the initiative will be rolled out to all Mauritian Fairtrade certified co-ops.

Follow-up projects are under discussion with CLAC for implementation in relevant Central American countries, also based on the recommendations of the C&W footprint studies.

## Sugar news in brief

### New film highlights Fairtrade benefits for Indian sugar farmers

In Karnataka state in the southern part of India, four small-scale sugar producer organizations started selling on Fairtrade terms in 2016. A new documentary film, funded by the EU, shows how they have been able to grow both socially and economically. Watch the video [here](#).



### Fairtrade sugar sales grow in Italy

Sales of Fairtrade sugar in Italy were up 10 percent to 5,158 tonnes in 2021, mainly due to the use of sugar as an ingredient within packaged or multi-ingredient products, or in fruit juices. [Read more](#).

### Ragus hails Fairtrade certification

Leading bulk sugar manufacturer Ragus has underlined importance of Fairtrade and Organic certification. "Fairtrade certification helps sugar cane farmers gain access to business education so they can grow their reach and engage with international markets," says the UK based company. Read the full story [here](#).

### US development loan boosts Fairtrade sugar in Mozambique

The US International Development Finance Corporation has [approved a US\\$10 million loan](#) to Fairtrade certified Eco Farm Moçambique Limitada. The loan will "will facilitate the expansion of carbon-neutral sugar production in one of the poorest rural communities in Africa."

Interested in sourcing Fairtrade organic sugar from Mozambique? Please contact: Janse van Rensburg Chanel +258859030239 [chanel.ecofarm@gmail.com](mailto:chanel.ecofarm@gmail.com)

### Fairtrade Premium plays "critical role"

A new Evaluation and Baseline Study says the Fairtrade Premium plays a critical role in limiting the impact of price fluctuations by contributing to the farmers' direct survival through cash payments. Read the full story [here](#).

### EU sugar sector "resilient"

The EU sugar sector "has shown satisfactory overall resilience", according to a long-awaited study commissioned by the European Commission published earlier this year. Download the full report [here](#).

**Thank you!**

As we get to grips with a post-pandemic world and global economic uncertainty, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all sugar stakeholders, both within the Fairtrade system and externally. Looking forward to working with you in the the future!

Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) with any comments, suggestions, questions or your news to be included in the next edition. As always, we encourage you to share this Sweet News.

**Monika Berresheim, Senior Advisor**  
[m.berresheim@fairtrade.net](mailto:m.berresheim@fairtrade.net)