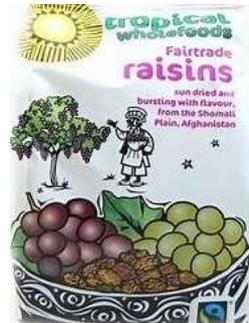




# Fairtrade Dried Fruits and Nuts and Climate Change



(This sumptuous fig tree reminds us of the many exotic fruit and nut trees)



Tropical Wholefoods is the home of Fairtrade and Organic dried fruits, nuts and snack bars. They have won lasting markets for developing country farmers for more than 30 years paying fair prices in advance, develop and market farmers' products, run their own UK factory and share useful technology and experience with overseas partners.

Fairtrade raisins are bought from a co-operative in the Shomali Plain in Afghanistan. Called the 'Garden of Kabul' the Plain is thought to produce some of the best grapes in the world. Increased sales allow the co-op to improve vine trellising and grape drying. Ali Ahmad a grape farmer in Afghanistan: 'I want my children to get an education and help the country.'

Fairtrade sun-dried apricots, kernels, walnuts and almonds from farmers in the remote mountains of Northern Pakistan. The fruit and nut factories provide the women with well paid work and the Fairtrade Premium pays for education and farm improvements.

Sun-dried bananas and pineapple are produced by farmers in Southern Uganda. The fruits are grown in naturally fertile soil, picked when fully ripe and immediately sun-dried to add capturing their sweetness. Solar-drying enables farmers to add value to their product by using a renewable energy source which has very low environmental impact. Transport costs are minimised as the fruit is transported in bulk once dried.

Jane Naluwairo, a pineapple producer from Kayunga: 'My house has solar electricity that runs some of the fruit driers by day and during the night it provides light, powers a television and radio. I have become an eye-opener to the people.'