



Fairtrade Mangoes and Climate Change



Tropical Wholefoods was started in the early 1990s in Uganda. For more than ten years they have been purchasing dried mangoes from Fairtrade Company Gebana Afrique in Burkina Faso, which has become their second supplier of dried fruits and nuts. They also buy dried apricots from Mountain Fruits in the Hunza Valley, Northern Pakistan.

Gebana Afrique purchase Fairtrade Organic dried mangoes from seventeen different rural cooperatives and associations in the South of Burkina Faso. They also purchase Fairtrade organic cashew nuts and run a cashew processing facility themselves.

Every year, tonnes of fresh mangoes are processed in the local processing facilities with women being the main workforce. Mangoes bring a three-fold benefit to the cooperatives: the fresh fruit farmers benefit from sales, the women doing the processing gain from paid employment and in addition, there is the Fairtrade social premium which benefits the whole community. Projects such as adult literacy classes, cereal banks, water boreholes, new classrooms, purchasing bicycles, medicines and mosquito nets are just some examples of how the Fairtrade Premium has been spent by co-operatives.

Burkina Faso is highly exposed to extreme weather and climate change impacts, most notably floods, droughts, strong winds and the high variability of the rainy and dry seasons.

For Tropical Wholefoods, Fairtrade means more than just buying fruits at Fairtrade prices. They also give technical advice which can be helping with factory management and design, advising on organic and Fairtrade certification, or on best agricultural practice. Staff from Africa can benefit from visiting the factory in Sunderland for in-house training.

Since 2009, Comic Relief have funded a project under their Trade Programme to develop Biogas as an energy source for the mango-drying cooperatives, to improve the overall efficiency of mango drying technology, to tackle mango pests, and to reduce the use of wood as fuel in processing.

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