



UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

COP30
AMAZÔNIA

CUIDAR DO PLANETA PARA O FUTURO DA HUMANIDADE

Fairtrade Cooperatives:

A Strategic Model for Tackling
Climate Challenges





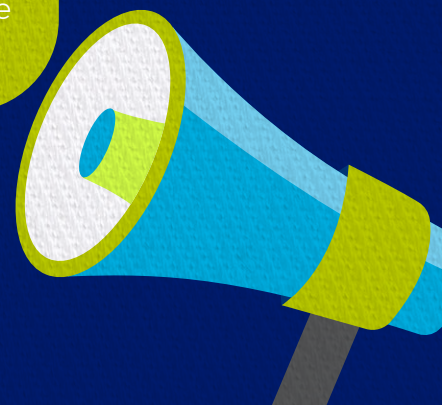
Fairtrade Cooperatives: A Strategic Model for Tackling Climate Challenges

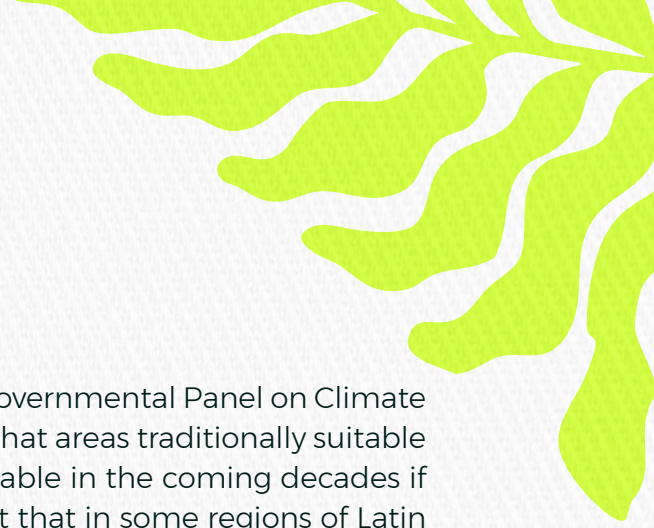
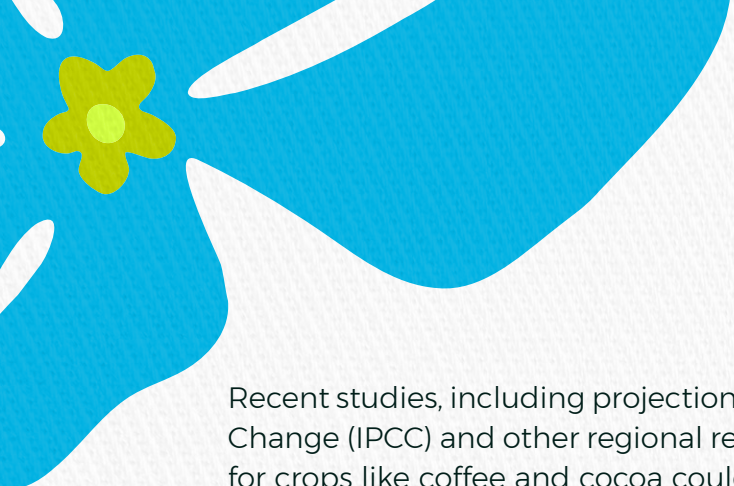
There are about 2.5 million agricultural cooperatives operating in the world under associative models that promote equity, participatory democracy, and sustainable development. These organizations are an essential tool for the economic and social strengthening of rural communities, contributing directly to local and national economies.

By declaring 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives, the United Nations (UN) highlighted the strategic value of this model in addressing structural challenges, such as poverty, social exclusion, and environmental sustainability. In this context, Fairtrade agricultural cooperatives are a concrete example of how solidarity economies can generate well-being, inclusion, and resilience.

One of the most urgent challenges we face is climate change, whose impacts are already evident on small and medium-scale family farming. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events are reducing production levels, hindering access to vital resources, such as water, and in many cases forcing producers to abandon their traditional ways.

Added to this are other critical impacts, such as the accelerated deterioration of agricultural soils, the growing threat of desertification in semi-arid areas, and the loss of biodiversity due to the replacement of agroecological systems with intensive monocultures. The expansion of unsustainable agricultural practices—including the indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, deforestation, and the depletion of water sources—has deepened the ecological fragility of rural areas, increasing the vulnerability of peasant livelihoods and reducing the capacity to respond to climate change.





Recent studies, including projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other regional research, indicate that areas traditionally suitable for crops like coffee and cocoa could become unsuitable in the coming decades if urgent action is not taken. Some simulations suggest that in some regions of Latin American, Africa and Asia, it will be necessary to consider productive diversification as an adaptation strategy, which requires new knowledge, technical investment, and sustained support.


In the face of this systemic crisis, solutions cannot rely solely on costly technological approaches, which are often inaccessible to rural communities. It is necessary to promote sustainable, culturally appropriate, and scalable mechanisms that are built from the ground up.

In this scenario, **small-scale producer cooperatives organized under Fairtrade have proven to be active players in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.** Through practices, such as productive diversification and agroforestry, soil regeneration, integrated water management, reforestation, the use of native seeds, and participatory monitoring of climate impacts, **we contribute to the resilience of our communities and to the protection of key ecosystems.**

At the same time, cooperatives strengthen citizen participation and political advocacy, opening up spaces for rural producers to influence public policies and global decision-making processes, such as climate negotiations within the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP).

Fairtrade cooperatives are present in 78 countries throughout the world and form a global network representing more than 2.1 million farmers and workers.

The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Small Fair Trade Producers and Workers (CLAC) is present in 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and represents a network of more than 900 grassroots organizations comprising more than 500,000 people, including producers and workers. Eighty-one percent of CLAC's member organizations are small-scale producers, and 27% are women who play key productive and labor roles. Together, these organizations manage an estimated agricultural area of more than 1.25 million hectares, cultivated under principles of sustainability, inclusion, and social justice.



Together with CLAC, Fairtrade Africa (present in 33 countries on the African continent) and Fairtrade Network of Asia and Pacific Producers (Fairtrade NAPP) (operating in 19 countries in Asia and the Pacific), and our national Fairtrade offices throughout the world, we form a global network of more than 1,900 producer and worker organizations. This global dimension strengthens our legitimacy to influence multilateral spaces and helps to highlight concrete solutions to the climatic, social, and economic challenges facing our communities.

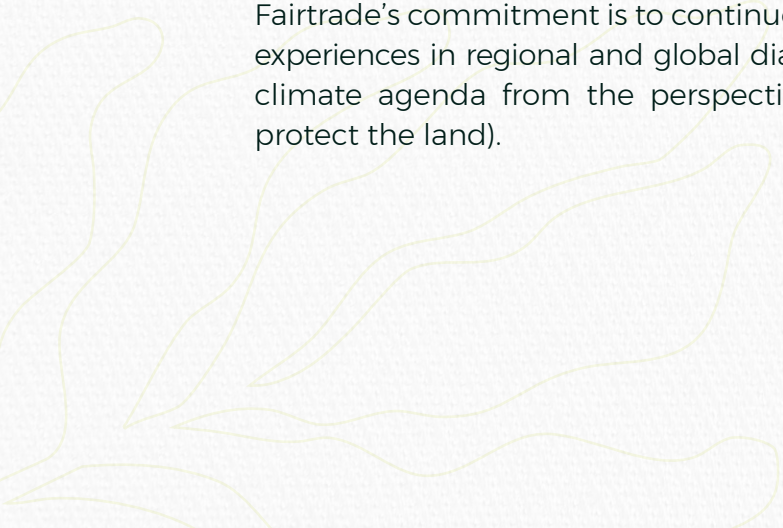
In light of the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), to be held in the Brazilian Amazon, **we call on governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector, and civil society to recognize agricultural cooperatives as key actors in a just transition and in the implementation of bottom-up climate solutions.**

From this position of representation, **we call for 2025 and the years beyond to become decisive years for promoting, financing, and scaling up the best cooperative practices that are already proving effective in addressing the impacts of climate change.**

These experiences we have accumulated in our territories offer not only viable solutions, but also evidence that collective work and a producer-centered approach can generate sustainable and multiplier impacts. We provide replicable models and concrete lessons learned, as well as a willingness to engage in dialogue to build transformative alliances.

However, **it is essential that this effort receives greater support and a long-term vision, recognizing that lasting solutions are built from the ground up, respecting rural livelihoods, protecting biodiversity, and promoting fundamental human rights.**

Fairtrade's commitment is to continue raising awareness of these initiatives and experiences in regional and global dialogue spaces (actively contributing to the climate agenda from the perspective of those who produce, care for, and protect the land).





CLAC



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At the COP30 in Brazil,
it is time to move from
words to action.

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