

MY NEXT FAIRTRADE ADVENTURE

FAIRTRADE.ORG.UK/SCHOOLS



HI. I'M TAYNA.

LAST YEAR I WENT ON A FAIRTRADE ADVENTURE AND LEARNT THAT WE ARE CONNECTED TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD BY THE FOOD AND DRINK WE BUY AND ENJOY.

Some of the people who grow the things we buy and eat don't earn enough money to have happy and healthy lives themselves.

I DISCOVERED THAT THE CHOICES WE MAKE CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF THE FARMERS AND WORKERS WHO PRODUCE OUR FOOD. BUT I WANTED TO KNOW MORE. SO I VISITED SOME TEA FARMERS IN KENYA.

MANY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD LIKE TO START THE DAY WITH A NICE CUP OF TEA. IN FACT, WE DRINK

70,000 CUPS EVERY SECOND.



THIS IS MICHIMIKURU TEA COMPANY IN KENYA, A FAIRTRADE TEA ESTATE.

KENYA IS THE THIRD BIGGEST TEA PRODUCER IN THE WORLD.

Tea is really important in Kenya – three million Kenyans work in tea or rely on tea.



MOST OF THE PEOPLE I MET OWN FARMS BUT ALSO PLUCK TEA AT THE ESTATE TO EARN EXTRA MONEY.



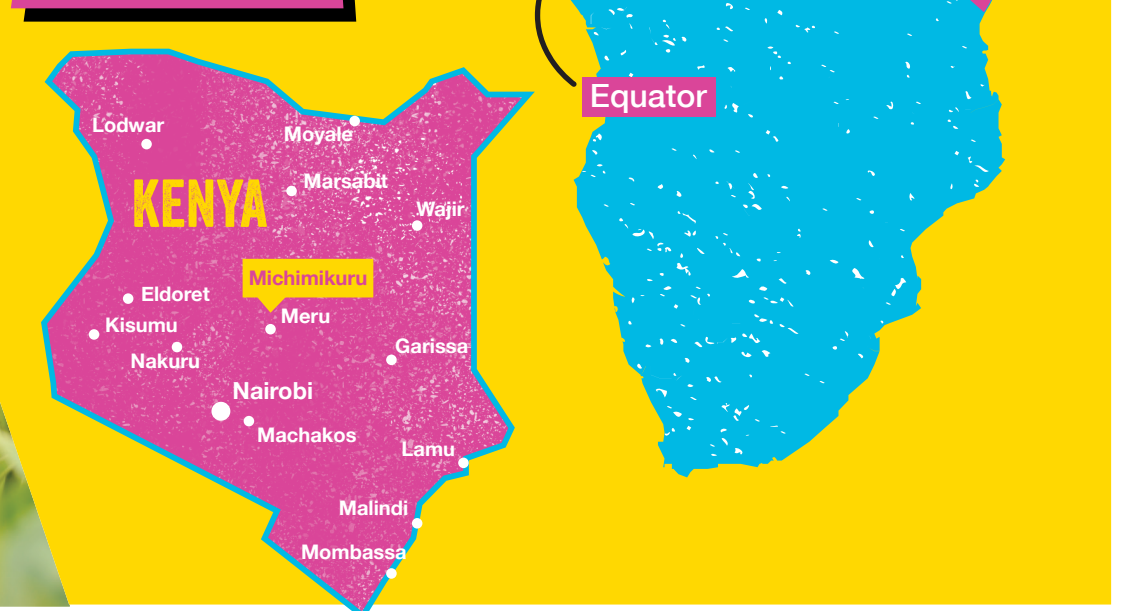
Tea grows in areas with warm temperatures and regular rain, and often on slopes.

The tea bushes are a bright, lush green and cover the hills.



Some tea plants at Michimikuru are over **50 YEARS OLD!**

MICHIMIKURU IS REALLY NEAR THE EQUATOR



ONCE PLUCKED, THE TEA MUST BE PROCESSED AND PACKED WITHIN 24 HOURS TO GET THE BEST FLAVOUR AT THE MICHIMIKURU FACTORY.

Tea is wilted, rolled, dried and graded, and packed into bags. It is taken by truck to Mombasa and shipped to many different countries.

Because the farmers can sell their tea as Fairtrade tea, this means they get a fairer price plus a bit extra, called the Fairtrade Premium.

SOME OF THIS TEA COMES TO THE UK AND TAKES THREE MONTHS BY SHIP.



But things are changing. In some places where tea used to grow well, it now struggles.

The rains, winds and temperatures have all changed in recent years, and this is affecting the tea and making life difficult for farmers.



Why do you think this might be happening?

I MET PATRICK KABERIA MUTHAURA, A TEA FARMER, HE TOLD ME:

“When I was young we used to know. The rains were predictable. Today... they are not predictable. You cannot plan. As a farmer you are not sure if you are going to have the same harvest you had previous years. You don't know, what you are going to grow, if it will do well.”

Farmers at Michimikuru have used their Fairtrade Premium to adapt to the changes in their local climate.

FARMERS ARE PLANTING TREES TO PROTECT THEIR TEA FROM THE WORST OF THE WIND AND HEAT, AND HELP TO KEEP MOISTURE IN THE SOIL.

BEING PART OF FAIRTRADE MEANS THE FARMERS CAN EARN MORE, HAVE MORE STABILITY AND CAN PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.



SEEDLINGS ON THE TREE FARM

Some farmers planted fast-growing tree crops to earn more money, but found out they were sucking the rivers dry and causing more problems in the long term.

THE FARMERS USED THEIR FAIRTRADE PREMIUM TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO FARMERS AND SEEDLINGS OF TREES THAT ARE BETTER SUITED AND WON'T TAKE ALL THE WATER.



PATRICK TOLD ME:

“People depend on agriculture for food and a little money. Those people have no choice... they need the money now. Not tomorrow. So in the process they might not take care of the environment.”

SOMETIMES FARMERS DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO FARM IN WAYS THEY KNOW MAY DAMAGE THEIR HEALTH OR THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

