

MY NEXT FAIRTRADE ADVENTURE

FAIRTRADE.ORG.UK/SCHOOLS



HI. I'M TAYNA.

LAST YEAR I WENT ON A FAIRTRADE ADVENTURE AND FOUND OUT THAT WE HAVE CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD THROUGH OUR FOOD AND DRINKS.

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 OUR CHOICES CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON 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.

BILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD LIKE TO START THE DAY WITH A NICE CUP OF TEA. DO YOU?

IN FACT **70,000 CUPS** ARE DRUNK 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 to the people of Kenya – three million Kenyans rely on it.



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



WHEN YOU PLUCK TEA YOU TAKE TWO LEAVES AND A BUD.

TEA IS PLUCKED FOR MOST OF THE YEAR IN MICHIMIKURU AND GROWS QUICKLY.

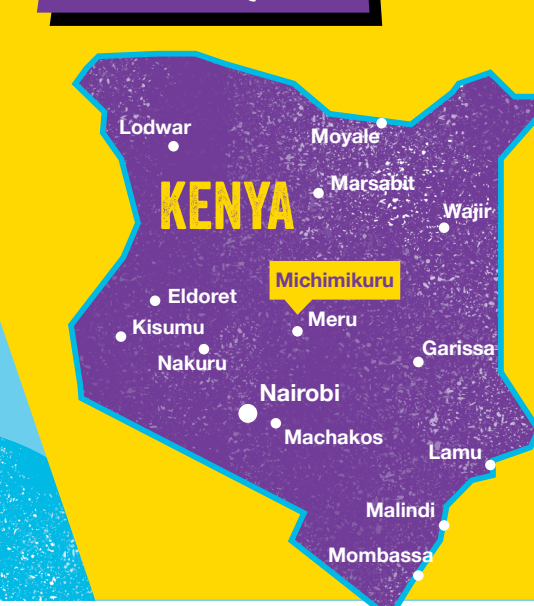


Tea grows best in places with a warm climate and regular rain.

It's often grown on slopes – its strong root structure helps prevent erosion and once established, the tea plants can produce tea for over 50 years.



MICHIMIKURU IS REALLY NEAR THE EQUATOR



Equator

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

Tea is wilted and rolled before going through a process called oxidation, which makes the leaves turn brown. Then it is dried, graded and packed into bags. It is taken by truck to Mombasa and across the world.

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 MICHIMIKURU'S TEA COMES TO THE UK AND TAKES THREE MONTHS BY SHIP.



But things are changing. In some places where tea used to grow well, farmers now struggle to keep going.

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

Farmers used to plant fast-growing tree crops like eucalyptus to earn more money from firewood, but found out they were drying up the water catchments on the slopes and causing more problems in the long term. Further down the river valley people didn't have the water they needed for drinking or washing.

SO THE FARMERS DECIDED TO USE THEIR FAIRTRADE PREMIUM TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND SUPPLY INDIGENOUS TREE SEEDLINGS THAT ARE BETTER SUITED TO THE LOCAL CLIMATE 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 compromise the environment.”

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

