









AXA UK UNION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007



How fair are you?

Everybody wants to be treated fairly. Whether it's the pay rise you get from AXA, how much you have to pay for your groceries down the supermarket, or by the ref when watching your favourite football team. Fairness is, according to many, a sign of being British, yet when it comes to buying those groceries you expect to pay a fair price for, have you considered whether the farmer who produced the product in the first place is getting the same fair deal as you?

The simple choice of what bananas or coffee you can buy can literally mean the difference between life and death for some of the world's poorest people.

Buying **Fairtrade** products guarantees a fair price to third world farmers for their products, covering the cost of production and adding a premium that is invested back into social and economic projects.

There are an estimated 1 million farmers benefiting directly from the **Fairtrade** programme and millions more people benefit indirectly. This isn't about handouts and charity, it's about paying a fair price for your goods and making a difference just by being fair...



Fairtrade facts...

To get you up to speed here are some Fairtrade facts...

- Fairtrade products are available in most supermarkets, wholefood stores & by mail order.
- Britons eat 500,000 Fairtrade bananas every day.
- Fairtrade labelling began in the late '80's in the Netherlands.
- The first UK Fairtrade product was Green & Black's Maya Gold organic chocolate.
- UK sales of Fairtrade rose from £16.7m in 1998 to £290m in 2006.
- The UK is the largest of the 21 Fairtrade markets.
- Global Fairtrade sales hit £765m in 2005.
- Garstang in Lancashire became the world's first Fairtrade town in 2001.
- Go As You Please funeral directors in North Tyneside sell Fairtrade coffins.
- A YouGov survey stated that despite growing support for Fairtrade only 17% of workers said their company serve Fairtrade products.
- Brentford FC were the first football team to sell Fairtrade footballs.

How fair is AXA?

Last year **Amicus** called on **AXA** to provide a **Fairtrade** option in its vending machines and this has met a very 'hit and miss' approach with **Fairtrade** drinks being only available in some sites. However a lot more could have done done, even down to letting staff know there was a **Fairtrade** option.

Amicus is now calling on **AXA** to deliver on its published Coroprate Social Responsibility pledges by:

- only using Fairtrade drinks in its vending machines, unless no Fairtrade option exists.
- only using Fairtrade foodstuffs when available for buffets and fruit provided to staff.
- request contractors such as Sodexho (who run staff restaurant facilities) to use as much Fairtrade produce as possible.

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