



Agricultural Production Standard (APS)

Standard Revision Process March 2016

In 2014, Fair Trade USA began a standards review process to update the standards that apply to agricultural production. It is considered best practice in standards-setting and certification to conduct a standards revision at least every five years. More importantly, updating our standards will allow us to better enable sustainable livelihoods for producers and workers while creating value for businesses. This document summarizes the objectives, project activities, and decision-making process for this project.

Background

We believe that revising Fair Trade USA's Standards will bring additional benefit to Fair Trade Certified™ supply chains. Our intent is to incorporate and replace our existing producer Standards with a single updated Standard that have compliance requirements specific to different sizes of farms.

This project will not expand the types of producers or products eligible for Fair Trade certification. Additionally, this project will not directly affect Fair Trade USA's other Standards and policies, including the Apparel and Home Goods Standard, Capture Fisheries Standard, Trade Standard, or labeling, pricing, and premium policies. However, once the Agricultural Production Standard is finalized, other Fair Trade Standards may be updated to reflect lessons learned through this project.

Fair Trade USA will continue to accept producers who are certified by FLO-Cert against FLO standards. Producers certified under Fair Trade USA Standards will transition to being certified against the APS after it is finalized.

Decision-making process

Fair Trade USA's Standards team will work with an expert Advisory Committee to review stakeholder feedback, discuss core strategic issues, and make recommendations to Fair Trade USA's Senior Management Team on the content of the final Standard. The Fair Trade USA Board, along with the Senior Management Team, have final authority to approve the final version of the APS.

How to get involved

The Standards Team at Fair Trade USA will be leading this project, and we encourage you to contact us at any point at standards@fairtradeusa.org with questions or comments on our process and goals.

Key project activities

Fair Trade USA began the process to update our existing Standards in late 2014 and aims to complete the project in 2016. Outlined below are key activities over the project lifecycle.

<u>Step</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Initiate Standard review process	Conduct an internal review of Fair Trade USA standards for agricultural production and review learnings from monitoring and evaluation of certified producers. Identify strategic questions and develop framework of the new Standard for discussion.
2. Develop first public draft of updated Standard	Fair Trade USA's Standards team will develop an initial draft of the updated Standard. During late 2015 and early 2016, we will enter a pre-consultation and early testing phase during which a limited set of key stakeholders will be consulted on a range of strategic questions in order to develop a draft Standard for public consultation. This pre-consultation phase will include a convening of key stakeholders to discuss the initial draft Standard. During this same timeframe, field tests will take place to learn more about the applicability and auditability of the initial draft. Learnings from the pre-consultation and the early field tests will be used to revise the initial draft Standard for broader consultation.
3. Public Consultation	<p>The draft Standard will be published for public consultation in the second quarter of 2016, with the exact dates to be determined based on the extent and content of feedback received during the pre-consultation and field testing. This public consultation is part of Fair Trade USA's commitment to integrate stakeholder input and to follow the consultation processes laid out in the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Environmental and Social Standards.</p> <p>During this open consultation, Fair Trade USA will actively solicit feedback on the implications of proposed changes and on the draft Standard from Fair Trade workers and producers, Fair Trade industry partners, NGOs and other stakeholders.</p>
4. Analysis and Revision, of Standard	<p>The Fair Trade USA Standards Team will review stakeholder feedback with the support of the expert Advisory Committee and use the feedback to inform revisions to the Standard. They will make a recommendation to the Senior Management Team and Board regarding the content of the final Agricultural Production Standard.</p> <p>A public summary of the feedback from the consultation period, as well as a summary of how the feedback was incorporated, will be made available alongside the revised version of the Standard.</p>
5. Approval and Publication of Agricultural Production Standard	Fair Trade USA's Senior Management Team and Board will approve the Agricultural Production Standard to be translated into multiple languages and implemented.