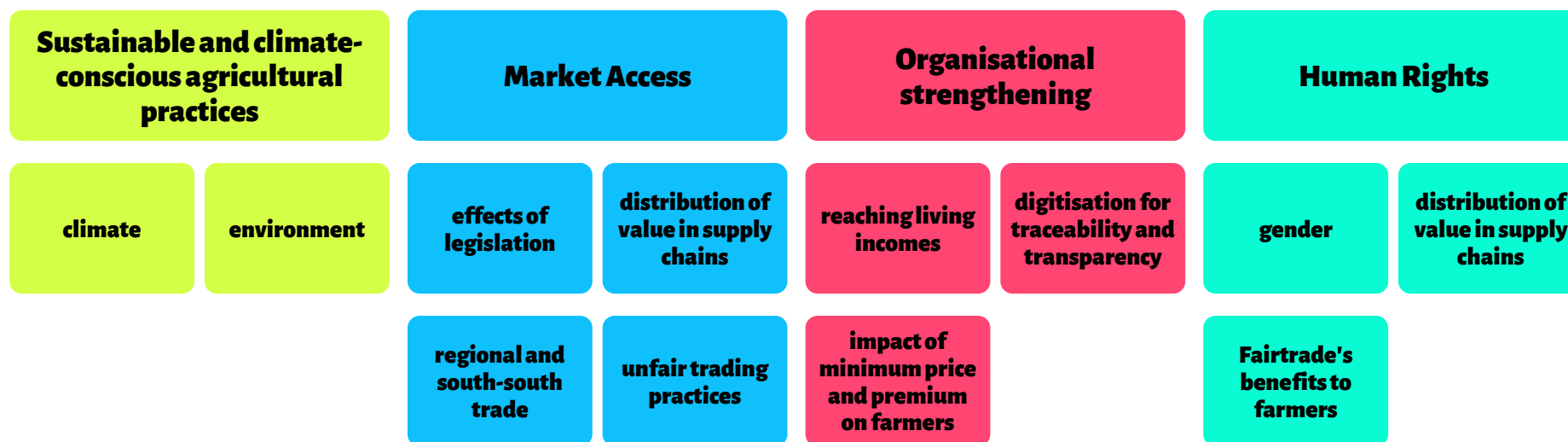


Fairtrade International Research for Learning Agenda: **for academic researchers**

The questions in the following pages are derived from those areas of inquiry which we know to be of mutual interest to academics and researchers on one hand, and Fairtrade International's key stakeholders on the other. They include those questions whose answers may be best pursued as a part of collaborative research where both partners are independent, reducing bias to the extent possible.

R4L AGENDA



- Fairtrade International's Research for Learning (R4L) Agenda is rooted in four main areas in which knowledge is needed so that informed decisions and actions can be made.
- These four areas emerged from consultation with Fairtrade's Producer Networks, and select National Fairtrade Organisations.
- An explanation of each area is included in the table in the following pages, including key questions we are interested in.
- While expressions of interest in collaboration with academics are always encouraged by Fairtrade International, should your research questions diverge from the themes listed here, it may be the case that Fairtrade is unable to dedicate resources to supporting it.

Fairtrade research for learning agenda – September 2024

If you are a researcher with an interest in collaboratively conducting research on the below topics, reach out to us via academicpartnerships@fairtrade.net (studentresearch@fairtrade.net for individual students) or impact@fairtrade.net

Those themes marked with * are those which have the most interest from our various fairtrade organisations.

Thematic lens (lending purpose to the specific topic)	Research topics	Research questions of interest to Fairtrade
<p>Sustainable and climate-conscious agricultural practices*</p> <p><i>This refers to developing and promoting initiatives that improve members' capacity to adapt to climate change, mitigate its impact on production, and mitigate the impact of production on climate change and the responsible use of resources</i></p>	<p>Climate (change & resource conservation)</p> <hr/> <p>Environment</p>	<p>1. Which tools and projects support Fairtrade producers best to mitigate and adapt to climate change? How does the Fairtrade Premium contribute to climate resilience?</p> <p>2. Which adaptation measures by producers are most effective to address challenges posed by climate change?</p> <p>3. What is the carbon footprint of Fairtrade supply chains?</p> <p>4. How can Fairtrade Farm-to-gate / Farm-to-fork emissions data be calculated?</p> <hr/> <p>1. [agroecology] Under which conditions do we see successful implementation of agroecological practices among Fairtrade producers?</p> <p>2. [agroecology] To what extent do agroecological practices affect the resilience of Fairtrade producers' livelihoods?</p> <p>3. [deforestation] How does Fairtrade production impact biodiversity and forest cover and how to minimize negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of Fairtrade?</p>

4. [deforestation] What are the best practices for reforestation and conservation of natural resources that VSS organisations and producers specifically have carried out?

5. [deforestation] What factors have influenced decisions to adopt reforestation? What variables influence these decisions and what implications do they have for VSS organisations and producers specifically?

6. What is the impact of Fairtrade on soil quality? How does Fairtrade support POs to adapt to and mitigate the effects of reduced soil quality, while preventing further soil degradation?

7. Does Fairtrade incentivise the efficient and sustainable use of water in agriculture? If so, how? And what is the impact of this?

8. What is the impact of Fairtrade on biodiversity? The use of pesticides in supply chains is one of the key interests here.

Market Access*

This speaks to the development of initiatives and lessons learned regarding the opening of markets in both the north and the south, their results, best practices and ways to add value and innovate in their promotion with the membership

Unfair trading practices (action research)

1. What is the impact of (conventional) unfair trading practices (UTP) on producers (economic, social) and on value chains in general?

Effects of legislations (including but not limited to EUDR, CSRD, CSDD, FLR)

1. What are the financial and social (socioeconomic) implications of legislative requirements for Fairtrade producers and the Fairtrade system?

2. What is the impact of legislation on unfair trading practices and fair trade? What is the impact on Fair Trade?

3. How are different voluntary sustainability schemes (VSS) and development NGOs today doing due diligence on their commercial- and other partners? What tools and frameworks do they use for that due diligence and which would suit Fairtrade best?

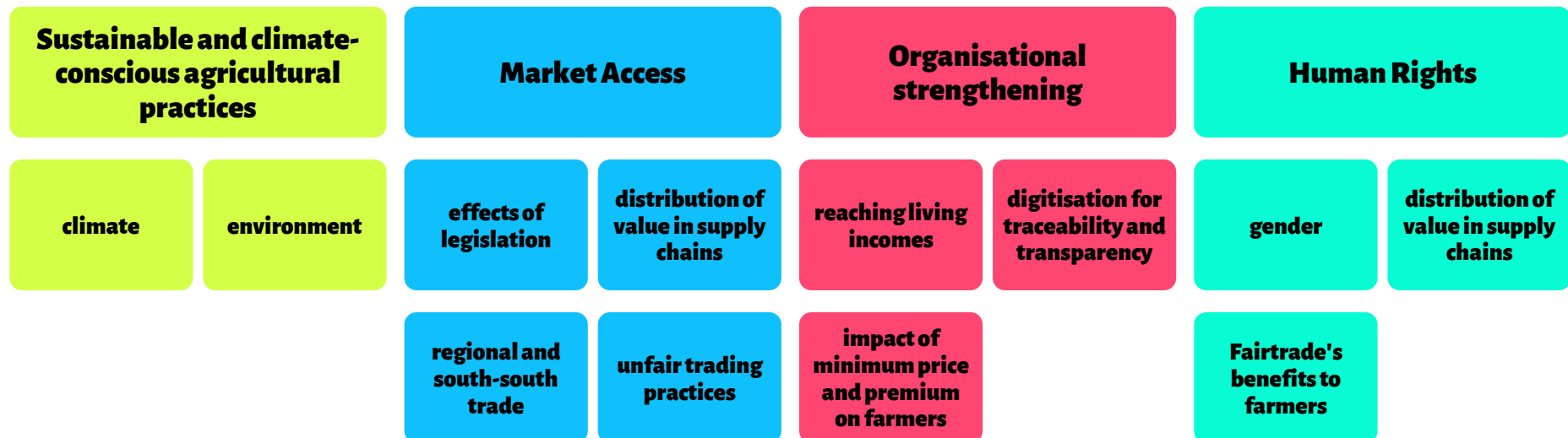
Regional and south-to-south trade	<p>1. Are special standards or adaptations needed to make the south-to-south model work and if so, which ones?</p> <p>2. What is the perception of and demand for Fairtrade products in markets in key regions within the Global South? What is the reason for limited levels of penetration in these markets? Which market access strategies and models can address this, specifically by addressing how to identify and bridge gaps?</p>
Distribution of value along the supply chain	<p>1. What can be done to achieve a fair distribution of value (and costs) along the supply chain?</p>
<p>Organisational strengthening</p> <p><i>This corresponds to the actions and learning that promote sustainable organisations, in managerial terms, as well as the application of the principles of Fair Trade in its operation</i></p>	<p>Reaching living incomes</p> <p>1. How big (quantified) are the in-kind benefits of Fairtrade (and cash payments of Premium) which contribute to closing the Living Income gaps for coffee, cocoa and banana? What are the extra costs/what is required to arrive at living wages for workers/farmers producing those products?</p> <p>2. What are the impacts of the Fairtrade Living Income and Livelihoods strategies? Are there additional benefits to workers?</p>
Digitisation for traceability and transparency	<p>1. What is the current level of digitisation amongst Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)?</p> <p>2. What transparency and traceability would enhance negotiation power for producers and under what conditions does this lead to fairer (higher) producer prices?</p>
Impact of Minimum Price and Premium on farmers	<p>1. How does the Fairtrade model (Fairtrade Minimum Price and Premium) impact individual producers?</p> <p>2. Are cooperatives paying fair prices to their members? What about cooperatives whose members are non-landowners?</p>

		<p>3. Does the Fairtrade Minimum Price have an impact on producer's resilience? If so, how does its effectiveness compare to other resilience-building measures?</p> <p>4. What is the impact of the Fairtrade Premium on innovation? Is there a causal link or correlation between Fairtrade premium spent on innovations among smallholder farms?</p>
<p>Human rights</p> <p><i>This includes those Fairtrade processes with that strengthen the application of human rights with a focus on vulnerable and marginalised people</i></p>	<p>Gender</p>	<p>1. What is the impact of Fairtrade certification on aspects related to gender equity and women's empowerment in smallholder and worker organisations? Does this trickle down to the household level? If so, then how?</p>
	<p>Fairtrade's benefits to workers</p>	<p>1. What impact is Fairtrade having on empowerment of workers, both in the plantation and smallholder farm context? What are the mechanisms by which Fairtrade is, or is not, having this impact?</p> <p>2. What is the role of different types of worker organisations & trade unions in fostering collective empowerment/better conditions? What are the concrete benefits to producers of being organized?</p>
	<p>The next generation of farmers</p>	<p>1. Do young people living in Fairtrade farmer communities see their future in continuing farming traditions?</p> <p>2. Under which conditions do we see youth either moving away from or continuing farming?</p> <p>3. To what extent is Fairtrade supporting opportunities for young people (through the Premium or otherwise), either to remain and farm, or to leave and pursue other ambitions?</p>

Fairtrade International Research for Learning Agenda: for consultants

The questions in the following pages are derived from those areas of inquiry which we know to be of mutual interest to consultants and research organisations, and Fairtrade International's key stakeholders on the other. They include those questions whose answers may require answering within tight timeframes, or where a baseline of evidence is required, to be complemented with independent research later. These are areas where Fairtrade is interested in commissioning research, or co-pursuing research funds with expert consultants and research organisations.

R4L AGENDA



- Fairtrade International's Research for Learning (R4L) Agenda is rooted in four main areas in which knowledge is needed so that informed decisions and actions can be made.
- These four areas emerged from consultation with Fairtrade's Producer Networks, and select National Fairtrade Organisations.
- An explanation of each area is included in the table in the following pages, including key questions we are interested in.
- While expressions of interest in collaboration are always encouraged by Fairtrade International, should your research questions diverge from the themes listed here, it may be the case that Fairtrade is unable to dedicate resources to supporting it.

Fairtrade research for learning agenda – September 2024

If you are a researcher or think lab with an interest in collaboratively conducting research on the below topics, reach out to us via academicpartnerships@fairtrade.net or impact@fairtrade.net

Those themes marked with * are those which have the most interest from our various fairtrade organisations.

Thematic lens (lending purpose to the specific topic)	Research topics	Research questions of interest to Fairtrade
<p>Sustainable and climate-conscious agricultural practices*</p> <p><i>This refers to developing and promoting initiatives that improve members' capacity to adapt to climate change, mitigate its impact on production, and mitigate the impact of production on climate change and the responsible use of resources</i></p>	<p>Climate (change & resource conservation)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the carbon footprint of Fairtrade supply chains? How can Fairtrade Farm-to-gate / Farm-to-fork emissions data be calculated? 2. Is there a business case for climate finance towards SPOs; if so, under which conditions? 3. How can Fairtrade best position itself to respond to climate change related market demands? 4. How can Fairtrade best support producers vis-à-vis climate change related legislative requirements? How do negative impacts of climate change for producers and emissions caused by Fairtrade producers compare? 6. What claims can Fairtrade NFOs and PNs make regarding the impact of their climate change adaptation and mitigation measures? And how to these measures align with commercial partners' broader interests?
	<p>Environment</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. [agroecology] Under which conditions do we see successful implementation of agroecological practices among Fairtrade producers?

Market Access*

This speaks to the development of initiatives and lessons learned regarding the opening of markets in both the north and the south, their results, best practices and ways to add value and innovate in their promotion with the membership

Effects of legislations (including but not limited to EUDR, CSRD, CSDD, FLR)

2. [deforestation] How does Fairtrade production impact biodiversity and forest cover and how to minimize negative impacts and enhance positive impacts of Fairtrade?

3. What is the impact of Fairtrade on soil quality? How does Fairtrade support POs to adapt to and mitigate the effects of reduced soil quality, water resource availability, or biodiversity/, while preventing further soil degradation?

1. How will costs of compliance to legislative requirements be distributed along the supply chain?

2. How can VSS remain relevant in the context of new legislations? What is the pace and scale of adaptation across various schemes? In comparison to other schemes, what are the learnings and where are Fairtrade's strengths and weaknesses?

3. What are the unintended consequences of new legislative requirements for Fairtrade producers? What do SPOs need to prepare for incoming new legislation (i.e. what are their current capacity limitations, where are the gaps, and how can Fairtrade support SPOs to bridge these)?

4. How can Fairtrade's actions build capacity for strengthening the representation of and advocacy for its interests in the international policy context?

5. What does the paradigm shift from "voluntary sustainability through VSS" to "mandatory sustainability through regulatory regulation" mean for Fairtrade? How can Fairtrade maintain a USP in this environment? Does this

create an opportunity for Fairtrade to sell producer-approved data as a new USP?.

6. How are different voluntary sustainability schemes (VSS) and development NGOs today doing due diligence on their commercial- and other partners? What tools and frameworks do they use for that due diligence and which would suit Fairtrade best?

Regional and south-to-south trade

1. To what extent is Fairtrade certification contributing to the opening of new business opportunities within and between different producer countries?

2. What is the perception of and demand for Fairtrade products in markets in key regions within the Global South? What is the reason for limited levels of penetration in these markets? Which market access strategies and models can address this, specifically by addressing how to identify and bridge gaps?

Distribution of value along the supply chain

1. What can be done to achieve a fair distribution of value (and costs) along the supply chain?

2. How can Producer Organisations achieve value addition on specific products? Which factors hinder this? Where can value be added for products including banana, coconut, rice, or fruit? What is the demand for value added products in the categories specified in global and regional markets?

Organisational strengthening

This corresponds to the actions and learning that promote sustainable

Digitisation for traceability and transparency

1. What is the current level of digitisation amongst Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)?

organisations, in managerial terms, as well as the application of the principles of Fair Trade in its operation

2. What does the foreseeable end of mass balance (due to legislated traceability requirements) mean for Fairtrade's business model for cocoa/tea/juice/sugar?

Impact minimum price and Premium on farmers

1. Are members being paid fairly for their assigned jobs and responsibilities?

2. How is Fairtrade assuring the model reaches farm level?

3. What is the impact of the Fairtrade Minimum price on the willingness to adopt farming innovations among smallholder farmers?

4. What is the relationship between the Fairtrade premium and accessing better markets for products?

Human rights

This includes those Fairtrade processes with that strengthen the application of human rights with a focus on vulnerable and marginalised people

Gender

1. What is the impact of Fairtrade certification on aspects related to gender equity and women's empowerment in producer organisation, hired labour organisations, smallholder and worker organisations? Does this trickle down to the household level? If so, then how?

2. How can Fairtrade actively pursue gender justice (i.e. projects with a ranking of GG-1 or those projects with Gender justice as a significant objective)?

Fairtrade's benefits to workers

1. What impact is Fairtrade having on empowerment of workers, both in the plantation and smallholder farm context? What is the mechanisms by which Fairtrade is, or is not, having this impact?

2. What is the role of different types of worker organisations & trade unions in fostering collective empowerment/better

conditions? What are the concrete benefits to producers of being organized?

The next generation of farmers

1. To what extent is Fairtrade supporting opportunities for young people (through the Premium or otherwise), either to remain and farm, or to leave and pursue other ambitions?
