
Opinion Editorial

Fair Trade Bananas Make Everything Better

By Will Koskinen

Did you know that 100 billion bananas are eaten every year all across the world; and bananas are the fourth most imported staple food? The cost and availability of bananas is as important as milk, eggs, and bread to consumers. All these bananas mean that there are a lot of companies selling them. Fair trade cuts out the lengthy supply chain that conventional companies have ensuring farmers are treated and compensated fairly. Next time you are shopping, make sure to purchase fair trade bananas instead of conventional bananas.

Firstly, small banana farmers in countries such as Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Columbia are not making enough money from selling their bananas. Fair Trade International explains, "These low prices - driven by intense competition between supermarkets often selling below cost - put pressure on banana farmers and plantation workers." This means that when banana farms have to compete with bigger companies, they have to sell their bananas much cheaper than it costs to make them. With fair trade, farmers not only get a fair wage, they also get paid a premium which means they can put money back into their community. With the money communities get they can be able to agree upon something to buy for the community like a doctor to come in once a month, computers for schools, and wells that can get clean drinking water for everyone in the community.

Secondly, banana farmers do not have good safety regulations and labor laws. Banana farmers work up to 10-12 hours a day, without access to clean drinking water and they are exposed to pesticide drifts. Pesticide drifts are when farmers use pesticides to kill pests like weeds and bugs so they won't eat or damage their bananas. But sometimes the pesticides get in the air and drift into civilized areas, and the pesticides can runoff from plants to a water source contaminating the water source. With Fair Trade, banana farmers get paid fairly and work fair hours. The farms also get better safety regulations and human rights. Fair trade also helps keep the environment healthy and safe. It specifically helps with biodiversity, soil fertility, reforestation and recycling of farm waste is encouraged.

To conclude, everytime you purchase a fair trade banana it helps change lives. When you go to the store make sure to get the bananas labeled with the Fair Trade logo. If the store doesn't have Fair Trade bananas you can talk to someone who works at the store and tell them about the Fair trade movement. Bananas are delicious, but when there fair trade their even better.



Will is a sixth grader at Vermont Day School. His Favorite hobbies are soccer, cooking,

and playing Fortnite.