




Islam and Fair Trade



The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. On the left, a portion of a green and blue globe is visible. On the right, there is a sack of brown coffee beans with a silver scoop resting inside it. Below the sack, a bunch of yellow bananas is shown. A light green horizontal banner with a black border is positioned across the center of the image.

International Trade

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Today's world market is dominated by large, multinational companies.

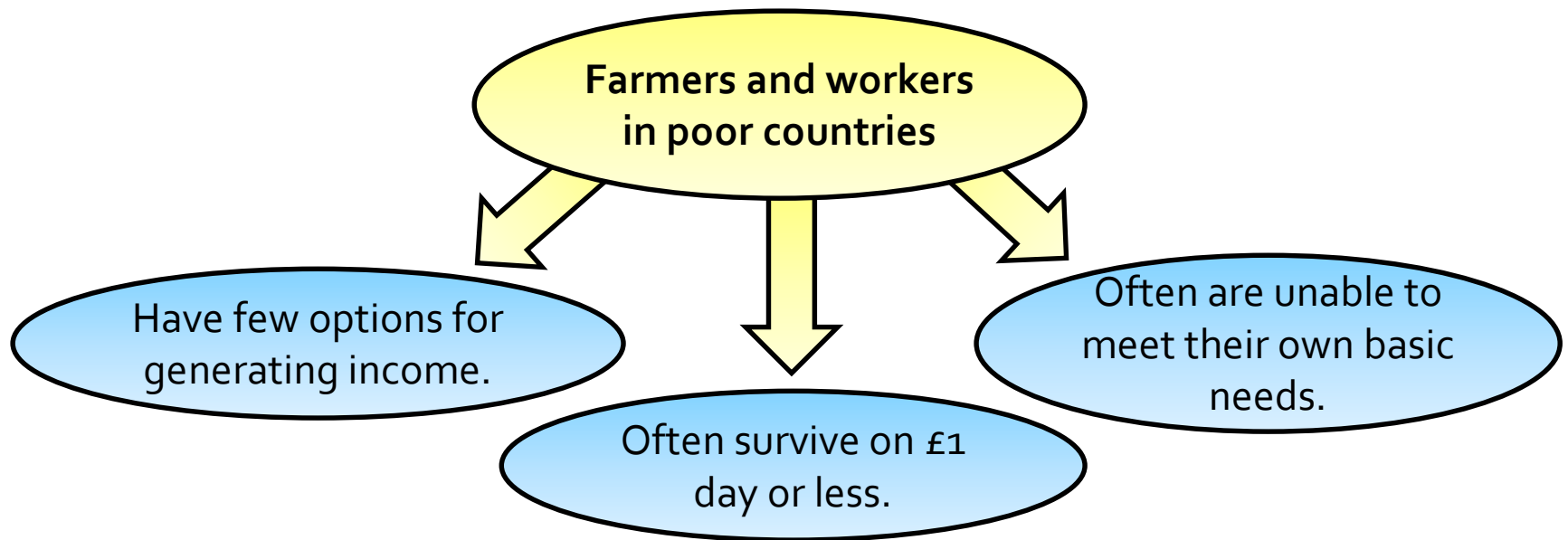


Small-scale farmers and workers in the world's poorest countries are unable to compete.



International trade

Poor countries suffer greatly under current international trade structures.



The Fair Trade movement is a response to these conditions.



What is Fairtrade?



Fair Trade or Fairtrade?



The terms ***Fair Trade***, and ***fair trade*** describe the broad socio-economic movement which works to address inequalities in the conventional trade system.

The word ***Fairtrade*** relates exclusively to the work of *Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO)* and its national partners, such as *The Fairtrade Foundation* in the UK.

Only products which contain the official FAIRTRADE Mark may be considered *Fairtrade*.



Look for the
FAIRTRADE Mark on
Fairtrade products

What are the aims of Fairtrade?

Greater equity in international trade.

The fulfilment of workers' rights in the developing world.

The alleviation of world poverty.

The promotion of environmental sustainability.



What are Fairtrade products?



Look for this Mark

All products that hold the FAIRTRADE Mark have to meet the rigorous standards set by Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO).

There are over
3,000 Fairtrade
products available
in the UK!



Fairtrade products include:

Coffee

Tea

Fruit

Flowers

Cotton

Honey

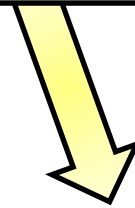
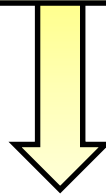
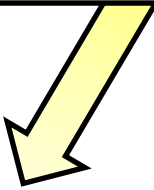


The background of the slide features a stylized illustration. On the left, a portion of a green and blue globe is visible. On the right, there are two illustrations: the top one shows a hand holding a silver scoop filled with dark brown coffee beans, and the bottom one shows a bunch of yellow bananas. A light green horizontal banner with a black border is positioned across the center of the slide.

Fairtrade standards

Fairtrade standards

Fairtrade standards ensure that production and trade leads to sustainable development in three areas:



The following slides explore the main Fairtrade standards.

The Fairtrade minimum price

The **Fairtrade minimum price** is the lowest price that the buyer has to pay the producer for his or her product.



This price is set to ensure that the cost of sustainable production is covered.



This helps to establish the payment of **fair wages** to farmers and producers in the developing world.



The Fairtrade Premium

The **Fairtrade premium** is money paid for a product, in addition to the Fairtrade minimum price.



This money is invested in **social, environmental** and **economic** developmental projects, such as education, healthcare and farming tools.



Local projects are decided upon **democratically**, by a **committee** of **producers** or **plantation workers**.



Pre-financing

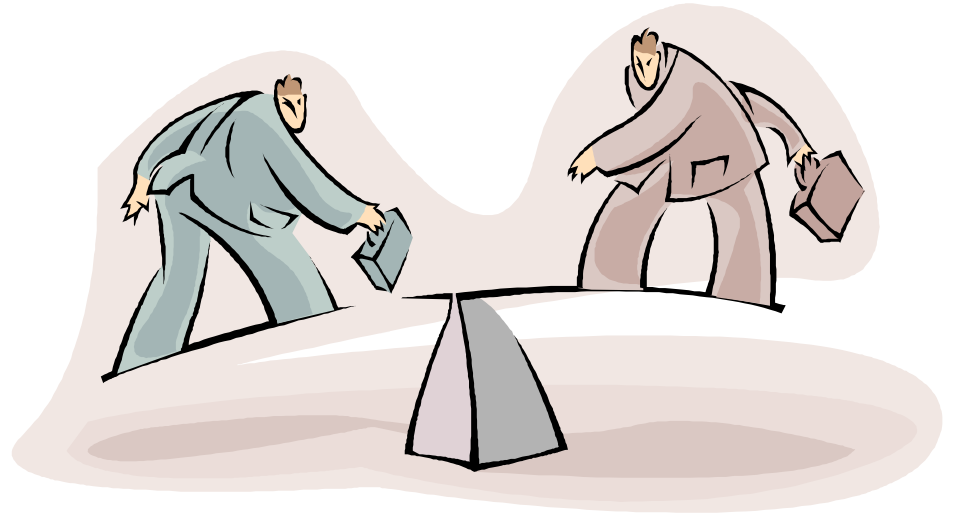
If a producer is in urgent need of financial aid in order to start trading, Fairtrade can offer assistance.



Pre-financing producers in poor countries works towards ending the cycle of generational poverty.

Long-term trading relationships

Fairtrade promotes the idea of partnership between buyers and sellers.



This includes drawing up contracts to provide producers with greater financial security.

Environmental sustainability

Fairtrade works to ensure that production is **environmentally sustainable**.

Fairtrade premiums are often invested in training producers in **organic farming techniques**.



Fairtrade standards prohibit the use of **Genetically Modified (GM) seeds**.





What is the Islamic Perspective on Fairtrade?



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Essential to Islam are teachings related to:



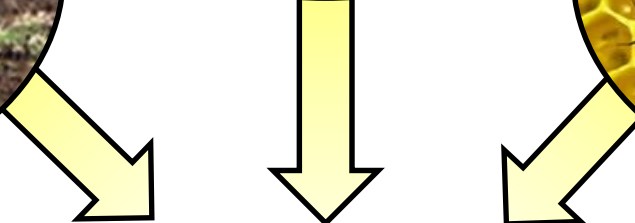
Workers' rights.



Equity and fairness.



**Respect towards
our natural
environment.**



Islam shares Fairtrade's vision of a trade system upheld by justice.

What does the Qur'an teach us about fairness?

'God loves those who are fair and just.'

(Qur'an 49:9)



Social justice is a hallmark of Islam

Islamic teachings advocate
protection of the weak from economic exploitation by the strong.

Islamic teachings support
Fairtrade practices such
as the minimum price and
premium.



What does the Qur'an teach us about justice?

'Oh you who believe! Be upright, for the sake of Allah, in testifying for fairness; and do not let the hatred of a people urge you to be unjust, be just (since) that is closer to piety. Fear (from displeasing) Allah, verily Allah is Aware of what you do.'

(Qur'an 5:8)



What did Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), teach us about the treatment of workers?

'Allah shows mercy to a man who is kind when he sells, when he buys, and when he makes a claim.'

(Hadith related by Bukhari)

Islam and contractual agreements

Islam teaches that contracts between employer and employee must be made.



This is to protect the employee from exploitation.

Islam and Workers' Wages

Islam urges believers to pay their employees
fair wages, on time.



What did Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), teach us about contractual agreements?

'Muslims must abide by their agreements, unless there is an agreement that makes halal (permitted) what is haram (prohibited), or makes haram what is halal.'

(Reported by Tirmidhi)

This tells us that Islamic law strongly prohibits any unjust trade agreements, in line with the Fairtrade approach.

What does the Qur'an teach us about the payment of employees?

*'Give just measure and weight, nor withhold
from the people the things that are their due.'*

(Qur'an 7:85)



Islam and Environmental Sustainability

Islam supports practices and policies that promote sustainable development.

Muslims believe that God has given humans the role of stewardship (*Khalifah*) over all animal and plant life.

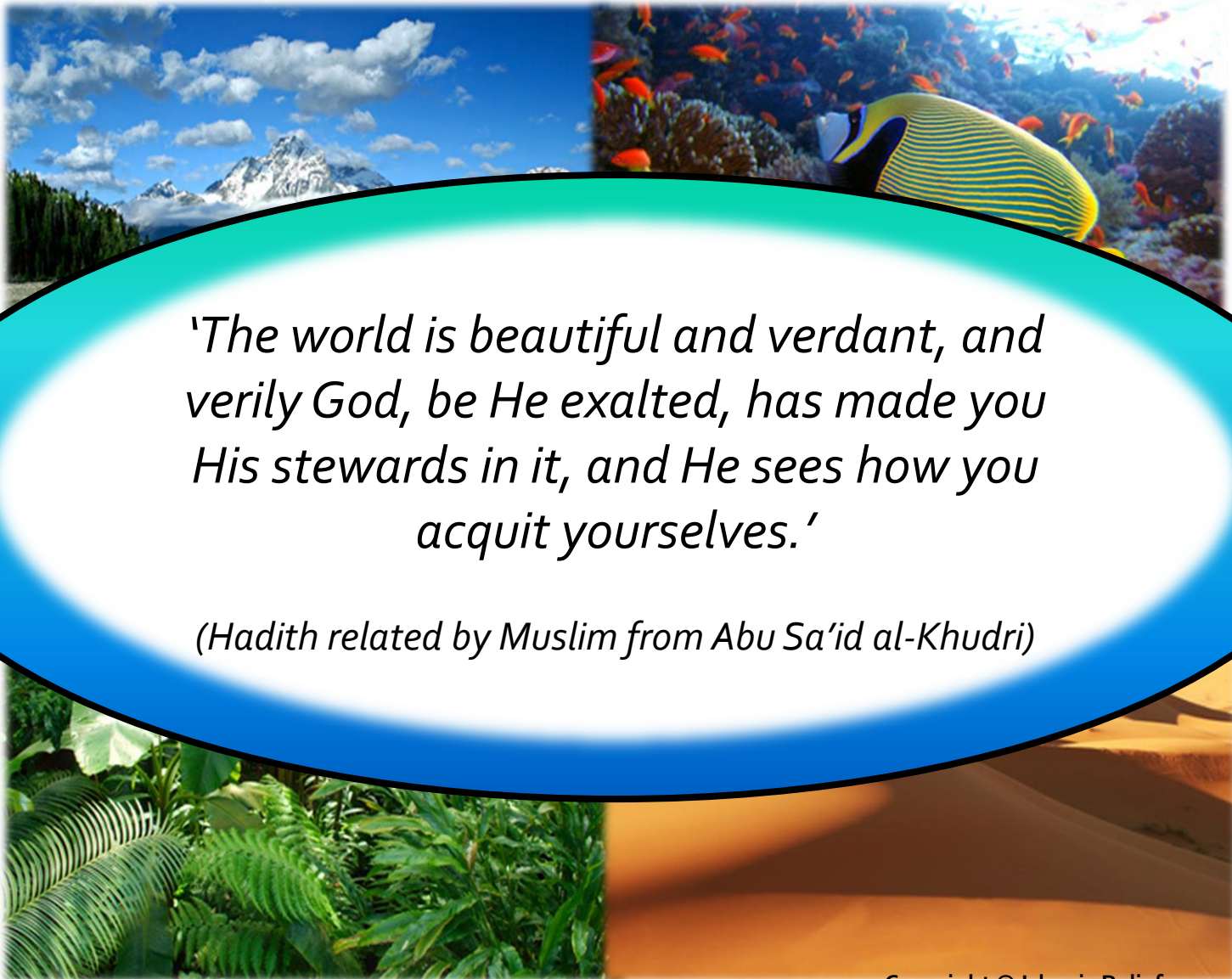


This responsibility is a trust (*Amanah*) between God and humankind.



For Muslims, it is a religious duty to protect the environment.

What did Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), teach us about our responsibility over the earth?



'The world is beautiful and verdant, and verily God, be He exalted, has made you His stewards in it, and He sees how you acquit yourselves.'

(Hadith related by Muslim from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri)



What can we do to contribute to Fairtrade?



What can we do to contribute to Fairtrade?

Become **ethically** aware consumers.



Look for the
FAIRTRADE Mark on
Fairtrade products

In order for Fairtrade to grow, consumers must buy products which bear the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Further information

For further information about Fairtrade in the UK, visit the Fairtrade Foundation website:

www.fairtrade.org.uk



Acknowledgements



Acknowledgements

Islam and Fair Trade:

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Written and produced by Sarah Kilou, Development Education, Islamic Relief

Edited by Samia Ahmed, Senior Development Education Coordinator, Islamic Relief

Credits

Photographs:

Resources consulted:

- ❖ *The Qur'an (A new translation)* by M.A.S Abdel Haleem, 2005
- ❖ The Fairtrade Foundation website: www.fairtrade.org.uk
- ❖ *An Islamic Perspective on Fair Trade* by Ajaz Ahmed Khan and Laura Thaut (Islamic Relief Worldwide, August 2008)

Biographies



Samia Ahmed is the Senior Development Education Coordinator at Islamic Relief. Samia has had various leadership and management roles as well as experience of teaching Key Stage 2 national curriculum subjects in an independent primary school. She has a Masters in Islamic Studies and is currently learning Classical Sciences in Islam from a London based scholar, as well as being involved in educational projects in London. She has also written and published two children's books from the *Bilal's Day Out* series.



Sarah Kilou is a researcher and writer for Islamic Relief's Development Education Department. She has experience of the development education sector, having compiled and produced a series of online resources on Islam and international development.