WG02 on the Distribution of Value

Working Group Coordinators:

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- Denis Loeillet, CIRAD Observatoire des Marchés des Fruits Tropicaux, France
- Will Stephens, Tesco Stores, UK
- Carolina Valarezo, Copempbal, Ecuador
- Helge Fischer, Banafair e.V., Nicaragua/Germany
- Silvia Campos, Fairtrade International e.V.
- Bernardo Roehrs, Agroamérica, Guatemala
- Jhon Jairo Gallego, Augura, Colombia
- Marcelo Ortega, Ministerio de la Coordinación Política, Ecuador
- Eduardo Ledesma, AEBE, Ecuador
- Jesper Nielsen, 3F, Denmark



Types of participants

PRODUCERS	PRODUCER AND EXPORTER ASOCIATIONS	RETAILERS AND SUPERMARKETS
WORKER'S UNIONS	BIG FRUIT COMPANIES	FAIR TRADE
NGO'S	SECTOR ANALYSTS	GOVERNMENTS

WG02 Objectives

- Identification of key actors along the value chain;
- Agreements on different types of value chains in the global industry;
- Identify the type of information that needs to be identified to work towards fair distribution;
- A map on the distribution of value in key supply chains;
- Evaluation of prices and costs throughout the value chain;
- Agree on a practical methodology to calculate decent plantation wages;
- Implement methodology in at least 3 countries;
- Explore viability of several redistribution formulas throughout the value chain.



A. Study on wage scales

Five established indicators for 8 exporter countries: poverty level; minimum legal wage; median salary; a wage a result of collective bargaining; cost of a basic basket of goods and services

- Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Cameroon
- Significant gap for the majority of workers on the minimum wage and the cost of a basic family basket in almost all countries; big gap in Africa, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Guatemala
- By Ergon Associates (London)

Co-funded by Tesco, Dole, Agroamerica, Fairtrade International, Co-op (UK), Marks & Spencer, J Sainsbury, Banafair and Banana

B. Study on real wages

- A team of 5 INCAE (Costa Rica) students carried out a study on salaries and current benefits in 6 types of farms in Ecuador with the support of various local and national players.
- They compared total earnings with the cost of two family baskets for a typical rural household.
- The Uraba (Augura) banana union compiled data on wages, legal and extra legal benefits of more than 20,000 workers and 300 farms; data was validated by the Sintrainagro union. For most permanent workers a typical salary is approximately the cost of a basic wage basket.
- Working group members carried out own studies within their companies (Guatemala and Ghana) or with independent researchers (Banana Link/Universidad de Anglia del este (Cameroon)





Denis Loeillet from the Market Observatory in CIRAD and Richard Bright of Reefertrends.com ccollaborated with Banana Link, funded by AEBE to produce a global analysis on market trends. Underlining the strong tendency towards destruction of value in the European market and the potential for significant impact in plantation wages through a small increase in price paid by retailers in the North;

The rapid containerization of bananas in maritime transport over the past two years could end the specialized freight phenomenon. This demonstrates the increasing importance of maritime companies in the fruit value-chain. Especially against the tendency of building new direct supply chains by large retailers.





D. Value chain studies

• 3 studies analyzing costs, prices, and margins in different chains and strategies. (funded by FAO and coordinated by Banana Link):

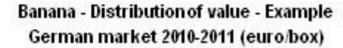
Ecuador – EU (published March 13),

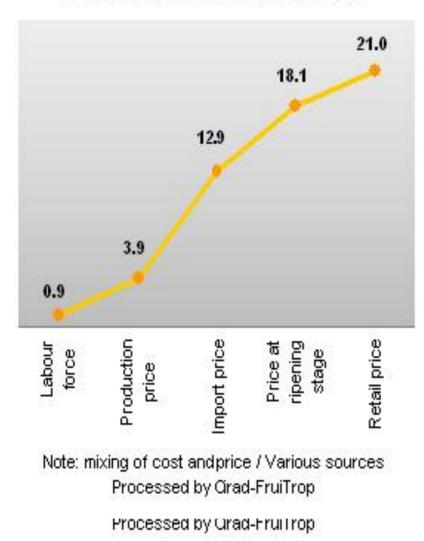
Colombia - US/UK (published February 13)

Windward Islands - UK (published September 12)

• Evaluation of distribution models, government, comercial and production policies, and forms of intervention. The informatio obtained supports renegotiation of prices upwards







E. Exploration of the mechanisms for the creation of value and/or the redistribution of value for workers

Dicussion on an initiative to raise distribution prices to invert non-sustainable price tendencies.

The proposal aims to create a mechanism that guarantees the direct transfer of aditional created value to workers salaries within the WBF framework.

Work activities for 2013

Achieving a fair distribution of value along the chain

Action-research and analysis of the consultations made with large distributors, governments and consumer organizations on a price increase to improve wages on farms and packers

Plenary Meeting of WG02, Changuinola, Week 12

Consultations with other actors on key issues: shipping companies, companies providing agricultural inputs, etc

