

**VII Fair Trade International Symposium
San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, June 8-13, 2020**

"Fair Trade in a changing world"



CALL FOR PARTICIPATIONS

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is an international movement that seeks to establish principles of ethics and justice in the commercial relations developed by farmers with the actors in the markets to which their products are destined. While international Fair Trade rules and compliance verification mechanisms have been established, there is a great diversity of local ways of seeking a fair relationship for both producers and consumers. Therefore, Fair Trade today has multiple forms, and it has set a diversity of goals to achieve. It can be seen as a way to use the economy in order to achieve both social and environmental goals. In a context of tremendous global challenges such as rural marginalization, migration, climate change or loss of biodiversity, the goals and mechanisms of Fair Trade constitute a laboratory to practice and scale the principles of a better world.

FTIS

The Fair Trade International Symposium has been held 6 times since 2002. Along its history, it has become the preeminent academic conference and international meeting for scholars, practitioners and policymakers working in the area of Fair Trade. The symposium has become a unique platform for academics and practitioners to exchange ideas, build and consolidate networks, develop projects and identify new areas of research (FTIS 2018).

The VII Fair Trade International Symposium will take place in Chiapas, southern Mexico, in June 2020. For the first time, this meeting will take place in a country where fair trade actors are mainly small farmers. Chiapas is certainly one of the best places to hold a symposium with and for fair trade farmers, as it is the heart of Mexico and Central America coffee production, as well for honey production from Yucatán to Nicaragua and Argentina. At a wider scale, challenges faced by Mexican farmers are shared in most Latin American countries, and in many ways, close to situations in Africa and Asia.

In this context, the aim is to build a special meeting bringing together a diversity of actors, academic, small farmers and producers. This means that in addition to the usual academic talks, the symposium will host dynamic and creative sessions for exchanging knowledge through a “campesino a campesino” (farmer-to-farmer) method.

Themes

Fair Trade (FT) not only seeks to improve commercial conditions (short chain, minimum price) for organizations and farmers, but also tries to transform these conditions into social impacts (inclusion, justice, labor law, defense of the territory, food sovereignty, small farmers' health ...) and environmental impacts (soil preservation, care for biodiversity, carbon fixation, pesticide reduction ...). In a context of tremendous global changes such as rural marginalization, migration, climate change, and loss of biodiversity, these FT goals seem extremely valuable, as they offer levers for adapting organizations to these changes.

Given that FTIS 2020 will take place in a large region of FT production, it is pertinent to analyze how real the achievements derived from these goals are for small farmers' organizations, what is the FT contribution to achieving these goals, and above all, what are south-south FT developments and achievements, and finally, what framework should be developed by or within FT to strengthen organizations.

Jointly with the steering committee, the host institution has identified a series of topics relevant for both academics, practitioners and producers, along three main thematic areas.

Social and economic themes: FT beyond farm and certification

- FT south-south and north-north: present and future of local initiatives.
- Participatory certification and the diversity of FT guarantee schemes.
- FT contribution to food sovereignty.
- How far is the market a fair instrument?
- How can FT enterprises contribute to a new economy?
- What next for FT and ethical consumption?
- FT campaigns: new perspectives on FT communities, universities, schools.

Social and political themes: partnerships and sectoral approaches

- Social inclusion and empowerment of minorities: what is the impact of FT standards?
- Peasant migration, what alternatives does FT offer?
- Labor law: does FT facilitate compliance with the labor law, or enable it to be exceeded?
- Defense of the territory against megaprojects - is this a concern/priority for FT?
- Small farmers and producers - does FT health improve their health and wellbeing?
- FT south-north partnerships - a citizens' movement for change?
- FT to support the promotion of social justice: what role for consumers and businesses?

Environmental themes: solutions at the landscape scale

- FT impacts on soil preservation and the future of crops.
- Biodiversity: does FT enable conservation of biodiversity, and to what extent does FT depend on biodiversity?
- How are FT producers affected by climate change and how is the FT movement enabling them to adapt?
- The role of FT in climate change mitigation through carbon mitigation.
- How can FT enterprises respond to the climate emergency?
- Circular Economy and sustainable development - how can FT contribute?

Further than this list, **any other research related to FT is welcome**. Sessions will be built on the basis of received and accepted papers.

Presenting at FTIS 2020

The symposium will feature plenary keynote addresses, parallel paper presentations, poster sessions and participatory workshops. The main languages of the symposium will be Spanish and English, with simultaneous translation during as many of the sessions as possible. There will be an opportunity during poster sessions for multilingual presentations and discussions.

Papers

Researchers and practitioners who would like to present a paper are invited to submit an abstract (500 words written in Spanish or English). Paper sessions will include time for audience questions and feedback. The abstract should include the theme addressed, the applied theory and methodology, the results obtained and the main bibliography.

Free format presentations

Farmers and people belonging to farmers' organization are welcome to submit a free-format presentation, relating their experience in one of the topics that will soon be announced. These presentations will be part of specific

sessions oriented to the exchange of knowledge through a “campesino a campesino” (farmer-to-farmer) method. Texts should be written in a maximum of 500 words including pictures, graphs and drawings.

Posters

Participants are also given the opportunity to submit a 1-page abstract for poster presentations. Poster abstracts can be written in Spanish or English. Limited translation support will be provided, but authors are encouraged to consider an effective presentation format for an international audience.

Workshops

A workshop is a working meeting that focuses on a specific area related to the conference themes. Proposals for workshops should be 1 page in length. The proposal should include a brief overview of the area of research, teaching or practice that will be addressed, a summary of the session’s planned activities, and a brief discussion of the workshop leaders and some tentatively identified participants. A workshop session can require participants to read and prepare feedback on one another’s abstracts or do some other preparation prior to the session.

Abstract submission

All abstracts should be submitted online by **March 15th 2020**, although the organizers would appreciate earlier submissions. All abstracts will be evaluated through a peer review process. Notification of acceptance or refusal will be sent within 1 month. Reviewers may formulate suggestions, or in some cases require specific conditions, which will need to be considered for the acceptance of the full paper.

Please make sure the abstract submission includes:

- The intended session format - paper, poster, workshop
- Designated corresponding author
- Contact information (name, address, phone, email) for the author and any other participants (e.g., workshop panelists, symposium presenters, etc.)
- Three keywords to assist in assigning reviewers.

Submission constitutes a commitment that at least one paper author will attend the conference if the submission is accepted.

Everyone submitting a proposal should be prepared to serve as a reviewer for at least three other submissions if requested.

Abstracts should be submitted online at <http://www.ecosur.mx/ftis2020>

Scientific committee

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For any conference enquiries please email: ftis2020@ecosur.mx

