

## **Palestine Fair Trade Association Guidelines:**

### **Fair Price and Fair Wage:**

The price buyers need to pay for the product must be based on the cost of maintaining and harvesting the product, ensuring that every Palestinian farmer and producer receives adequate wages for their work. The price must be of a minimum that is economically worthy of production. The criterion calls for a minimum guaranteed price that covers the cost of production and ensures a living wage for producing communities. A living wage implies people can cover basic needs, including food, shelter, education, and health care for their families. However, this is based on the portion or percentage the production of the specific product represents from the overall producers income.

### **Democracy and Transparency:**

Palestine Fair Trade Association is committed to working under a democratic structure with complete transparency. Palestine Fair Trade Association has a bi-annually elected board that is made up of its members. Palestine Fair Trade Association has an open door policy to farmers, producers, workers, and their cooperatives.

### **Pre-Payment:**

Farmers and producers can often wait months to receive payment in full for their crops. Part of the theory behind fair trade is that farmers and/or producers will be paid directly upon pick up of products to ensure that they receive adequate wage for their labor. For some products, Palestine Fair Trade Association may require partial pre-payment.

### **Assist Farmers and Producers:**

In an effort to decrease costs to farmers and producers we recommend that the buyers be responsible for picking up the products directly and promptly from the farmers and producers. This lowers any storage, marketing, and/or transporting costs to individual farmers and producers.

### **Long-Term Commitment:**

We encourage importers to place orders in advance so that producers can anticipate harvest sales. We advocate importers to gain long-term relationships with Canaan Fair Trade (the Palestinian fair-trade product distributor internationally), and try to maintain steady and long-term relationships with the farmers and producers involved in the process.

### **Sustainable Development:**

We recommend that all aspects of production are done locally by Palestinians in order to create more jobs. All other supplies required for production: bottles, boxes, labels, etc... are also to be acquired locally in Palestine. This is an effort to assist the growth of and support a sustainable local economy.

### **Reinvest in the Community:**

Every year Palestine Fair Trade Association reinvests in producing communities in various methods depending on community needs. Needs are assessed by producing communities. We recommend that fair trading importers follow suite by reinvesting in the industries and communities they are benefiting from.

### **Respect for Cultural Identity:**

Everyone involved: importers, traders, farmers and producers, are expected to encourage the production and development of products based on producers' cultural traditions and cultural identity. Palestine Fair Trade Association is determined to protect traditional Palestinian communities in their production methods.

## **2) Guidelines for Farmers and/or Producers:**

### **Farming Methods:**

Farmers are required to use natural and traditional farming methods. Palestine Fair Trade Association is committed to working with farming communities to preserve traditional farming practices and educate about the most environmentally conscious farming methods.

### **Wages:**

In situations where farmers and/or producers hire inconsistent labor to assist in various aspects of the harvest and care-taking special attention and care must be paid to ensure that such workers, casual, seasonal, or permanent are paid a fair wage for their services and they too share in the benefits of the fair trade process.

### **Co-operatives:**

For all harvest seasons we encourage collective efforts (by neighbors, extended families, a group of women, or friends, etc...) to cultivate larger farms. This principle fosters community development beyond the harvest and increases social capital within communities. Palestine Fair Trade Association supports the creation of networks and co-operatives in production processes. The fair trade industry lives on cooperative production and Palestine Fair Trade Association encourages farmers to join and/or form local cooperatives.

## **3) Guidelines for Labor and Employment:**

### **Equal Employment:**

Any one involved in the fair trade process is required to practice equitable employment opportunities for all people. Particular attention should be paid to the most disadvantaged groups. Farmers and producers should ensure that all hired labor involved in the process can gain from fair trade practices.

### **Labor Standards:**

Palestine Fair Trade Association follows the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 111 that pertains to ending discrimination towards workers. The Convention rejects "any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation."

### **Labor Conditions:**

Palestine Fair Trade Association respects the labor standards set-out by the International Labor Organization and requires all producing communities involved in any PFTA programs implement and meet the ILO Conventions Standards. This includes ILO Conventions that restrict the use of forced labor or child labor. Children may participate with their families in harvest and farming so long that it does not affect their education.

### **Workers Rights:**

Farmers and producers may not deny their workers the right to organize, join and form unions and/or federations, create elected boards to make decisions as a whole. Farmers and producers will ensure that their workers benefit from the fair trade process and have a chance to become educated on principles of fair trade. Workers have equal opportunities for membership and participation in Palestine Fair Trade Association producing cooperatives and programs.

### **Work Place Conditions:**

Farmers and producers are required to guarantee that all employees work under fair and safe

conditions. That wages are fair and accurate according to work done and safety precautions are taken. All work space, equipment and machinery is safe and without any known health risks. Palestine Fair Trade Association may inspect sites to ensure that such safety precautions are being taken.

#### **4) Environmental Guidelines:**

##### **Environmental Concern:**

All products used in the farming and general production of the crops and/or products are expected to be environmentally friendly. This implies the use of recyclable, and/or biodegradable materials whenever possible. By supporting Palestinian traditional farming methods, that have a history of being environmentally friendly we are working toward creating a sustainable farming tradition and industry.

##### **Environmental Protection:**

Environmental protection and preservation of the natural environment is required of all farmers and producers. Farmers and producers are required to monitor their natural environment and take measures to protect and preserve it in terms of farming techniques and materials. Environmental protection entails protecting natural waters, virgin forest, erosion, and waste management.

##### **Environmental Education:**

Palestine Fair Trade Association will continue to provide education on farming, maintenance, harvesting, and environmental protection techniques.

##### **Use Fertilizers**

Farmers are required to use only natural manure as fertilizers. No chemical fertilizers are accepted into the Palestine Fair Trade Association program.

##### **Maintenance**

Farmers will use hand plows, animal plows or small tractors for weed control. No chemicals are allowed for weed control.

##### **Pest Control**

Farmers will use organic pest control when needed, no pesticides are permitted in the program.

##### **Consideration of Local Environments:**

Palestine Fair Trade Association will continue to work with farmers to consider the importance of their local environments, educating about the best ways to preserve local ecosystems. Farmers will use management systems that are appropriate and tailored to their local environments.

##### **Handling Practices:**

Processors and handlers should implement organic style manufacturing and handling processes in order to preserve the integrity and quality of organic products. Such care should be taken through all levels of production such as processing, handling, transport, and storage. Organic products are not to be mixed with non-organic products.

#### **5) Trader and Distributor Guidelines:**

##### **Fair Trade Label:**

Product label should clearly specify that it is a fair trade product. Every bottle sold through

our program is expected to display our Palestine Fair Trade Association logo.

**Education:**

Distributors of Palestine Fair Trade Association products should be willing to educate their customers. Every venue is expected to make available Palestine Fair Trade Association pamphlets with distribution of products.

**Payment:**

Partial pre-payments are expected to ensure that farmers receive adequate funds to continue their work and take care of their families.

**Non-Discrimination:**

It is not acceptable for traders, importers, and/or exporters to make distinctions or preferences between producing communities and cooperatives on the basis of religion, political opinions, or social affiliation. Traders who practice such discrimination will not be granted Palestine Fair Trade Association certification.