



Fair Trade & Other Certifications

Here is a list of the top three environmental and justice-based coffee production certifications:

Fair Trade Certification is an organized social movement and market-based approach helping producers in developing countries to promote sustainability. The movement began in the early 90's to advocate the payment of a higher price to producers and raising social and environmental standards, such as educational opportunities for families, quality housing for workers, fair labor practices and fair national standard payment for goods and services. Coffee is known as “black gold.” It is the second largest traded commodity in the world next to oil. There is much opportunity for abusive practices by estate owners, as well as wealthy nations controlling the price of coffee rather than the developing nations where coffee is often produced.

Organic Certification : It takes six years to purge soil of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Once completed, pest trapping, organic pesticides and fertilizers are used which increases longevity of the coffee trees, ensures no chemical runoff enters the streams or pollutes the soil, protects the farmers and pickers and prevents chemicals from arriving in your cup of coffee.

Rain Forest Alliance Certification/Shade Grown is a technique estates used where the 2nd and 3rd level canopy's in place while the coffee trees grow underneath. This preserves the soils nutrients, provides a more balanced ecosystem for animals and increases the life of coffee trees from 15 years to 60 years. Rain Forest Alliance is the certification estates can receive proving their efforts in protecting the rainforest while cultivating the land as an active coffee farm.