

ABOUT THE COOPERATIVE

Cooperative: Tinjure Tea Farmers' Cooperative Society

Location: Phakphokthum Rural Municipality-06, Ilam, Nepal

Certified: Ceres, Rainforest Alliance and Fair Trade

Key Figures: 15 Mt of Orthodox Normal and Specialty Tea

Total Farmers Involved In Cooperative: 271 of Which 96 Female



About twenty-five years ago, a small band of farmers in a very remote eastern hill district of Nepal began a discussion about the shared vision of sustainable self-dependency. The dream of the farmers came true with the establishment of a cooperative with the objective of addressing the problems of rural farmers. Many small holder farmers who are involved in family farming are producing the best quality tea leaves and are in their

entrepreneurial journey of being self-dependent. The rural farmers are offering a cup of tea with a symbol of love, care, purity and respect to the visitors, adding beauty to the rich cultural diversity of Nepal. The tea produced from the lap of Mahabharat range provides an astonishing taste and aroma from the Himalayas.

Tinjure Tea Producer Cooperative Limited was established in 1995 to address the problems of small holder tea farmers in rural areas. The cooperative sits amid the Mahabharat mountain range and is geographically located at an altitude of 10,000 ft. (3000 m). This cooperative lies at a distance of 45 kilometers from Ilam. To get there, it takes about 3 hours by motorcycle or 1 hour by vehicle, through the twisty off-road drive.

Tinjure tea cooperative is producing black, green, oolong and different kinds of other specialty teas. The cooperative has its own processing factory and many local people are working there. Members of the cooperative have learned to successfully process and market tea while securing financial services to the point where they now have the capacity to justify organic and Rainforest Alliance certification essential to serving export markets in Europe and other countries. This cooperative produces superior quality of organic certified tea. However, the farmers are facing problems of transportation and market access.



National and international organizations are supporting Tinjure in providing institutional strengthening support, capacity development and market linkage to sell the cooperative tea in the international market to improve the economic status of small holder tea farmers and strengthen their value chain.

CERTIFICATIONS

The cooperative is selling their tea to the local and international market and is organically certified by the CERES Organic Certification Agency from 2017

Fair Trade certification:

Fair Trade certification is a system that aims to ensure that producers in developing countries receive fair prices for their products, while also promoting sustainable farming practices and ethical labor conditions. Here's how it generally works:



1. **Certification Standards:** Fair Trade certification sets specific standards that producers must meet to earn the certification. These standards cover various aspects such as fair prices, decent working conditions, community development, and environmental sustainability.
2. **Fair Prices:** One of the key features of Fair Trade is ensuring that producers receive a fair price for their goods. This price is typically set to cover the cost of sustainable production and provide a living wage to workers.
3. **Social Premium:** Fair Trade often includes a social premium, which is an additional sum of money paid on top of the selling price. This premium is used to fund community development projects, such as building schools or healthcare facilities.
4. **Environmental Standards:** Fair Trade certification encourages environmentally friendly farming practices. This may include promoting organic agriculture, minimizing the use of pesticides, and conserving natural resources.
5. **Worker Rights:** Fair Trade standards protect workers' rights by ensuring safe working conditions, prohibiting child labor, and supporting gender equality.
6. **Certification Process:** Producers must go through a certification process conducted by Fair Trade organizations or certifying bodies. This process involves inspections, audits, and compliance checks to ensure that the standards are being met.
7. **Fair Trade Label:** Products that meet Fair Trade standards can display the Fair Trade label. This label helps consumers identify products that have been produced ethically and sustainably.
8. Overall, Fair Trade certification is designed to create a more equitable and sustainable trading system, benefiting producers in developing countries by providing them with fair wages and fostering better working conditions and community development. Consumers who choose Fair Trade products support these efforts and contribute to a more ethical global marketplace.