

## Public communication on the use of active ingredients red-listed within Fairtrade Hazardous Material List (HML)

July 1st 2022, Fairtrade International upgraded ten active ingredients that have been scheduled for phase out in June 30th 2022 according to Fairtrade Standards and its' Hazardous Materials List (HML) to the red-list category. Producer Organizations who require to use the prohibited active ingredients were required to seek exemption from the Fairtrade International Exceptions Committee as per the Fairtrade Exceptions Policy. These exceptions are valid for a limited period of time and not exceeding two years from the date of approval. Since then, Fairtrade NAPP, the Producer Network (PN) supporting Fairtrade certified producers in Asia and Pacific has been implementing measures to support Producer Organizations (POs) to transit from use of the highly toxic chemical products to less toxic and environmentally friendly substances. Besides, it has also been supporting them to apply for exemptions with the Exceptions Committee. The exceptions have been granted with the aim of ensuring Fairtrade certified supply chains are not disrupted and thus adversely affecting businesses and payment of the Fairtrade Premium to farmers and workers within Fairtrade certified organizations. While granting this grace period, Fairtrade takes note of the harmful effects of such active ingredients and restricts their use to only when adequate measures have been instituted to prevent harmful effects to human health and environment. Strict compliance with Fairtrade standards requirements on use of materials within the HML shall be observed by the producers and checked for compliance by Flocert (Fairtrade Independent Certification Body) during audit cycles. This exception for the use of these highly toxic substances granted by Fairtrade International has been made on condition that;

- a. A transparent and public communication about the exception to be developed by the Producer Organizations or the Producer Networks.
- b. Producer Networks to develop a monitoring plan for the phase out of the materials approved in the exceptions and to monitor progress.
- c. Producer Organizations to submit report every six months to respective PN on the progress made against the phase out plans.
- d. FLOCERT to check the latest progress report in an upcoming audit if PO follows the plan. If POs are not making any progress, then FLOCERT to inform respective Producer Network, Fairtrade International & Standards & Pricing Unit for further action.

With the support of the Producer Network and as part of producer support framework, Fairtrade Certified Producers shall continue active engagements with industry stakeholders in respective countries to explore alternatives to the use of the red listed active ingredients.

*Network of Asia and Pacific Producers*

*Email: [mel@fairtradenapp.org](mailto:mel@fairtradenapp.org)*

*[www.fairtradenapp.org](http://www.fairtradenapp.org)*