

Thursday 10th March

Navendu Mishra MP backs Fairtrade's call for action for farmers on the climate frontline

Navendu Mishra, the Member of Parliament for Stockport, affirmed his support for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight campaign, which raised awareness of the need to protect the farmers behind some of Britain's best loved foods from the harmful effects of climate change.

During Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 (February 21 - March 6), the Fairtrade Foundation ran a campaign highlighting the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and agricultural workers overseas who grow popular products such as tea, coffee, cocoa and bananas.

On March 1, the Fairtrade APPG held an event in Portcullis House, Westminster. MPs were invited to drop in and have their photo taken with a Fairtrade photo frame, sample Fairtrade tea from Waitrose and Greenpeeps, and pick up Fairtrade facemasks created by sustainable clothing company Neutral. At the event, MPs had the opportunity to hear more about the importance of involving farmers and agricultural workers in plans to tackle the climate crisis. Additionally, Mishra attended a stall at Stockport Homes and joined volunteers at Heaton Moor United Church. Both events were organised through the Stockport Fairtrade Group.

Navendu Mishra MP said: *"I was proud to support Fairtrade Fortnight this year. As we know, the climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected by it.*

"Fairtrade plays a valuable role in supporting farmers to respond to the environmental crises unfolding in their communities. However, it's important that we all play our part in tackling climate change. For instance, shopping for Fairtrade goods is a simple yet effective step that we can all take to enable farmers to have better incomes vital for protecting their bananas, coffee, cocoa and other crops from climate threats like drought, floods and rising temperatures.

'I am delighted that so many constituents, schools, communities and businesses here in Stockport support Fairtrade's mission to make trade fair, and are committed to using Fairtrade products where they can. I would urge MPs from across all parties to work towards a world where trade justice and climate justice is a reality for all.'

As the climate crisis continues to unfold, the Fairtrade Foundation is campaigning for funds to reach farmers and workers immediately, so that they can invest in adaptation and mitigation techniques to secure their future. New data* commissioned by the Fairtrade Foundation, and run by Opinium, reveals that over 60% of the British public are unaware of the threats that climate change poses to UK supplies of cocoa, coffee and bananas. The survey also shows that three quarters (78%) of Brits believe it is important that people overseas who produce tea, coffee, food, flowers, cotton and other staple products imported by the UK are able to adapt to climate change.

ENDS.

For more information, please contact charlieb.mower@parliament.uk

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Notes to editors

* Research was conducted by Opinium Research on behalf of Fairtrade. It polled 2,000 UK adults in the week commencing 24 January 2022 and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

[1] Navendu Mishra MP pictured with volunteers at the Fairtrade Fortnight stall at Stockport Homes

[2] Navendu Mishra MP pictured at Heaton Moor United Church at a Fairtrade Fortnight and Traidcraft stall



