

MESH's Fair Trade Fact Sheet:

History of Fair Trade:

- 1946 -** Edna Ruth Byler imports needlecrafts from low-income women in Puerto Rico and displaced in Europe, she is the founder for Ten Thousand Villages, North America's first Fair Trade organization.
- 1949 -** Church of the Brethren establishes Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocation (SERRV), North America's second Fair Trade organization, to import wooden clocks from German refugees of WWII
- 1968 -** United Nations Conference on Aid and Development (UNCTAD) embraces "Trade not Aid" concept, bringing Fair Trade into development policy
- 1969 -** Oxfam and other European humanitarian organizations open the first World Shop, in the Netherlands, to sell crafts, build awareness, and campaign for trade reform.
- 1972 -** Ten Thousand Villages opens store, the first Fair Trade retail outlet in North America
- 1986 -** Equal Exchange established as 1st Fair Trade cooperative in North America, importing coffee from Nicaragua as a way to make a political statement with a high quality, household item
- 1988 -** Farmers and activists launch the first Fair Trade certification system, Max Havelaar, in the Netherlands, to offer third-party recognition and a label of Fair Trade products
- 1989 -** International Fair Trade Association (IFAT), (now WFTO), established by Fair Trade pioneers as first global Fair Trade network
- 1994 -** Fair Trade Federation formed, as first network of FTOs in North America
- 1997 -** Fair Trade Labeling Organizations formed, which led to a third-party label in the U.S. in 1998 managed by Trans Fair USA

- 2002** - Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO) launches the International “Fair Trade” certification mark
- 2004** - Producers form national and regional Fair Trade associations across Asia, Latin America and Africa. COFTA, for example, was established by African producers to be the continental voice in lobbying for greater market access and Fair Trade advocacy. COFTA is currently composed of over 70 member organizations from 20 African countries.
- 2005** - 750 people participate in Fair Trade Futures, the largest Fair Trade conference in North America
- 2007** - Fair Trade retail sales in U.S. top \$1 billion, worldwide tops \$2.5 billion
- 2010** - A second Fair Trade certification & label gains wide acceptance in the North American market, IMO’s “Fair for Life”.
- 2011** - Small producers in Latin America, under CLAC, launch their own certification & label. FTUSA leaves the FI system.

Reference:

- <http://fairworldproject.org/about/movements/fair-trade/history/>
- http://fairworldproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Fairworld_Project_Publication_3.pdf
- http://www.co-operative.coop/Corporate/fairtrade/pdfs/Fair_Trade_Timeline.pdf
- <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade/facts-and-figures>
- <http://www.fairtrade.net/about-fairtrade/history-of-fairtrade.html>
- About Edna Ruth Byler TTV <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/about-history/>
- <http://wfto.com/about-us/history-wfto/history-fair-trade>