

Fairtrade: a World of Difference

Producer Group Profile: CRAFT AID page 1 of 2

Craft Aid, Mauritius, Sugar



Photo: Traidcraft/Paul Draper

Craft Aid

Relatively rich in African terms, Mauritius is a small country with limited natural resources. The economy used to be highly dependent upon sugar cane, but has now diversified so most people have access to work opportunities. However, if you have a disability, life is still hard.

Craft Aid was founded in 1982 and is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to the welfare of disabled people. They work on the principle that people of all abilities and backgrounds can be fully integrated into normal society. Craft Aid has always prioritised giving jobs to disadvantaged people, especially those who are deaf or otherwise disabled. This is currently about 40% of their 220 employees. Work includes tailoring, making cards and sugar packing. Their sugar is sourced from 30,000 cane farmers and is processed in four mills before arriving at Craft Aid to be packed.



Photo: Traidcraft/Philip Warren

Fairtrade: a World of Difference

Producer Group Profile: CRAFT AID page 2 of 2

Craft Aid, Mauritius, Sugar



Johanne, who is 24, began working at Craft Aid in February 2010. She is married and has a baby boy. Her role in the team packing the sugar is weighing the individual bags.



Photos: Traidcraft/Monica Philbrick

Craft Aid supports the people who work there in many different ways. All workers have good working conditions and benefits; disabled workers in particular are often earning money for the first time. Craft Aid also employs many women who are the sole breadwinner of their families, or who are in particular difficulties (for example, women whose husbands are alcoholics). Some workers at Craft Aid have actually gone on to run their own small businesses after leaving the organisation.

Craft Aid's promise

"We will remain alert to market opportunities and threats and adapt our business accordingly, but always adhere to the principles of fair and ethical trade. We will strive to continuously upgrade our operations and sustain our financial viability so that we can improve the living standards of our employees; in this way we will support and rehabilitate disabled, disadvantaged and needy communities in Mauritius."



Traidcraft has sold products from Craft Aid since 1983 and it was Traidcraft's support which enabled them to diversify into food packing.