



Scottish
Fair Trade
Forum



producer tour

Ndiuzayani Zaya

Teacher

Blantyre Baptist Academy, Malawi

Ndiuzayani works as a business studies teacher at Blantyre Baptist Academy. Her mother is a farmer with Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association and thanks to this, all of Ndiuzayani's education was funded by the Fairtrade Premium. She lives with her mother and three sisters in Sadulo village, Chikwawa district of Malawi and sometimes helps with planting and weeding on her mother's smallholder farm. She is happy to be called Nduzani during her visit to the UK.



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Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association (KCGA)

KCGA is a smallholder sugar cane project that was set up in 1996 as part of a joint venture with the Malawian government and a nearby sugar mill, now operated by Illovo Sugar, Africa's biggest sugar processor. An area of largely unproductive land was converted to sugar cane production to increase the supply of raw cane to the mill while providing an income for 762 subsistence farmers. The initiative now also provides employment for more than 800 permanent and seasonal field workers.

KCGA was Fairtrade certified in 2002 and now sells its entire production of around 8,000 tonnes of sugar to Fairtrade buyers (including Divine Chocolate). The UK market is the biggest market for Kasinthula. KCGA negotiates a contract price with Illovo mill for its sugar cane and is paid an additional Fairtrade Premium of US\$60 for each tonne of processed cane sugar. The Fairtrade Premium has been invested in improving sugar cane productivity and in healthcare, clean water, education and other community projects.

Changing weather patterns, unpredictable rainfalls, higher than average temperatures and low market sugar prices are challenges that members of the Kasinthula Cane Growers' Association face. In particular, heavy flooding in 2015 and 2017 severely affected the farmers' yields, household property and livestock.