### Covilli's Produce is 100% Certified Organic Fair Trade

Buying ANY of Covilli's Fair Trade products is an easy way to support the hard-working people who harvest the products that we all love.

Covilli presents quarterly reports to Fair Trade USA where all Fair Trade sales are presented, in a very detailed way, for traceability and audit purposes.



Quality Products. Improving Lives. Protecting the Environment.

## Earl's Organic Produce is proud to partner with Covilli Brand Organics





# FAIR TRADE FAQ



#### What is Fair Trade (FT)?

Products that bear the FT logo come from farms where workers are justly compensated; this is verified through extremely thorough 3rd Party Audits;

#### Fair Trade principles include:

**Fair labor conditions:** Workers on FT farms enjoy sustainable wages, safe working conditions, access to healthcare, regulated working hours, rest and sick days, as well as freedom of association. Forced child and slave labor are strictly prohibited and access to education for workers' children is verified.

**Democratic and transparent organizations:** Fair Trade farmers and workers decide democratically how to invest Fair Trade premiums, which are funds for community development.

**Community development:** Workers invest the FT Premium in social and business development projects like scholarships, schools, quality of life improvement and leadership training.

**Environmental sustainability:** FT promotes environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect workers' health, preserve valuable ecosystems and safeguard the livelihoods of local communities now and in the future.



#### Whose guidelines does Covilli follow regarding FT?

Fair Trade USA has set forth the Standards which include very specific Compliance Criteria that is audited by third party. All certified members must adhere and follow these and other guidelines.

#### Who is Fair Trade USA?

Fair Trade USA is a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable livelihoods for farmers and workers; protects fragile ecosystems; and builds strong, transparent supply chains through independent, third-party certification. Its Fair Trade Certified™ label signifies that rigorous standards have been met in the production, trade and promotion of Fair Trade products.

#### How exactly does FT benefit Covilli's workers?

Covilli already complied with the principles FT promotes, but an additional benefit is the Premium that is added to the cost of the vegetables and goes directly and in its entirety to the bank account of Covilli's Workers Association – Nunchi Sansekan (All united) in Nahuatl native tongue.

A few extra cents paid by the consumer – the Fair Trade Premium - will allow for democratically chosen projects to become a reality in Covilli's farm worker communities; whether it's a bus for the High School students, dental services or a multipurpose room, this benefit will bring empowerment through decision making and project execution.

#### **How can the Workers Association use the FT Premium?**

One of the most important aspects of FT is: funds are specifically designated for social, economic and environmental development projects.



The workers are the ones who know what's best for their own community and FTUSA enabled a democratic system for the community to decide how and when the Premium will be invested.

### Can Covilli use part of the Premiums?

Absolutely NOT. The funds CANNOT be used to invest in the company's property or cover company's expenses (wages, operation, supplies, etc.). Benefits are exclusively for the workers, by the workers; Covilli IS responsible for covering all Fair Trade Certification and promotional expenses.

## How often is the Premium paid to Workers Association?



Through a transparent process that is traceable and audited by FTUSA, Covilli has assumed the responsibility of paying on a monthly basis, the correct amount of FTP to the Workers Association bank account. Covilli also turns in Quarterly Reports to FTUSA, that have to match up at the end of the year and during audits. Being able to track and verify the correct movements of the Premium from the moment a sale takes place until the deposit is made is a critical audit criteria for FTUSA.

## Who is in charge of developing/overseeing the Community Projects?

FTUSA provides the guidelines to democratically elect the Fair Trade Committee, in a way that is balanced (gender and place of origin). All projects are proposed and approved by the General Assembly (entire workforce), and implemented by the FT Committee, who has to inform and present reports to the Assembly.

#### Are Fair Trade Certified products also certified organic?

Not necessarily, but FT promotes sustainable farming in order to improve living and working conditions for farmers and workers, their environment must also be clean and healthy.

Environmental standards are integral to Fair Trade criteria: Protecting water resources and natural vegetation areas; promoting agricultural diversification, erosion control and no slash and burn; restricting the use of pesticides and fertilizers; banning use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs); requiring proper management of waste, water and energy.