

SEFERINO CORPORAN

BANANA FARMERS ARE IMPROVING THEIR FARMS AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH SUPPORT FROM FAIRTRADE

Heavy rains and high winds can be devastating for farmers like Seferino Corporan. Erratic weather threatens to ruin their crops – and livelihoods.

The 56-year-old small-scale banana producer is a member of the Asociación de Productores de Banano del Valle de Azua (AZUABANA), a Fairtrade certified small-scale co-operative in the Dominican Republic.

Thanks to Fairtrade, AZUABANA found a solution to stop storms causing floods. 'A bamboo barrier has been established around the river,' says Seferino. 'This helps to contain the floods when the river grows so that it cannot enter the plantation and bring waste to the farm.' Bamboo stems also support the banana plants and improve the biodiversity of the area.

The bamboo barrier was paid for by the Fairtrade Premium. This is an additional sum of money Fairtrade certified farms receive to invest in social, economic and environmental projects to improve their businesses and communities. Farmers are responsible for deciding how to spend it.

IMPROVING SOIL, INCREASING PRODUCTION

Many farmers choose to invest their Fairtrade Premium in tackling the impact of climate change, like erratic weather. AZUABANA are also now producing biofertiliser in their own factory. This chemical-free product is made from organic material and helps improve the quality of the soil, without harming the environment. It's free for AZUABANA's farmers.

'We are using the biofertiliser with good results,' says Seferino.

'The product can help control pests and diseases.' Seferino says production has increased by over a third thanks to the biofertiliser. It lowers costs too. Healthier soil needs less work so production becomes cheaper as fewer processes are involved.

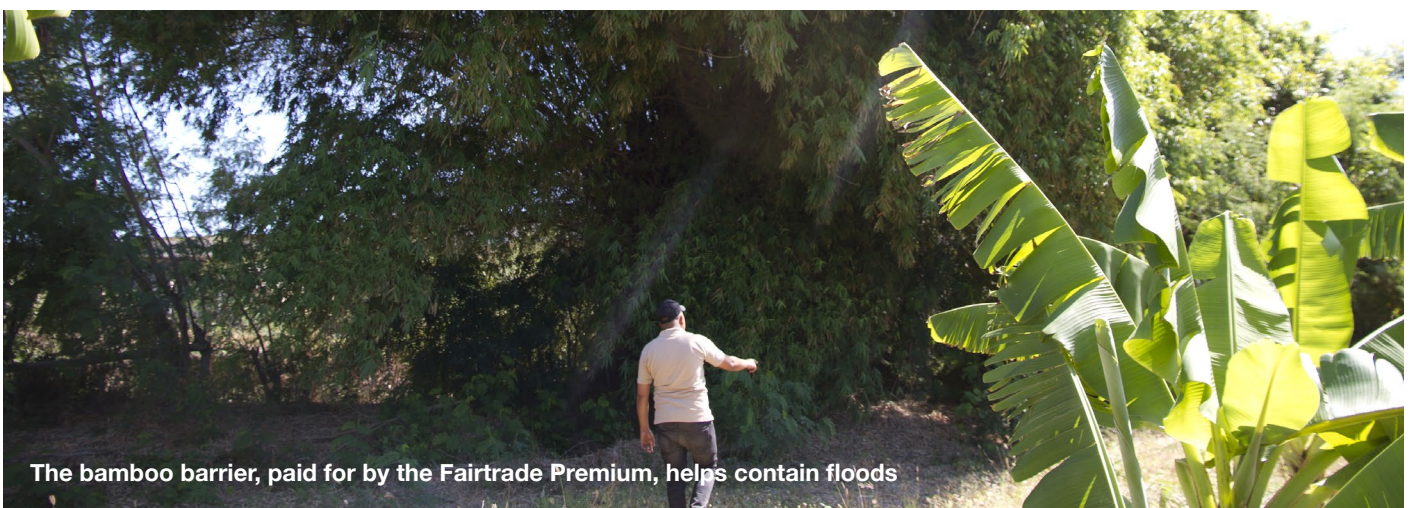


WE ARE USING THE BIOFERTILISER WITH GOOD RESULTS

MAKING BUSINESSES MORE PROFESSIONAL AND PROFITABLE

Fairtrade also supports farmers like Seferino to improve their farm's infrastructure and increase their sales. 'The first thing that Fairtrade has helped us with is marketing,' he says. The Fairtrade Premium also paid for the AZUABANA offices to be upgraded so they are better equipped and more efficient. 'Before, farmers had to do their own paperwork,' says Seferino. 'But today everything is completed in the office. We have computers and personnel, and many more improvements that were made possible with the help of Fairtrade Premium.'

Fairtrade, our partners, and those who buy Fairtrade products, are supporting banana farmers to protect the environment and improve their businesses. Read more about the benefits of Fairtrade [here](#).



The bamboo barrier, paid for by the Fairtrade Premium, helps contain floods