

# Sustainability and Responsibility



When you buy our fruit you rightly expect it to have been produced fairly and sustainably. Fyffes is aware of the social and environmental issues associated with the products that it sources and sells. Whether conventional, organic or Fairtrade, we strive to produce all our fruit to the highest quality and ethical standards and listed below are some of the tools that we use to help us achieve this. We're not claiming to be perfect, but we are totally committed to making continual improvements and we work with our partners and growers day-in and day-out to try and do things right.

The aim is simple. To provide great fruit produced under the safest working conditions, following the fairest labour practices and with the minimum environmental impact. Fyffes is pro-active in these matters and actively participates in industry forums on social, ethical, health and safety and environmental issues.

## **Fyffes and the environment - because the future starts today**

Fyffes takes responsibility for the environmental consequences of its activities and is working with its business partners in the conservation and protection of natural resources. Healthy fruit today ..... and tomorrow.

**Responsible cultivation methods:** Working closely with our partner growers, we focus on implementing environmentally sustainable farming techniques and methods of integrated agriculture that bring benefits to the health of workers and protect the local biodiversity and fragile ecosystems.

This must meet the requirements of independent certification. We audit this annually to confirm we continue to meet these criteria.

**Research and development:** Together with our growers, we are also pursuing a program of continuous improvement. We use plant protection products that are approved in the EU and the US, and implement them so as to minimise environmental impacts.

**Conservation and community projects:** In co-operation with local independent experts Fyffes has initiated a series of projects aimed at the

conservation of natural resources e.g. water.

**Innovation:** Wherever possible, Fyffes supports the use of more sustainable methods in bringing our products to market.

And it doesn't have to be our idea – if we can learn new eco-friendly methods from our retail partners or even our competitors, we're delighted. This sort of collaboration has led to reductions in packaging and reductions in fuel usage through 'back haul' arrangements – where retailer vehicles collect fruit from our ripening or distribution centres as part of their return journey to their depots.

### **People – each and every person is important**

Sustainability – and doing things right - is not just about the environment, it's also about the people who are involved in getting our fruit into your homes.

**Workers in the growing areas:** Farmers' wages are an emotive subject and rightly an issue of debate. Typically, Fyffes wages are higher than the local average. For workers and their families, this means a more secure income and a higher standard of living. That doesn't mean it's perfect, or that there's not more to do, but it's an important start.

Fyffes encourages and supports farm owners to provide their workers with education and training programs and suitable medical facilities. These provide the basic building blocks that allow them to achieve a better quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

**Fyffes staff:** We want Fyffes to be a great place to work. This will help us to maintain the expertise and long term commitment of our staff – their obsession to delivering great fruit in a fair and sustainable way. It is essential to our success – it is our difference.

Fyffes provides an ongoing program of professional training and development that will help employees to achieve their personal and professional goals. We are a global company and all employees should feel respected and valued, thus contributing to a positive and dynamic work environment.

**Our distributors and customers:** We aim to provide to our distributors and customers a top quality product and unparalleled service, built upon

a commitment to social and environmental responsibility they can be confident in.

**The consumer:** The people who buy our products have a growing expectation that the food they eat will be produced fairly and sustainably. We never take this for granted... so when you buy a Fyffes product we want you to be confident in its quality but also that you're contributing to a better life for farm workers, their families and the local communities. We don't claim to be perfect, but we do want you to trust that we're working to be the best we can.

## **Safety – first and foremost**

**Security in cultivation:** We're proud to say that of all the tropical fruit importers Fyffes has the most GlobalGAP certified growers. Global GAP guidelines ensure that farmers keep the use of plant protection products to a minimum and that they are always stored safely and securely. In addition, all Fyffes trading partners must adhere to our own standards – all targeted at quality, safety and sustainability.

**Safety for workers:** A precondition for the conclusion of a supply agreement with Fyffes is compliance with internationally recognised standards on workers conditions.

This ensures that certain requirements in the areas of health, safety, hygiene and rights [e.g. anti-discrimination] are met.

**Safety in production:** Compliance with guidelines such as those of the Global GAP, the Global Standard for Food Safety (BRC Global Standard - Food Safety) and the International Food Standard (IFS) ensure high standards of hygiene in the warehouses in the tropics, in Europe and in the USA.

**Safety inspections:** Independent auditors are a key aspect of our approach and a certificate of compliance with the prescribed standards will only be issued when they have confirmed that our operations and partners are compliant.

To help partner growers achieve this, Fyffes own audit team will help to identify areas needing improvement and support the farmers to implement the changes needed. Random checks by certified independent laboratories in Europe and North America help to ensure that our products meet microbiological pathogens and pesticide residue regulations.

