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# bananas

**Charles Darnley** is a banana worker who works as part of a cooperative that produces Fairtrade bananas on a plantation in Costa Rica.

## health & safety

The bananas are grown as naturally as possible with few pesticides. We can grow our own crops in between the bananas. We have all, as part of the cooperative, devised safer working practices within our means. But this is constantly revised.

## job security

Oke Fairtrade distributors have signed a contract with us, ensuring that we get a decent price that doesn't fall below the production cost. This means we can plan production targets for years ahead and gives us job security.

## community benefits

The cooperative gets an extra fair trade bonus that is used to buy books for our local school, which benefits all the children in the area.

## environment

Bananas are picked when green and minimal pesticides are used on them. We cover the bananas in a large plastic bag to prevent insects getting access to the bananas. They take six days to reach Europe and two weeks to get to the customer via supermarkets by lorry.

## pay & conditions

We get a decent living wage that enables us to look after our families much better. Work is physically very hard but we have some control.

## unionisation/cooperative

We are part of the cooperative and participate in decision-making processes, which means that we can improve our working conditions together and make decisions about the use of the fair trade bonus.

## to find out more

- 🔗 [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org) and search for *Costa Rican banana*
- 🔗 [www.fairtrade.org.uk/producers/bananas](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/producers/bananas)

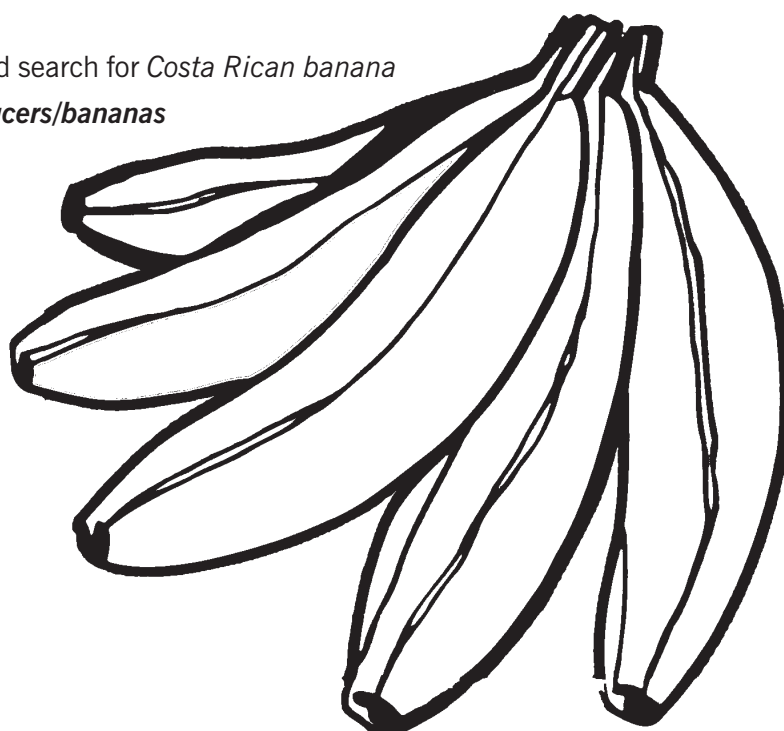




photo: Pete Stevens/AgroFair