

Carr Primary School studies Caribbean Fairtrade bananas

02 December 2011

Lisburn, NORTHERN IRELAND: Carr Primary School students learned about Caribbean Fairtrade bananas through a presentation and interactive discussion by guest speaker Dr Christopher Stange from the Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Comber.



Centre (back): Mrs Greer – Principal of Carr Primary; Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair of Fairtrade Belfast with students in the Assembly Hall

Carr Primary is a rural school with a strong farming background and thus the natural link to St. Vincent's agriculture and Fairtrade banana production.

The presentation detailed the steps of Fairtrade banana production in St. Vincent from the field to the supermarket shelves in Northern Ireland. This focused on the dramatic differences between Fairtrade and conventional production. For example: Fairtrade guarantees no child labour or exploitation; weed control and blue bag management, instead of using traditional methods of harmful and toxic chemicals that have serious health considerations; and the rights of the most disadvantaged farmers in the developing world are protected.

Fairtrade is about providing a guaranteed minimum set price for sustainable production, respecting the environment, alleviating poverty, and that developing countries have an opportunity to trade. Fairtrade is not a subsidy or charity but is unique in that for every unit sold, money is allocated into a social premium fund that is managed by the farmers and invested directly back into their own community.

The students have been studying Fairtrade as part of the curriculum initiated by Mrs Alison Gibson, with the potential of working towards Fairtrade school accreditation.

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