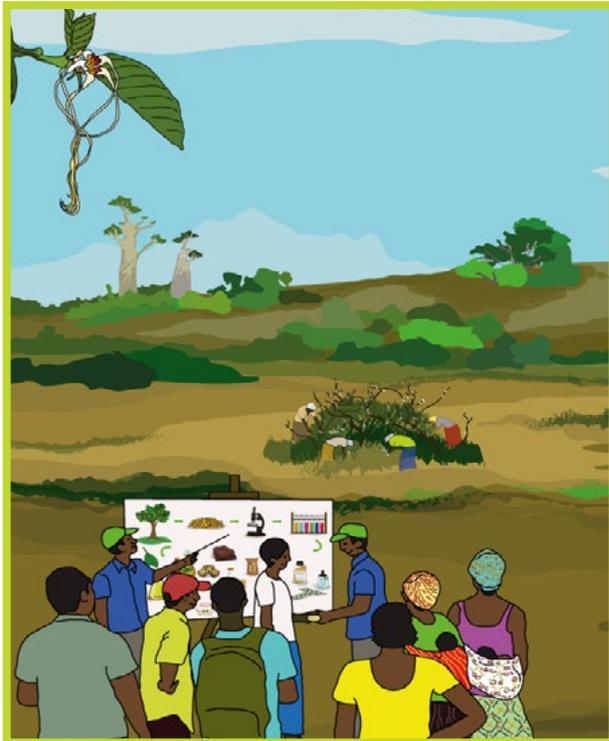


Tools for partnerships with communities



Engaging in Dialogue

In Ethical BioTrade, decisions relating to the sourcing of natural ingredients are based on dialogue – an open, informed and balanced exchange of views. The Ethical BioTrade Standard describes the elements that characterize a dialogue, including meaningful information, respect for local practices and effective opportunities to engage. For example, negotiations on prices, the development of training programs and the identification of opportunities to contribute to local development should consider how producers and their communities hold internal consultations, make choices and address disagreements. If necessary, producers and their communities should have access to independent assistance in understanding complex issues, as well as ways to raise concerns.

Together with its members, UEBT is developing guidelines towards establishing dialogues with local producers. These guidelines outline steps in order to promote dialogue, which should take place before, during and following up on discussions. For example, dialogues require an understanding of the biocultural context of producers and their communities; that is, their vision, values, laws and circumstances in relation to land and natural resources. The UEBT guidelines outline the issues to be addressed in order to enhance such understanding, as well as the possible methodologies and activities that companies may use in this process.

Tools for building Ethical BioTrade partnerships with communities

The Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) envisions and works towards policies and practices for the sourcing of natural ingredients that promote local sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Companies in the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical sectors rely extensively on plants, animals and other components of biodiversity for new, innovative ingredients. The way in which these companies operate impacts on the plants, animals or other biological material utilized, the ecosystems in which they are cultivated or collected, and the communities involved in sourcing activities.

Building partnerships with producers and their communities is fundamental to sourcing activities that enhance the value of biodiversity and promote development at the local level. In Ethical BioTrade, producers are well informed and participate actively in decisions on sourcing activities. There is recognition of the role, rights and interests of their communities. Local goals for sustainable development are ascertained and respected. Companies provide training to strengthen producer organizations and sustainable management practices.



Learning set for producers and their communities

UEBT makes available a range of tools to support its members in building partnerships. An important aspect of Ethical BioTrade partnerships is ensuring that producers and their communities have adequate information and technical support. UEBT members have access to training workshops on Ethical BioTrade, including on issues linked to working with indigenous and local communities. In addition, companies are able to draw on UEBT workshop programs and training material specifically developed for producers and their communities.

For example, the Ethical BioTrade learning set for producers and their communities uses graphic material and participatory methods to present the objectives, elements and practical implications of working with Ethical BioTrade. Some of the pictures used in the learning set are featured in this note. In the learning set, illustrated sheets provide information for both community leaders and community members on key issues in Ethical BioTrade. These issues include concepts such

as conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable prices, contributions to local development and the rights to prior informed consent and equitable benefit sharing in case of research and development. A poster shows how these concepts come together in the context of the community and its activities and surroundings.

Looking ahead

For UEBT members, partnerships with producers and their communities mean more innovation and stronger supply chains, as well as contributing to sustainable development at the local level. There is a growing business case for partnerships in the sourcing of natural ingredients, as well as important lessons coming from experiences of companies putting in practice Ethical BioTrade along their supply chains. UEBT, along with its affiliate members and other partners, is gathering these insights and lessons. It also continues to develop, test and improve tools that provide guidance and support towards its vision of local development and biodiversity conservation.

Some images and concepts included in the UEBT learning set



Engaging in Dialogue



Prior and informed consent



Benefit Sharing



Benefits along the supply chain

Contact UEBT

UEBT is a membership-based, non profit organisation - www.ethicalbiotrade.org - www.uebt.org

Union for Ethical BioTrade

Secretariat
De Ruyterkade 6
1013 AA, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Phone: + 31 20 223 4567
info@ethicalbiotrade.org

Financial administration
p/a CR Gestion et Fiduciaire SA
Rte des Jeunes 9
1227 Carouge, Switzerland
Phone : + 41 22 5661585
info@ethicalbiotrade.org

Brazilian Representation
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Phone: + 55 11 99431 1880
brazil@ethicalbiotrade.org