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***Fair Trade for a Better World***

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June 16, 2014

Via Email

Paul Rice  
Mary Jo Cook  
1500 Broadway, Suite 400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Paul and Mary Jo:

In light of recent developments of synthetic biology technology, I am writing you as a leading eco-social/fair trade certifier to take swift action in defense of small producers. Synthetic biology (synbio) is a technology that has also been called genetic engineering on steroids and allows chemical companies to create ingredients in vats via synthetic DNA inserted into microbes that are fed sugar or corn syrup.

Because the stated intention of leading synbio manufacturers is to label and market synbio ingredients as “natural,” they will undercut and compete unfairly with high value crops that provide sustainable livelihoods for farmers and workers. Vanilla and saffron are just two examples of crops that will soon be labeled as natural even though they are produced in labs.

This is a more extreme form of genetic engineering and although genetically engineered ingredients themselves have traditionally not qualified for fair trade or eco-social certification, certification has been weak on allowing non-certified GMO ingredients to exist alongside non-GMO crops and ingredients on farms and in products. Most GE crops are engineered for heavy herbicide use, which increases exposure for farmworkers and contaminates groundwater.

You are in a position to protect smallholder farmers while letting consumers know that synbio is not a natural option as industry advocates claim and GMO crops do not contribute to sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers.

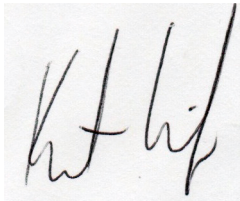
Therefore, we ask you to first confirm that you will not certify any synbio ingredients as “eco-social” or “fair trade” in themselves. This would be consistent with not certifying GMO crops as well. Please let us know where in your policies or standards this is made clear.

Second, we ask you to respond to the recommendation that since vanilla is a high value crop that will likely be in the market very soon, we ask that you immediately include vanilla

as an ingredient that must be purchased as fair trade if it is available. Vanilla fits the criteria laid out for other ingredients that must be purchased as fair trade. Further, synbio and GMO ingredients should be explicitly prohibited or at a minimum labeled when included in any multi-ingredient product.

We believe these measures will help protect farmers against unfair competition and protect the integrity of fair trade and eco-social labeling as we have found that most consumers expect products carrying a seal to contain sustainable ingredients produced in fair trade or eco-social form by actual farmers and farmworkers. We hope you agree and would appreciate a response by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Lindgren", is centered below the text "Sincerely,". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerstin Lindgren  
Campaign Director