



SUGARCANE COOPERATIVE FLO# 2191

## FAIR TRADE PRODUCER PROFILE

# Kasinthula, Malawi

*“The premiums from Fair Trade sales have increased our income, thereby improving our socioeconomic status. We are also assured of sustainability in our business, as part of the premium money is reinvested in the plough-out and replanting program.”*

— **Exford Dimo,**  
**Kasinthula sugar cane grower and board member**

Malawi's inhabitants are among the poorest in southern Africa. Kasinthula Cane Growers sugar cooperative was initiated by the government in 1996 to help tackle poverty among poor, largely illiterate farmers in an inhospitable region in the south of the country. Today the cooperative is managed by the small farmer members. The farmers of Kasinthula live in the low-lying Chikwawa district, which receives the lowest rainfall in the country. The long droughts occasionally result in famine and when the rains do come, twice a year, the region is subject to floods.

Kasinthula became Fair Trade certified with the Fair Trade Labelling Organization International (FLO) in 2002.

### With additional proceeds from the Fair Trade price, co-op members have invested in the following initiatives:

- **Access to clean water and electricity.** The coop's first project was to drill wells to provide safe drinking water to two villages. Before the wells, the unsanitary water supply frequently caused diseases such as bilharzia, cholera and dysentery. Kasinthula also financed the installation of electricity in the village of Chinangwa, which previously had no access to electricity.
- **Healthcare.** Kasinthula supplied the local clinic with 20,000 tablets of Praziquantel, a medication required for the treatment of bilharzia. Though this is a common disease in the area, the government clinic had operated without the medicine for over three years.
- **Education.** The coop's next project will be to provide building materials for the construction of schools. They hope to build a primary school for children in remote villages and a secondary school near the coop's administrative office.
- **Quality improvements.** Kasinthula is investing in replanting and improving crops in several cycles.



### ABOUT THE CO-OP

- Date Established:** 1996
- Fair Trade Certified Since:** 2002
- Number of Members:** 282
- Annual Production:** 172 million pounds

### ABOUT THE SUGAR

- Average Farm Size:** 3 hectares
- Processing Mill:** Nchalo Sugar Mill
- Harvest Season:** Apr-Nov
- Export Season:** Apr-Mar