

Fairtrade: a World of Difference

Producer Stories: Elizabeth and Glen

EAC, South Africa, Raisins



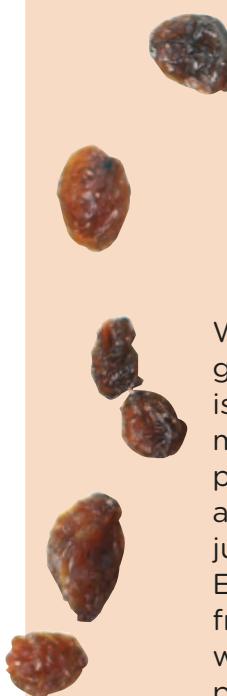
Elizabeth and Glen Mentoer

Elizabeth (64) lives on Smiths Island, a small island in South Africa's Orange River. A former farmer, she and her family now pick grapes grown by members of Eksteenskuil Agricultural Co-operative (EAC) which sells Fairtrade raisins to Traidcraft.

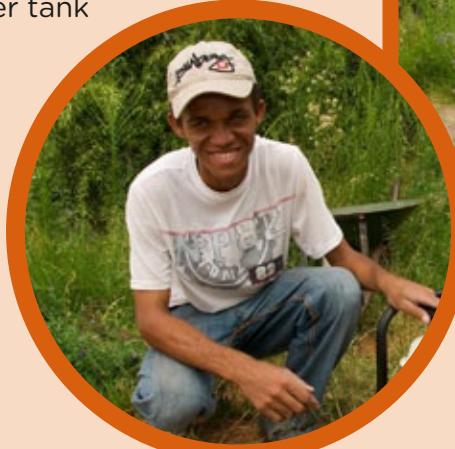
The money from this seasonal work provides them with a valuable income – but that's not the only way that Elizabeth benefits from the co-operative. The Fairtrade premium on sales of raisins has paid for two community water pumps, meaning Elizabeth and her neighbours no longer have to carry buckets of water from the canal to their homes.



“We only used to carry two buckets and that is not enough for the family so we had to walk the whole day to get water. Now it is convenient for us because we have water in the tank.”



With the help of her grandson, Glen, the pump is set up in the canal, 70 metres away. The water is pumped uphill and into a large water tank just outside Elizabeth's front door, where it is purified and ready to use whenever she needs it.

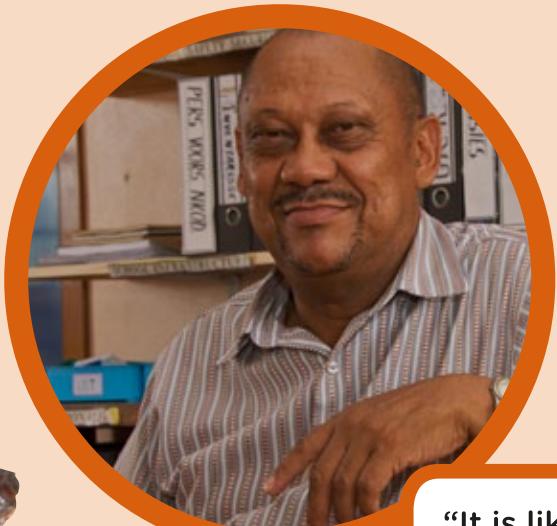


Photos: Traidcraft/Richard Else
EAC supplies raisins to Traidcraft.
Information taken from interviews in Feb 2009.

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Producer Stories: Don van Wyk

EAC, South Africa, Raisins



Don van Wyk

As well as paying for the water pumps, the Fairtrade premium means the farmers have been able to invest in new farming equipment and provide schoolbags for the children at four primary schools on the islands. Don van Wyk is principal of George Island Primary School.

“It is like manna from heaven. I can tell you the parents will be overwhelmed. Our people are so poor in this area, these things are luxuries in their eyes. People will be talking about this for weeks and months.”

