

Naftaly Kinyua Wachira

Coffee Farmer and Student at Mutira, Kenya

At 27 years old, Naftaly is balancing two demanding worlds: a university student, and a Coffee Farmer in Kirinyaga County, Kenya. Naftaly has farmed coffee since 2018, and in that short time, the conditions he relies on have changed dramatically.

*'These days you can't predict the climate,' Naftaly says. 'Earlier it was easy to know that a certain day you can apply manure, a certain day you can apply pesticide... We have periods with long seasons of rain. So, **you can't predict the climate.**'*

For coffee farmers, conditions matter. Unpredictable weather affects every decision on the farm, especially when **costs are rising**. *'During these times when the cost of fertilisers is... high, it won't be pocket-friendly. The production will be minimal, and dealing with pests can be difficult and this reduces production. The changes also affect the timings of taking care of crops.'*

The impact isn't just on crops, but on farmers themselves. **'[Climate change] makes me feel anxious,'** Naftaly says simply. *'I wouldn't want my plants to wither or dry up. I have to do something...'* Across Naftaly's community, rivers have been described as drying up, water being rationed, and families struggling to grow or afford enough food.

Through Fairtrade, Naftaly has **received training** that supports him with these challenges. **'I have planted trees. I was taught about ways for maximum production of coffee,'** he says, including *'dealing with pests and how to farm.'* He now does mulching - covering the soil with organic material to protect moisture, reduce heat stress and improve soil health - alongside pruning and organic manure to help his coffee trees cope with **changing conditions**.

With Fairtrade, he is also **diversifying his income** as a form of climate security. *'This has been helpful because when you have another source of income that you are relying on, it can be pocket-friendly,'* Naftaly says. *'You are not relying on only one source.'*

As a young farmer **still studying and making his way** in the world of coffee, Naftaly's goal is simple: *'I would like to be more adaptable when there are these changes,'* he says, focused on building his future sustainably.





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‘These days you can’t predict the climate. Earlier it was easy to know that a certain day you can apply manure, a certain day you can apply pesticide. When it is... sunny there is... interference. We have periods with long seasons of rain.’

***Naftaly Kinyua Wachira, Coffee Farmer and Student
at Mutira, Kenya***



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‘During these times, [coffee farming] won’t be pocket-friendly. The production will be minimal, and these changes dealing with pests can be difficult and this reduces production. The [climate] changes also affect the timings of taking care of crops.’

‘Naftaly Kinyua Wachira, Coffee Farmer and Student at Mutira, Kenya



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‘[Climate change] makes me feel anxious. I wouldn’t want my plants to wither or dry up. I have to do something to sustain my plants.’

Naftaly Kinyua Wachira, Coffee Farmer and Student at Mutira, Kenya



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‘[Fairtrade supported projects] train on better ways to dealing with the climate changes. Like dealing with pests, and how to farm... for maximum production of coffee’

Naftaly Kinyua Wachira, Coffee Farmer and Student at Mutira, Kenya



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'I have planted trees... and I can plant cash crops instead of food crops. This has been helpful because when you have another source of income... it can sustain you, because you are not relying on only one source.'

Naftaly Kinyua Wachira, Coffee Farmer and Student at Mutira, Kenya