

Lionel chen
Prof.Doerr
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Sugar is a commodity that we take for granted due to the high level of availability.

However, our easy access comes with a hidden price. Consumers are unaware of the environmental, social and economical impact it has on our global community. Sugar derives from a tall tropical green grass called “sugarcane” which typically grows in hot, humid climates such as Brazil, Mexico and China.

Extracting the sugar from the sugarcane is a careful process. First, farmworkers harvest sugarcane by hand chopping them down in the hot sun and cleaning the plants by removing any bugs, dirt, or pesticides (risking their health). Then the canes are grinded up to extract the juice. The juice is boiled until it thickens into syrup. Then it is put in a machine that spins it rapidly until granulated crystals form. The final step is packaging the product and shipping it to the store shelves.

While this simple process may seem innocent, it is in fact overflowing with social injustices behind the scenes. Sugar farmworkers are often taken advantage of because of their extreme economic hardship in their country that good jobs and other economic avenues are nonexistent. Instead, low income community members work for little pay because it’s the only available jobs. They are exposed to dangerous conditions including breathing in harsh chemicals and pesticides that may lead to health problems down the road such as lung disease or even cancer. Additionally, the increased consumption of sugar has encouraged large corporations to farm for more sugar. To produce more sugar farms, forests such as the Brazil Rainforest are being destroyed. Deforestation is

decimating the Rainforest on a quest to farm more sugar. The environmental impact of all this destruction is unknown but the effect on wildlife immensely is awful.

Not only are these poor country's landscapes and natural resources being taken advantage of by large corporations but they are also thriving economically without sharing any financial compensation. These large corporations set mandates of how much sugar can be imported and exported and also dictate the price that they can sell at. They control all the parameters and without morals, they take everything they can and give nothing in return. The corporations profit in the millions of dollars by extracting these countries' natural resources. They're not reciprocating the money back into these poor countries that have sacrificed their natural resources.