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HIGH TEA...



MUG'S GAME: Pricey brews

Cost of cuppa set to hit boiling point

YOUR daily cuppa could be under threat because of climate change!

Rising temperatures and extreme weather conditions in some of the world's key tea and coffee growing areas are threatening production and livelihoods — meaning the price of your cuppa could reach a record high.

The warning comes as a result of new research from Cafedirect, Ireland's Fairtrade hot drinks company, and the German Technical Co-operation that is part of a long-term joint project to help tea, coffee and cocoa growers to adapt to the devastating effects of climate change.

According to Cafedirect's Wolfgang Weinmann, in Latin America floods and hurricanes are jeopardising production and growers in East Africa have been paralysed by drought.

"Water availability, rising temperatures and extreme weather conditions are threatening production and livelihoods," he said. "This year alone, our growers in Latin America have faced

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record rains and flooding."

He said it is hitting poor smallholder growers the most as they lack the resources necessary to tackle the challenges they are already facing.

"Many have ideas on how to cope with climate change, and some have already begun their own adaptation projects, but overall there is a lack of financial and technical support to put these ideas into practice," Mr Weinmann said.

Power

The United Nations' climate negotiations kicked off yesterday in Bali, Indonesia, where Environment Minister John Gormley is representing Ireland.

The aim of the negotiations is to shape a global agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions when the Kyoto Protocol ends.

"World leaders have the power to give tea and coffee growers the support they need today to cope with a rapidly changing climate," added Mr Weinmann.