CLIMATE CHANGE

and the challenge of the Black Coffee Twig Borer
## 2017 IACO Annual Meetings
Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire, 27th November - 1st December 2017

**Theme:**
<<Sustainable Coffee Development for the Emergence of the African Economy>>

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INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION
Dear readers,

The 2016 IACO Annual Meetings held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, made key decisions, from the discussions that took place in the different meetings, held under the theme: inclusive transformation in African Coffee value chain.

In its 60 years of existence, the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) has played a very important role in African coffee industry in dealing with issues of research, production, and market access for the benefit of the small-holder farmers and the economies of the Member States. The issue of market access particularly took centre-stage during the period of administration of the coffee quota system. Since then, with regard to market access, the organisation has played more of an advocacy role as well as international coffee diplomacy. In the early to mid-1990s, IACO worked to set up the African Coffee Research Network (ACRN) to specifically address coffee research coordination and coffee production issues.

More recently, a new initiative that has been brought on board is the launching of the African Coffee Scientific Conferences. These are aimed at bringing together coffee researchers from Africa and other coffee producing regions to present papers on topical issues affecting the coffee research community, and provide a forum for discussion primarily focusing on challenges in the African coffee industry. IACO would also like to tackle issues such as climate change, breeding for resilience to adverse weather, resistance to pests and diseases, and to increase yields. In addition, access to inputs, how to increase research coverage and research impact at the farm level, high logistical costs and the effects of policy and regulatory frameworks on coffee research in Africa.

The other important event, initiated by the Secretary General upon taking up office in 2013, is the African Coffee Symposium, where four annual editions have been held so far. At the most recent one, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, it was agreed to give high priority to public-private partnerships, to increase youth involvement in the coffee value chain and to increase support to women in the coffee industry through policy incentives and the removal of the multiple obstacles they face, so as to boost production as well as consumption. It was also resolved to proactively involve the responsible officials from key ministries of the Member States, in the various IACO gatherings. In line with this strategy, the 2016 Annual Meetings resolved to open up IACO membership to African consuming (but non-producing) countries, and to amend the IACO Agreement so as to admit these countries as members of the Organization.

With the involvement of all African policy stakeholder, the proposals made at the Scientific Conferences and the Symposia will continue to be presented...
and considered by the Annual General Assembly. It is hoped that appropriate decisions will be made, and actions taken in the respective Member States regarding the removal of impediments to the transformation of the African coffee value chain. Thus, once issues of production, productivity, and quality have been improved, then Africa would be prepared to respond to global coffee demand that is projected to increase by almost 25% in the next ten years according to the International Coffee Organization (ICO).

However, to achieve that objective of increased production, productivity and higher quality, one of the major challenges that needs to be addressed is the climate change adaptation throughout the entire farming community. According to CGIAR, a Consortium of International Research Centers based in Montpellier, France, the research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) states that: “Climate Change is predicted to have adverse effects on Central America’s coffee producers. Hurricanes, and coffee leaf rust, a fungal pathogen which has caused widespread crop losses in recent years, are a prelude to future problems”. Africa too is extremely vulnerable, it is critical that projects aimed at addressing this concern are developed and implemented in the region to avert the looming disaster in Africa.

To achieve the inclusive transformation in African Coffee value chain, the issue of climate change adaptation, Africa’s appropriate response to global coffee demand and the extension of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) to African consuming non-producing countries are critical for the integration of the African coffee value chain and the emancipation of the small-holder coffee producers on the continent.

Frederick KAWUMA,
IACO Secretary General
Frederick KAWUMA, IACO Secretary General addressing the media in Yaoundé, Cameroon, after the IACO General Assembly, on 2nd December 2016

"To operate a viable coffee business, it is imperative to apply successful models."

AFRICAN COFFEE: Mr. Secretary General of IACO, what conclusion would you like to make at the close of these meetings?

Frederick KAWUMA: I would say that the 2016 Annual Meetings in Yaoundé, Cameroon, have been very successful. 17 out of the 25 Member States of the Organisation participated, making this an important event in the records of the Organisation. This signals a rekindled interest of Member States in the activities of the Organisation, by agreeing on the way forward to address the challenges facing the African coffee sector. The Yaoundé Declaration covered a wide range of issues relating to the African coffee sector, namely: policy, productivity, production and quality, cooperation between member states, domestic consumption, engagement of women and youth in the sector, and financing for the coffee industry.

We discussed matters relating to the promotion of domestic consumption in Africa, and ways to present coffee as an attractive business proposition to the youth. The idea was therefore not only to make coffee appealing in terms of consumption, but in promoting the establishment of enterprises that engage at the farm level, as well as adopting modern farming techniques, with an entrepreneurial approach. To operate a viable coffee business, it is imperative to apply the successful models that have worked elsewhere—some of which were shared during the Symposium, including the models from Vietnam where coffee farmers are known for their professionalism. Such profitable operations are good models for our young generation to adopt, with a sustainable approach to the coffee business, and chart a better future for the coffee industry in Africa. The Symposium therefore covered various issues from research, production, trading, processing, to the trend of coffee consumption within Africa, and what needed to be done to address constraints in all these areas. Thus, the 4th African Coffee Symposium provided a forum for discussions, out of which came very helpful insights into the future.

AC: How can you help African farmers to benefit from the Vietnam example?

FK: Sharing the story is important, but it is also critical to look at the key success factors which contributed to Vietnam attaining the current
KEY HIGHLIGHTS / FACE TO FACE

level of production. First, education is a significant factor. We have been informed that Vietnamese farmers are well educated and professional. For instance, in the event of a disease of pest outbreak on a farm, they handle it professionally by immediately contacting the extension officer. Sometimes, they would take a video of the incident on the farm, circulate it, and seek help from experts who are familiar with such problems. Another factor which contributed to the success of the Vietnam coffee sector is irrigation, where farmers drill boreholes on their farms to draw water for irrigation, rather than depend entirely on rainfall as African farmers do. Unlike African coffee farmers, the Vietnamese have a professional approach towards coffee farming. While sharing such experiences is important, it would be commendable for African farmers to apply the lessons from Vietnam. Farmers could be sponsored to pay farmer-visits to places like Vietnam, Colombia or Brazil, to study how professional coffee farming can be implemented back home. To maximise the sharing of experiences, it might be possible to make these arrangements at the continental/regional or sub-regional levels, depending on the protocol of cooperation that is pursued for farmers from different countries. There is the possibility for bilateral engagement through the Ministry of Agriculture, Coffee Authority and farmer groups in each respective country (such as Cameroon) to be supported in collaboration with, for example, the Vietnamese Government and the Vietnamese coffee association. However, coordinating such visits at the regional level would ensure that the Vietnamese counterparts are not inundated with requests from different countries, which could prove counter-productive. It might be possible for IACO to arrange for a group of people from each sub-region to travel together, so that issues of language and common problems might enhance the sharing of experiences across different Member States.

AC: What would be the main focus of your new 4-year mandate?

FK: The main focus will be on: (1) To ensure that we address the issue of productivity in Africa—where we have to address the key factors, build partnerships with different institutions, and partners who are currently involved in separate efforts to increase productivity. Thus, productivity in Africa is critical to the resurgence of the African coffee industry. We will focus on building partnerships, because IACO does not have the financial resources to address this problem, but we can take advantage of global networks, and see how the different partnerships can help us to move forward. (2) We are targeting at setting up the Africa Coffee Fund in the course of 2017, which will be buttressed by the partnership development mentioned earlier. The establishment of this Fund will provide members with access to financing in addressing the various constraints in the African coffee value chain. Partnership development will be an important aspect in the process of establishing the Fund. (3) The construction of the new IACO headquarters in Abidjan will be another important activity during the new mandate, and is expected to be a centre of excellence for the African coffee industry. The IACO headquarters, as the home for African coffee, will be a place where all players in the African coffee value chain will be able to refer to as the African Coffee Embassy. Once completed, the headquarters will also house a coffee academy where regional training will be conducted for various professionals in the African coffee value chain. It will also include a conference centre which would be used for important gatherings of the African coffee industry. It is expected to become an important venue for international meetings, and international activities around coffee, which will give pride to Africa.

AC: How can Africa solve problems created by cultural barriers?

FK: We acknowledge the existence of cultural barriers. The challenges are bigger in some countries than in others, and the different countries have had varying degrees of success in dealing with this. Regarding the role of women in agriculture, land ownership is reported to be a common challenge. A woman might be engaged in farming, yet having no right to own the land she cultivates. In countries like Uganda, this problem has been addressed through the constitutional approach, where it is the constitutional right of women to own land. During the Symposium discussions, it was evident that as long as a woman was able to earn her own income, she could buy land, and if there were no cultural or other restrictions to land ownership by women, access to land ownership could be overcome by a woman’s earning ability.

From one of the presentations at the Symposium, an example of a gender-balanced approach in Uganda was shared by a representative of the Neumann Foundation,
and affirmation of this approach in Côte d’Ivoire was given by a participant from Côte d’Ivoire, where the Ugandan experience had been shared and adopted by Ivorian coffee and cocoa farmers. The Neumann Foundation initiated some training in East Africa where husband and wife were encouraged to work as a family unit, and the men implored to treat women as equal partners in coffee industry. It was noted that if this was adopted in different African countries, it would lead to overcoming a significant cultural barrier.

Of course, this might not be achieved over-night, or even in one year, but once the process is set in motion and the experiences—with success stories—are shared between countries (say Côte d’Ivoire and Cameroon), a transformation could begin to take place. Achievements in Côte d’Ivoire could be applied in Cameroon where farmers could learn from that experience, and in the case of the Ugandan experience being shared with others in the East African region. During the Symposium discussions, it was noted that this could help equalize existing gender barriers if applied in certain communities in Kenya. Some of the problems may be very similar in the different African countries, and the sharing of experiences could be of great help. This also applies to farm-level cultural practices (including agronomic practices) that might need radical transformation.

AC: What about access to planting materials and the use of fertilizers?

FK: Seedlings, or planting materials, are a big challenge in all the coffee growing countries. In order to have high productivity, a farmer must plant seedlings that have been screened by researchers or agronomy experts and certified as high yielding and disease-free. Many farmers just plant whatever they come across in the bush or garden, some of which might be varieties of low efficiency and yield. It is however true that research is on-going at coffee research stations in various countries where new varieties are being developed, some of which have been shown to have very high yields in the experimental plots and field trials. The challenge, however, is to get these technologies from the research environment to the farmers and for such coffee to be grown commercially with the application of the same treatment (agronomic practice and inputs). The effective transfer of disease and pest-resistant, drought tolerant, high yielding varieties from the research station to the farmer is what is needed.

However, the multiplication and transfer of this material to the level of the farmer is believed to be one of the biggest challenges in all African coffee producing countries. The use tissue-culture technology, particularly for Robusta coffee multiplication is a possible option to be considered, because of the potential to achieve a high output, with millions of plantlets, and thus more availability of planting materials. This has been used in Uganda, and helped to meet the high demand for planting materials. Notwithstanding, one could have a very good variety, but if it is not well managed at the farm, it would soon become susceptible to pests and diseases, or suffer from drought if there is no irrigation. Thus, farm management practices are very critical, and farmers must have access to inputs, but they must also know how to apply such inputs, because the application of the fertilizers must target specific deficiencies in soil nutrients.

The availability of extension services is critical, and each Member State has to specifically address all these issues if high farm-level productivity
is to be achieved. The level of commitment, existence of a coffee policy and the implementation of a coffee sector strategy by the individual Member States, is what will make a difference from one coffee producing country to another. IACO, if invited, could participate in the process, but each Member State is encouraged to identify these issues and address them objectively in order to attain the targeted results.

AC: Why is it that despite positive global market prospects and relatively good international coffee prices, African farmers are not responding positively to increase the production? Why are Africans not going back to the farms?

FK: You know, focusing on the price alone can be misleading. Our focus needs to be on coffee sustainability. While the price might look good, producers with low farm yields are struggling to make ends meet. In his presentation at the Symposium, the Managing Director of the Cameroon Coffee and Cocoa Board (CCCB/ONCC) pointed out that what is most important is for a farmer to have high productivity at the farm level, in order to have significant revenue from an increased volume of production. Regardless of the price level, if an African coffee farmer harvests only 300 kgs per hectare, because of low yields and low productivity, while his/her counterpart in Vietnam obtains three (3) tons per hectare, the African producer is not competitive and will remain poor because the earnings will be low and the production unsustainable. Prices, though important, will fluctuate from year to year, but when a farmer is professional, there is also the possibility of links into price-risk management mechanisms which could be accessed through a cooperative, or through some downstream partners in the value chain. Thus, looking at the price alone is not sufficient, but must be combined with efficiency at the production level, so that high quality and high farm-level productivity will lead to a sustainable coffee industry.

AC: Does this mean that African farmers should continue to produce coffee?

FK: African farmers must continue to produce coffee because, as a result of the increasing demand from new markets, there is a projected deficit in the market of up to 60 million bags in the next 15 to 30 years. Global coffee companies are looking for a reliable supply of high quality coffee in significant quantities, and most African countries fall short of this. We must therefore make our origins attractive by presenting ourselves as viable suppliers. This is a sure way of drawing the attention of such partners, and to showing that we can close the gap in the projected supply shortfall.

The question asked in board rooms across the globe, by both traders and roasters, is how coffee deficit is going to be resolved. Where will the coffee come from? This is a great opportunity for Africa. Consequently, African farmers most adopt more efficient practices and produce more coffee, by adopting an entrepreneurial approach where coffee farming is managed as a business. It does not mean that African farmers should encroach on forests, but rather improve the efficiency of the existing farms. For example, if a farmer is currently producing 600 kgs from two hectares, the adoption of appropriate technology and operational efficiency achieving 2000 kg per ha could lead to a yield of 4 tons, which is more than six (6) times the current productivity. Imagine if Cameroonian farmers (and those in other Member States) were to achieve productivity that is 5-6 times the current level, it could spark off a revolution in the coffee sector in Cameroon and in the respective African producing countries.

All said and done, imagine the enterprise level transformation and macro-economic implications—if the African coffee value chain became more integrated, developed with more added value—how livelihoods would be transformed all across Africa!

Interview conducted by Joseph KAPO, on 2nd December 2016 in Yaoundé, Cameroon

INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION
The Yaoundé Declaration
—2nd December, 2016—

Ms. Nancy CHERUIYOT, reading out the Yaoundé Declaration.


The Annual Meetings were officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon, with the keynote address delivered by Dr. B.O. Oramah, President and Chairman of Afreximbank.

- In view of the importance of the coffee industry in Africa, particularly in terms of direct job creation and the livelihoods of more than twelve million (12 million) households;
- Recognising the need for a Development Facility to boost the coffee industry in Africa;
- Considering the need for African coffee producing countries to develop strategies to reduce poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups and in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Given the need for African coffee producing countries to work in partnership with various actors to reverse the decline in the African coffee industry; and
- In order to revitalise the industry, to become competitive on the global market and to benefit coffee small holders with low incomes;

Urgent measures must be taken to unlock the huge potential of the African coffee industry.

Accordingly, the following key actions need to be taken by Governments of Member States:

i. Policy and Governance:
- Strengthen and support the development of Public Private Partnerships;
- Support implementation of a coffee development strategy in each Member State.

ii. Productivity, Production and Quality:
- Build coffee research capacity in Member States;
- Improve productivity, production, quality and added value in a sustainable way;
- Invigorate activity at the Regional Tasting Centres.

iii. Cooperation between Member Countries:
- Sign conventions and agreements between coffee Research Institutes in Member States to exchange technologies and improved planting material.

iv. Funding the Coffee Industry:
- Create an enabling environment to access relevant funding and technology in the coffee value chain;
- Facilitate the creation or support the improvement of coffee producer organisations;
- Support the African Coffee Facility;
- Facilitate access to credit for the coffee value chain operators.

v. Domestic Processing and Consumption:
- Explore the possibilities and establish incentives to promote domestic consumption;
- Build infrastructure to support the development of the coffee industry;
- Support the development of human capital (training, coaching, education, and health);
- Enhance and support efforts in the promotion of domestic coffee consumption.

vi. Gender and Youth:
- Establish incentives to integrate women and youth in order to promote a sustainable coffee value chain.

vii. Community Development:
- Involve communities, coffee producers to better identify their needs;
- Inform and sensitize communities on the content of different interventions.
The second Coffee Scientific Conference was held on Monday 28, November 2016, at Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé, Cameroon as part of the Annual Meetings of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO). It consisted of four sessions and sub-themes.

1. FIRST SESSION

This Session, moderated by Doctor Christian CILAS, focused on two themes:

- Actions taken to increase productivity, production and quality of Arabica coffee in East Africa; and
- Achievements of agricultural research for sustainable coffee cultivation in West and Central Africa.

The first sub-theme, moderated by Dr. Charles AGWANDA of CABI AFRICA, discussed the downtrend in African coffee productivity and the factors associated with it. To solve this problem, the following proposals were made:

- Provide better training for producers;
- Take into account pedoclimatic benefits (climate-intelligent agriculture);
- Appropriate climate-intelligent crops;
- Facilitate access to finance;
- Organise producers into cooperative associations; and
- Promote access to land for young people and women.

The second sub-theme, moderated by Dr. MOUEN BEDIMO from IRAD, pointed out that coffee production in West and Central Africa is not sustainable with low productivity and lack of promotion of domestic consumption of coffee.

Despite a number of achievements, coffee research faces several challenges, i.e.:

- Coherence of research programmes;
- Rural land issues;
- Access to credit;
- Funding and support for research; and
- Access to inputs.

2. SECOND SESSION

Two presentations were made at the second session which was chaired by Dr Morris AKIRI of CABI AFRICA. The report of the Working Group on Coffee Preservation Strategy was presented, followed by “Global Coffee Preservation Strategy” by Dr. Paula BRAMEL of Global Crop Diversity Trust, in collaboration with...
with Dr. C. MONTAGNON, both from World Coffee Research (WCR). The following recommendations were made:

• Capitalise achievements and innovations in preservation methods;
• Effective dissemination of research findings through all scientific networks in the coffee sector;
• Establish a collection of available prototype plant material for member countries of the Network;
• Create a network for exchange of research findings;
• Improve preservation and use of collections for sustainable development;
• Create a unique fund to develop innovative strategies in coffee research; and
• Create a genetic information bank for plant regeneration.

THIRD SESSION
Moderated by Dr. Francis Kofi OPPONG from Ghana COCOBOD, the third session consisted of two interventions and a working group report:

• ACRN Strategic Review and New Missions, presented by Mr. Harro BOEKHOLD and assisted by John SCHLUTER, both from Café Africa; and

The first item dealt with the presentation of ACRN organisational audit. It emerged that ACRN’s current structure hinders effectiveness of its actions and governance. A repositioning is needed and the lines of action discussed in group work were:

• Clearly define activities and specify performance indicators;
• Move from short-term to long-term objectives;
• Organise short interval meetings; and
• Position ACRN as a Project Executing Agency.

At the end of the group work, the following recommendations were made:

• Designate a contact person per ACRN member country whose role is to disseminate information and projects;
• Contact persons should link up quarterly by videoconference;
• Develop projects and search funding with IACO countries;
• Lobby financial donors;
• Create a contact group of up to five people from different coffee producing regions;
• Meet once a year to organize ACRN meetings and IACO General Assembly;
• The Coordinator should not be involved in Project Execution, but in dissemination of Project information and should organise scientific conferences; and
• Update objectives in line with needs of member countries.
FOURTH SESSION

Moderated by Dr Joseph MOUEN BEDIMO, the fourth session had a presentation on a fundamental question: "How to organize the next scientific conferences on African coffee?"

This question raised a debate on:

• Relevance of scientific conferences;
• How to finance conferences;
• Periodicity and duration of conferences;
• Need for IACO specific scientific journal to publish research findings and make them available to African coffee producers in particular; and
• Create a Scientific Committee to be in charge of the presentation of relevant themes for different conferences.

After discussions, the following recommendations were made:

• Define relevant and attractive themes for the Conference;
• Organise a 2 to 3-day Scientific Conference every two years to allow participants to share their experience;
• Identify a scientific bulletin in which research findings presented during Scientific Conferences can be published while the process of creating a special bulletin to publish research findings is underway;
• Focus the Scientific Conference on African Coffee. However, researchers from countries outside Africa may be invited to share their experience;
• Find financial means to assure logistics to participants in conferences; and
• Set up a Scientific Committee responsible for proposing themes for conferences and analyse different presentation proposals.
The black coffee twig borer (BCTB), *Xylosandrus compactus* (Eichhoff) is currently one of the most important insect pests attacking coffee in Uganda. The pest is believed to have originated from south Asia but currently distributed worldwide in coffee growing regions. On the African continent, BCTB has been reported in West, Central, Southern regions whereas in the Great Lakes region, it continues to rapidly spread to several countries including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. More than 5 million smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes region depend on coffee growing, therefore this epidemic is likely to cause a profound impact on their livelihood if not managed. In Uganda, the pest was first reported in 1993 in the western district of Bundibugyo which borders the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This coincided in place and time with the advent of coffee wilt disease (CWD). However, a number of outbreaks or resurgences have been reported thereafter in the various parts of the country particularly, in the Robusta coffee growing regions. The rapid spread of this pest within and between coffee plantations is due to its high prolific reproductive and dispersal capacity. The female beetle has been reported to have the ability to produce about 20 off-springs within a month. It can also fly for more than 200 meters in a single flight but during windy conditions, it can cover up to 500 meters.

Research conducted in Uganda shows that the twig borer prefers Robusta to Arabica coffee, though it can attack both coffee types. In addition, the pest attacks more than 200 plant host species worldwide, whereas research in Uganda confirms more than 50 plant species as alternate hosts of the *X. compactus*. These include important commercial crops such as cocoa and tea as well as tree and food species such as umbrella tree (*Measopsis eminii*), albizia (*Albizia chinensis*), markhamia (*Markhamia lutea*) and avocado (*Persea americana*). Incidentally, most of these alternate plant hosts are usually deliberately or not introduced and/or maintained in the coffee gardens by the farmers. This scenario therefore presents a management challenge to the farmers – whether to eliminate the alternate plant hosts so as to protect their coffee or to maintain them for other positive attributes such as food, timber, firewood etc.

Damage is caused by the female beetle which bores into the berry-bearing primary branches (twigs), causing them to wilt and die within a few weeks. This might be due to either (i) the physical damage in the attacked galleries which prohibit movement of water and nutrients along the plant and/or (ii) pathogenicity of the ambrosia fungus, *Fusarium solani* introduced in the galleries by the female beetle for feeding its larvae. The infested twigs thus do not produce berries and this results into loss in yield and therefore farmers’ income and the national revenues. The latest study conducted in Uganda in 2016 revealed a damage of 9.6% of the twigs and this can be translated into 9.6% loss in the country’s coffee production and export volumes valued at US$45 million in the coffee year. However, a more detailed economic study demonstrating the loss caused by this pest needs to be done.

*X. compactus* therefore presents a big research challenge due to a number of reasons. First of all, the pest is relatively new in Uganda and thus, limited information exists. Secondly, the pest has a very high prolific reproductive and dispersal capacity. The female beetle has been reported to have the ability to produce about 20 off-springs within a month. It can also fly for more than 200 meters in a single flight but during windy conditions, it can cover up to 500 meters.

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*X. compactus* therefore presents a big research challenge due to a number of reasons. First of all, the pest is relatively new in Uganda and thus, limited information exists. Secondly, the pest has a very high prolific reproductive and dispersal capacity, spreading rapidly within and between coffee fields. Thirdly, the fact that it has a wide plant host range and its cryptic nature – spending most of its entire lifespan inside the host gallery with females only emerging out to locate new gallery or host, make control by available measures such as using pesticides extremely difficult. These constraints are coupled with the limited sharing of research experience and competence as well as poor communication and replication of these findings at country, regional and global level are major challenges. This therefore calls for stronger collaboration, linkages, networks and partnerships between the various stakeholders. This will
lead to stronger and more coordinated regional surveillance and information exchange, up- and out-scaling of research findings as well as monitoring and evaluation, and, thus, better utilization of resources.

In order to address the epidemic, the National Coffee Research Institute (NaCORI) of the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) of Uganda has mainly concentrated on: (i) mapping out the distribution and impact of the pest so as to limit its spread and damage to other non-infested areas, (ii) identifying the bio-ecological factors driving its population and damage in order to develop sustainable management strategies and, (iii) developing an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy for the twig borer since no strategy is able to control the pest. A package relying on cultural options has been developed and being promoted in Uganda. Farmers are advised to (i) plant non-infested seedlings, (ii) regularly inspect their gardens and in case they see wilting and drying twigs with the characteristic entry hole, they should trim off and burn the infested material, (iii) minimize ‘bushiness’ in coffee field planting both coffee and shade trees at recommended spacing, timely pruning and removal of suckers, (iv) eliminate alternate plant host species for X. compactus within and in vicinity of coffee fields, and (v) enhance coffee plant nutrition by applying fertilizers and/or manures, conserving moisture and minimizing soil loss/erosion. Though this strategy has registered tremendous success where farmers apply it, cultural options are usually tedious, labor intensive and require a community-based approach in order to be effective.

In conclusion, the black coffee twig borer is an emerging global concern threatening the existence of coffee and thus income of the farmers. This therefore calls for global methodologies and approaches in order to manage it. This should embrace aspects like sharing of research findings and experience, formation of stronger linkages and networks so as to allow focused coordination as well as replication of research findings at global level.
The 4th African Coffee Symposium of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) was held on 29th November 2016 at Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé, Cameroon, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bello Bouba MAIGARI, Minister of State, Minister of Tourism and Leisure of the Republic of Cameroon, representing the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

Under the theme: “Inclusive Value Chain Transformation in African Coffee Industry”, the symposium was organised into the following four sessions:

**FIRST SESSION**

Moderated by Mr. Michael NDOPING, Managing Director of the National Cocoa and Coffee Board of Cameroun (ONCC-NCCB), the session was divided into three sub-themes:

- **Performances on African Exports**;
- **Status of Coffee Exports in DRC**, and
- **Actions undertaken to increase coffee productivity, production and coffee quality in Africa: case of the fight against Black Coffee Twig Borer (Xylosandrus Compactus) in Uganda**.

The first sub-theme, presented by Dr. Denis SEUDIEU from ICO, focused on African coffee exports that have experienced a significant downward trend since 1990 compared to the Asian and Oceania countries. To enable Africa to reposition itself on the global market, the following proposals were made:

- Increase productivity;
- Adopt new technologies; and
- Improve competitiveness by finding niche markets.

The second sub-theme, presented by Mr. Kambalé K. KAMUNGELE, focused on the DRC’s experience in Coffee Export. After a brief overview of the current status of the coffee sector and his country’s potential for coffee, he stated that Congolese Coffee will become competitive within five years.

However, there are still challenges to address, namely:

- Lack of funding; and
- Deterioration in terms of trade.

To meet these challenges, we must:

- Develop public-private partnerships and international cooperation;
- Involve the youth to boost production and consumption; and
- Implement tax incentive policies.

A presentation on the third sub-theme was made by Dr. Godfrey Kagezi, NACORI, Uganda, on how to control diseases that affect coffee and particularly the infection caused by Black Coffee Twig Borer (Xylosandrus Compactus) in Uganda. After a description of the destructive nature of the insect, he presented the status of research on eco-biological control by using alcohol and insecticide traps, identification of diseases and insects that can prevent the Borer from expanding its destruction zone.

The challenges are:

- Identify all pest species;
- Identify all diseases which attack the coffee tree;
- Identify the different modes of propagation and transmission of the Borer.

To meet these challenges, it was recommended to:

**Input Supply and Quality Control, Ethiopia**

Fikru AMENU HORA

A presentation on the fourth sub-theme was made by Fikru Amenu Hora from Ethiopia, on Input Supply and Quality Control in African Coffee Industry.
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

- Create cooperation bridges between states;
- Create a regional network for the control of this insect;
  - Mobilize funding;
  - Develop strategies; and
- Assess the impact of the Borer’s ravages.

SECOND SESSION

Moderated by Mr. Kilama LAJUL, Secretary of UCDA, Uganda, this session focused on the following two sub-themes:

- Promoting Inter-African Cooperation: How to strengthen cooperation between IACO member states in the quest for transforming the African Coffee Value Chain;
- Global Coffee Market: Short-term volatility, long-term opportunity for African producers.

The first sub-theme, moderated by Mr. John SCHLUTER of Café Africa (Switzerland), focused on reconciliation between current production and potential demand for coffee by 2030. In order to cope with the decline in production in African countries, a number of measures should be taken:

- Strengthening public-private partnership;
- Improving production and productivity by creating a new generation of producers;
- Establishing an international platform that could serve as a bridge between producers and consumers;
- Mobilising substantial funds; and
- Involving Finance Ministers in IACO different meetings.

Mr. Abah OFON of Agri-Money Ltd, UK who presented the second sub-theme, explained that the global coffee market situation is marked by volatility in global prices.

To hinder this situation, Africa should:

- Strengthen its domestic consumption
- Develop its strategy to access niche markets, including the Japanese market;
- Resolve the lack of information on financial market; and
- Mitigate effects of speculation on financial markets.

Panel 1 comprised an introduction on “Funding the African Coffee Industry,” by Mrs. Nancy CHERUIYOT of Kenya Commodities Fund followed by three other presentations by Aïnina AIDARA from the Financial Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), Benedict KANU from AfDB.
and Itong Eric MONCHU from AFREXIMBANK. These three speakers gave an update of their financial support to the coffee sector and the prospects for medium-term funding. In partnership with IACO, the AfDB is setting up an African Coffee Facility whose main objective is to meet the growing demand for coffee.

After discussions, the following recommendations were made:

- Fund to boost production;
- Change the mindset of stakeholders in the sector;
- Stabilize the socio-political environment;
- Improve the quality of inputs; and
- Establish an effective communication and marketing strategy.

THIRD SESSION

Her Excellency Josefa SACKO, former Secretary General of IACO, moderated under the theme “Producer Capacity Building.” The following three sub-themes were presented:

- Improving coffee consumption by value chain development: case of Cameroon;
- Challenges of domestic coffee processing and agribusiness incubation models; and
- Boosting Coffee Productivity in Africa: Lessons from the Vietnam Experience, Nestlé, Neumann Kaffe, WCR.

African countries have developed many strategies to improve domestic coffee consumption.

In Cameroon, integrating coffee consumption into food habits through synergy of roaster activities, capacity building, fundraising, and improvement of coffee packaging, are among measures undertaken by the Cocoa and Coffee Inter-Professional Council (CICC).

Kenya based its local coffee promotion strategy on the youth. The idea is to involve young people in coffee growing and consumption and to provide them with the necessary funding.

Ethiopia, the leading producer in Africa, consumes half of its coffee by tradition that dates back centuries, by developing multiple consumption points across the country and by extension, to some European markets. These actions are based on quality competitions between roasters, capacity building sessions, involvement of the youth through training and project funding.

As a prerequisite for the promotion of domestic consumption, Côte d’Ivoire has acknowledged the necessity to revitalize its plantations to increase production. Like Cameroon and Ethiopia, the Government plans to install coffee kiosks in administrations, municipalities of Abidjan, and across the country.

In Uganda, the domestic consumption strategy is being renewed. This strategy owes its success to a rigorous planning process. Coffee, a main source of foreign exchange, has been replaced by tourism, which is also a boon for coffee promotion. Emphasis is put on coffee consumption so that it competes with tea. The goal is to cover the entire value chain. Local consumption will ultimately help to assess and improve coffee quality and label to invest in other promising markets.

In Nigeria, the local coffee consumption strategy is directed at its large population. In order to convince Nigerians to consume coffee, a communication strategy on coffee virtues oriented towards opinion leaders including religious dignitaries, traditional, administrative and political authorities has been developed. However, scientific research to identify other virtues of coffee are ongoing.

In conclusion, the following proposals were made:

- Improve the capacity of small producers to adapt to new technologies;
- Multiply coffee points;
- Develop quality label;
- Develop a promotion plan;
- Establish a broad domestic consumer market on the continent and explore new markets, such as China;
- Involve the youth and women in coffee production and consumption;
- Involve the private sector in the production chain;
- Create and strengthen producer organisations; and
Panel 3 highlighted key elements to boost productivity in Africa, such as experiences of Vietnam, Ghana and Tanzania. However, challenges to be addressed include:

- Professionalization, organisation and supervision of producers;
- Adoption of high-yielding varieties and development of intensive crops;
- Development of public-private partnership and setting up of an inclusive Platform between different stakeholders;
- The creation of socio-economic incentives for producers, including favorable credit conditions and input subsidies;
- Solving the problem of land ownership;
- Producers’ adherence to new strategies for better productivity;
- Defining and implementing effective government policies;
- Support to producer organisations;
- Creation of extension networks for crop innovations;
- Producer capacity building;
- Adaptation to climate change and the fight against deforestation, diseases and pests; and
- Diversification of crops.

FOR FOURTH SESSION

Under the theme “Youth and Women’s Mobilisation for a Sustainable Coffee Industry in Africa and Community Development”, this session was moderated by the Dr. Nanga COULIBALY of the Coffee-Cocoa Council of Côte d’Ivoire.

The problem of aging African coffee producers requires the active involvement and mobilisation of women and the youth, Africa will have to:

- Establish an effective policy of changing attitudes that integrates gender approach;
- Facilitate access to production factors, e.g. funding and land;
- Encourage the sharing of human resources between countries;
- Integrate women in coffee production value chain;
- Establish a link between coffee and other aspects such as economic profitability, ecotourism;
- Create related services for youth around coffee sector;
- Encourage the use of ICT in this sector to attract young people.

For interconnection between coffee production and the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), we need better production, better extension services, better marketing and public-private sector partnership Platform.

- Gender promotion and integration;
- Mobilisation of the youth in coffee production;
- Availability of inputs;
- Development of scientific research;
- Involvement of producers in the creation of varieties;
- Development of traceability of processed products;
- Development of a holistic approach; and
- Definition of a legal framework for investment in coffee industry.
The legend tells us that KALDI, a young shepherd from the highlands of Ethiopia, one day noticed the energizing effect of the small bright red berries growing in the lush bushes on his flock. He chewed some in his turn and, felt the same sensation. Impressed by the effect, he brought some berries to the monks of a nearby monastery. The religious people, expressing their disagreement, threw the berries into fire from which a strong and intense aroma was instantly released. The roasted berries were quickly removed, ground and dissolved in hot water. The first cup of coffee was born.

The introduction of coffee to America marked the beginning of a mass production for the upper as well as middle class. However, it was the invention of NESCAFE instant coffee by NESTLE, the Swiss agribusiness in 1938, that coffee became widely accessible to all for the first time. NESCAFE was even an integral part of the Allied Forces daily rations during the World War II.

Today, coffee is the second largest global commodity after oil. It is also one of the most consumed beverages globally. In fact, about 400 billion cups of coffee are drunk every year.

(An Extract from IGNITE Programme in 2012)
On January 4, 2017, the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) officially announced the sad and unexpected demise of its Executive Director, Mr Robério Oliveira Silva who passed away at his home in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on December 30, 2016.

Born in 1963, M. Robério Oliveira Silva graduated in Economics from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and immediately entered the sector of commodities, especially coffee.

For 25 years, almost half of his life, he worked in the public and private sectors as Director of Coffee Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, and the Department of Commodities at the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade. He was Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex), Secretary General of the Brazilian Federation of Coffee Exporters and of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries, before being elected as Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in 2011.

Under his mandate, ICO had welcomed 11 new Members and discussions were underway with several potential members. Robério addressed issues related to climate change and encouraged collaboration with public-private sectors and, gender equality by facilitating the participation of the International Women of Alliance.

He also supported the initiative of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), for the establishment of the Africa Coffee Facility, a genuine instrument for financing projects regarding the development of the coffee industry in Africa. Robério launched the review of ICO strategic goals to meet the current challenges encountered by coffee industry. Finally, he generated savings that stabilized members’ contributions over several years and, organized three major world coffee conferences.

The Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) pays tribute to Robério Oliveira Silva for his exceptional dedication to the global coffee community in general, and particularly, to the African Coffee industry.

By: IACO Communication Department
PICTURES OF THE 4TH AFRICAN COFFEE SYMPOSIUM

A View of Participants at the Symposium.

From left to right: Frederick KAWUMA, IACO Secretary General, Christopher KIBANZANGA, Ugandan Minister of State for Agriculture and, Benedict KANU, ADB.

Dominic KAMANAN (Programme Director).

Haro BOEKKOLD (left) and John SCHLUFTER (right) of Café Africa.

Michael N’DOPING (Managing Director, ONCC/NCCB, and IACO’s SG) left.

Eric MONCHU (Afreximbank) right, and Frederick KAWUMA SG of IACO.

Michael N’DOPING (Managing Director, ONCC/NCCB), right, and Frederick KAWUMA SG of IACO.

Dr. Abraham AKPERTEY (GHANA COCOA BOARD), right, and the Ugandan Minister of State for Agriculture.

Nina AIDAAR (FAST), right and IACO Secretary General, left.

Abah OFON (AGRI MONEY), right, and IACO’s SG.
PICTURES OF THE 4TH AFRICAN COFFEE SYMPOSIUM

A panel conducted here by H.E. Josefa SACKO, former IACO Secretary General 2nd from left to right.

A view of participants at the Symposium.

H.E. Leonel Correia Josefa SACKO, IACO Former Secretary General.

Family Photo.

Benedict KANU (AfDB).

Hon. Christopher KIBANZANGA, Minister of State for Agriculture, Uganda.