Sustainable Coffee for a Prosperous Economy
This symposium and a series of complementary activities will provide insights into innovative opportunities necessary for the sustainability of coffee in Africa.

**Date:** 24th - 25th November 2015

**Venue:** Luanda, Republic of Angola

The presenters and panellists will include high level personalities from Africa and elsewhere.
Dear readers,

In the 2013 issue of African Coffee, we expressed regret for the long absence of a regular publication, noting that the last edition, N°44, was published in November 1995. The current edition, N°46, will present the gist of the Premier African Coffee Symposium held in Lomé in November 2013, during the 53rd Annual General Assembly and the Second African Coffee Symposium held in Kampala, Uganda in November 2014, during the 54th Annual General Assembly.

At the First African Coffee Symposium held under the theme “The Position and Potential of African Coffee”, a series of presentations were made on the status of the African coffee industry. From the presentations, it was highlighted that the founding fathers of our Member States had great foresight in the creation of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) in December 1960. The great challenge is to build on that dream, in order to position Africa strategically in the global coffee value chain.

The various speakers and presenters at the First Symposium unanimously asserted that challenges being faced by most of the countries were similar with regards to the value chain, namely, low productivity, lack of quality orientation, lack of policy alignment to support the sector, inadequacy of funding for research and extension services, and the absence of a system for exchange of genetic materials. Furthermore, it was reported that there was a lack of reliable statistics, inadequate promotion and low domestic consumption (except for Ethiopia). As a solution to addressing these challenges, the African coffee producing countries were urged to “focus on creating an enabling environment that promotes Public–Private Partnerships, and support agricultural Organizations and local investors in the African coffee sector.” Development partners and financial institutions were specifically called upon to give special attention to the agricultural sector in general, and the coffee sector in particular, in addressing the dire needs of the African coffee industry.

The Second African Coffee Symposium organized under the theme “Unlocking the Potential of the African Coffee Industry,” concluded that world coffee consumption was expected to outstrip production in the foreseeable future, with Africa being earmarked as the next frontier of coffee production. It was also noted that Robusta coffee
could attain 50% of the total global coffee production in a few years, thereby calling for the differentiation of Robustas. To achieve better results for the producers, it is crucial that IACO Members develop strategies to efficiently guide this process. It was acknowledged that although most African Governments, in partnership with the private sector, have instituted policies and strategies aimed at enhancing coffee production, more needed to be done.

It has been generally acknowledged that African coffee production systems are inefficient, and take no advantage of the unique attributes of African coffees, including the diverse agro-ecological conditions under which coffee is grown and the high genetic diversity available in Africa. Recommendation was made for IACO Member States to establish a protocol for exchange of genetic materials. Considering that African smallholder coffee farmers are faced with a host of challenges that render them unsustainable, a public-private partnership approach is urgently needed, including a strategy encompassing the entire value chain.

The Uganda Coffee Platform was acknowledged as a good example for other Member States, and was applauded as a good public/private sector initiative for revitalizing and improving coffee production in Africa, whose membership could also target influential opinion leaders such as cultural institutions.

If there is to be an expansion in African coffee production in the next five to ten years, the issue of sustainability of the African producers is critical, and has to be addressed. IACO’s new initiative, known as the Africa Sustainable Coffee Partnership, drawing participation of the African Development Bank, the ICO, IDH-Sustainable Coffee Initiative, coffee roasters and traders, AFCA and ACRAM-the latter two representing the African private sector-is aimed at addressing sustainability issues in the entire coffee value chain in Africa. With support from AfDB, an Africa Coffee Fund is to be established to help in addressing key issues including capacity building, value chain improvement and access to finance.

In conclusion, it is important to note that this year’s IACO annual meetings (ACRN, 3rd African Coffee Symposium and 55th Annual General Assembly) scheduled to be held in Luanda, Angola, from 23rd to 27th November 2015, will reflect on “Youth, Gender Empowerment and the Future of Africa’s Coffee Industry”

Independence square, Lomé (Togo)
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INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION

African Coffee
Periodical of the Inter-African Coffee Organization - IACO

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The Secretary General called upon AfDB to provide specific support in the development of the African Coffee industry, in order to address the industry’s lack of competitiveness in the face of global competition, and the inability to effectively respond to the growing global demand for coffee. The Secretary General made a specific request to the AfDB President for the Bank’s support in the establishment of a partnership between the European Trade and Industry (coffee roasters and trade-houses), IACO and AfDB, to support the African smallholder coffee producers. The Secretary General shared with the AfDB President the vision of the establishment of an African Sustainable Coffee Partnership which aims at bringing expertise together to support the transformation of the African coffee production by improving efficiency, productivity and quality, and promoting value addition and value chain improvements that would enhance domestic consumption and promote increased investment in coffee growing economies. The Secretary General made a special request to the Bank to assist...
in the establishment of a Special Facility (Fund) that would support the development of African coffee smallholders, to specifically address the constraints that made African producers uncompetitive, and work towards a sustainable African coffee industry that would be capable of effectively responding to the increasing global demand for coffee. The Secretary General, also requested the President to personally address the private sector partners in Europe (coffee roasters and traders) on this matter, which he accepted.

At the beginning of the year, on 5th January 2015, the Secretary General received Mr. Khalilou TRAORE, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry, for discussions on IACO’s cooperation with ECOWAS in the promotion of private sector development in the coffee sector in the ECOWAS region. In 2012, IACO made a special request to ECOWAS for a project to support the rehabilitation of the coffee sectors of Liberia and Sierra Leone, which though followed-up with the various authorities, has not been finalized. Mr. TRAORE promised to follow-up on this matter.

On 16th January 2015, the AfDB held its Annual Lunch for Ambassadors in Côte d’Ivoire, at Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, to which the Secretary General was invited and had the opportunity to make various strategic contacts and acquaintances. This event provided the opportunity for exchange on development issues of common interest.

On 20th January 2015, the SG met with HE the Nigerian Ambassador, and discussed the situation in the Nigerian coffee industry and the need for the mobilization and support of the youth in playing an active role in the coffee sub-sector. On 22nd January 2015, the Secretary General met with HE the Indian Ambassador with whom he discussed the possibilities of partnership and cooperation between the Indian Government and IACO for the provision of technical assistance to the coffee industry in Africa. On 25th January 2015, the General Secretary held discussions with HE the Canadian Ambassador on the possibilities of support in the development of a sustainable African coffee industry where issues of youth, gender and environmental sustainability could be addressed. On 27th January 2015, the Secretary General paid a courtesy call on the HE the Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and discussed possibilities of cooperation between Israel and Africa on Coffee Matters. Also discussed were the opportunities for developing partnerships between Israeli and Ivorian institutions in the area of improvement of productivity & quality of Ivorian coffee. Subsequently, the Secretary General made contact with the Director General of the Côte d’Ivoire Coffee & Cocoa Board (Conseil Café-Cacao) to discuss modalities of developing partnerships between Ivorian and Israeli institutions, and the possibilities of Israeli assistance in the area of improvement of productivity & quality of Ivorian coffee.

On 3rd February 2015, the Secretary General held a meeting with HE Monseigneur Joseph Spiteri, Apostolic Noncio to Côte d’Ivoire & Dean of the diplomatic corps in Côte d’Ivoire, to brief him on the African coffee industry. Discussions were held on the role of the church in the mobilization of coffee producers and providing frameworks for capacity building among farmers and strengthening farmer Organizations.

On 4th February 2015, the Secretary General met with HE the Brazilian Ambassador, and discussed the possibilities of cooperation between Brazil and IACO in promoting the required improvements in the African coffee industry, including technology transfer, training of African coffee scientists, and lessons in promotion of domestic consumption in the development of local markets and demand creation. On 20th February 2015, the Secretary General met with the Chinese Ambassador, and discussions were held on the possibilities of Sino-African cooperation on coffee matters.

The Secretary General was invited to attend the official opening of the 12th African Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition in Nairobi, Kenya, where he delivered a keynote address. He also attended the 5th African sustainable coffee forum. While in

Activities of General Secretariat

H.E Mrs Ifeoma Akabogu-Chinwuba, Nigerian Ambassador and F. KAWUMA, Secretary General IACO
with the IDRC Regional Director for Africa, in Nairobi at the IDRC Office for Sub-Saharan Africa, and discussed the possibilities of on IACO’s cooperation with IDRC in the area of research in the African coffee sub-sector.

During the 114th Session of the International Coffee Council at the ICO headquarters in London, a special meeting was held at which the President of the African Development Bank was invited to address the European coffee private sector and the IACO delegates; and express the Bank’s position regarding the proposed Africa Sustainable Coffee Partnership. The President was represented by his Vice President in charge of Agriculture who expressed the Bank’s commitment to support the initiative. The IACO Board of Directors welcomed the Secretary General’s initiative for establishment of the African Sustainable Coffee Partnership and appointed a working group to assist the IACO Secretariat in preparing a submission to the AfDB for the establishment of the proposed Facility to support the African coffee industry. The working group comprised the following: IACO Secretariat, ICO, IDH, Café Africa, CABI, AFCA, ACRAM, and four member countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Tanzania and Uganda). Sucafina/Kahawatu Foundation accepted to join the working group on request. The initiative, a public/private partnership, would involve the European coffee private sector and the African coffee producers, with IACO providing coordination services and liaison with Member Governments; and the AfDB supporting resource mobilization and hosting of the proposed Facility. The IACO Secretariat was greatly assisted by IDH, Café Africa and ICO in the preparation of the concept note which was submitted to AfDB by the deadline of 31st March 2015. At the time of reporting, a final decision was being awaited from the AfDB on IACO’s request to the Bank.

On 12th March 2015, the Secretary General met with the Head of USAID in Côte d’Ivoire, also Development Counselor at the US Mission, Mr. Jeff Bryan, and Mrs. Rebecca Levy, General Development Officer, with whom the Secretary General shared IACO’s new vision for the African coffee industry and proposed a partnership with USAID in addressing the region-wide coffee issues in Africa.

IACO participated in the SARA 2015 Conference & Exhibition held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 3-10 April, 2015. The Secretary General was invited to the official opening ceremony presided over by HE the President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire. IACO operated a stand at the exhibition grounds, where it received several visitors seeking to know more about the Organization and its activities.

The Secretary General received an official communication from the Government of Angola, regarding the acceptance of the Chair of the Board of IACO for the period 2014-2015, and the Government’s commitment to host the 3rd Annual African Coffee Symposium and IACO’s 55th Annual General Assembly to be held in Luanda, Angola. The dates given by the Angolan Government were 23-24 November 2015 for the 3rd Annual African Coffee Symposium and 25-27th November 2015 for IACO’s 55th Annual General Assembly. The Minister also invited the Secretary General to visit Angola to discuss preparations for the above meetings. The Secretary General made this trip on 5-8th May 2015.

IACO Director of Economic Studies participated in the 4th Plenary Session of the Public / Private Partnership Platform (PPPP) of the Cocoa/Coffee Sector held in Abidjan from 30th March to 1st April, 2015. The group meets annually since 2012 to take stock of the affairs and discuss the current issues of the industry. The field visit permitted participants to become acquainted with all stages of production of cocoa and coffee plants.

IACO, represented by the Director of Economic Studies, participated in Festicoffee 2015 in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 17 – 25 April 2015 under the theme: “The Cameroonian Woman in Coffee Growing.” Presentations/discussions were made by coffee experts from different countries with the aim of portraying the attractive and profitable nature of the investment of women in coffee growing and thereby create more interest and involvement in the sector.
54th Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) Annual General Assembly, November 2014

The Kampala Declaration

At the 54th Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) Annual General Assembly (AGA), delegates held the 2nd African Coffee Symposium in Kampala, Uganda, from November 17th to 18th 2014, under the theme: “Unlocking the potential of the African Coffee Industry”

The General Assembly, preceded by the 2nd African Coffee Symposium, was officially opened on 19th November 2014 by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, with the keynote address delivered by Her Excellency Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy at the African Union Commission, attended by Ministers, Ugandan Parliamentarians, representatives of international and regional bodies, and Delegates from IACO member states.

From the wide range of reports and papers discussed at the Symposium, the General Assembly made the following declaration:

1. Given the importance of coffee in the African Economy, including poverty reduction in rural communities;
2. Noting the continued decline of coffee industry in a number of African countries;
3. Considering the emerging challenges contributing to the decline;
4. Noting the commitment and input of IACO in the renaissance coffee sector in Africa;
5. Considering the contribution of private sector in the development of coffee industry;

There is urgent need to unlock the huge potential of the African coffee industry.

The following key actions should be taken by Governments of member States:

I. Governance and policy:
   - Should strengthen and develop Public Private Partnerships;
   - Should support implementation of a national coffee development policy and strategy.

II. Productivity and quality:
   - Should strengthen the capacity for coffee research in member states;
   - Should improve productivity, quality and value-addition in a sustainable manner.

III. Finance and inputs:
   - Should create an enabling environment for access to finance and appropriate technology in the coffee value chain;
   - Should strengthen and/or facilitate the establishment of farmer organizations in the coffee value chain.

IV. Climate change:
   - Should undertake measures to identify and mitigate the effects of climate change, including resurgence of pests and diseases.

V. Gender and youth:
   - Should undertake to strengthen and reinforce the participation and/or integration of women and youth in promoting sustainable coffee value.

Kampala, 20th November 2014
ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In order to achieve the wide array of responsibilities assigned to the department (DRD) and/or the network (ACRN), a number of work programs and activities have been launched and executed since 2008 in addition to the previous works.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2008, two projects were completed and reported (see Table1 below). Both projects were financed by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the International Coffee Organization (ICO) was the supervisory body. Iaco was the Executing Agency (PEA) of the projects while CIRAD/CNRA and CAB^-Africa were Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) for the first and second project, respectively.

Continued from ‘African coffee’ magazine, No 45, Page10 published by IACO
TABLE 1: COMPLETED AND NEWLY DEVELOPED REGIONAL COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMPLETED PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Robusta coffee quality and marketing improvement by optimal use of terroirs</td>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhancing the competitiveness of African coffee through value chain analysis (Fast track project)</td>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>D.R.C, Tanzania, Cote d’Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana &amp; Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND SUBMITTED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enhancing competitiveness of African coffee through value chain strengthening</td>
<td>CFC, ADB, EU</td>
<td>Uganda, DRC, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cote d’Ivoire, Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia (?), Sierra Leone (?), Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, and Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coffee genetic resources conservation and sustainable use: global perspective</td>
<td>CFC, ADB, WCR, EU</td>
<td>All African countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of coffee sector in Liberia and Sierra Leone</td>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Liberia &amp; Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Training on Robusta coffee quality assessment in West and Central African coffee producing countries</td>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Togo, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, D.R.C., C.A.R., Gabon, Cameroon &amp; Angola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rapid Coffee Genetic Resources Conservation Strategy for Uganda: Surpassing the Pace of Genetic Erosion</td>
<td>UCDA</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, four new projects covering a number of countries were developed and submitted to various donors for funding. These projects were identified as priority areas based on IACO and ACRN General Assemblies’ recommendations, reports of field visits and discussions with relevant stakeholders in different Member States, and available experience and reports on the prevailing problems of the African coffee industry. The follow-up of the grant with donors is underway.

**DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION**

The dissemination of information was conducted through various means such as organizing workshops, seminars/trainings, distribution of technical and scientific information, etc.
WORKSHOP

ACRN/IACO organized two project results dissemination workshops, one in Accra, Ghana, in November 2009 in conjunction with the 49th IACO/9th ACRN General Assemblies and the other one in Lome, Togo, in November 2013, in conjunction with the 49th IACO/9th ACRN and 53rd IACO/10th ACRN General Assemblies, respectively. The third similar workshop is due to take place in November 2015, in Luanda, Angola. The overarching objective of these workshops is to disseminate the results of completed regional coffee development projects and research findings in Africa to Member States for exchange of information. The summary of the presentations have been published in booklet and distributed to members. In addition, executive summaries of 14 regional coffee projects completed since the year 2000 were collected and distributed.

DISSEMINATION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The conclusions of the two workshops indicated above were each summarized and published in a booklet and distributed. Papers presented during 7th EAFCA scientific workshop in February 2011, were dispatched to all members. A number of articles on coffee technology have been posted on the IACO/ACRN website. ACRN has negotiated with the ASIC Secretariat to be able to distribute to the Member States the full write-ups of scientific papers presented from Africa. In effect, 36 papers submitted to ASIC 2012 have been distributed, those submitted to ASIC 2014 are in process and this trend will continue. The ‘Projects and Research Results Dissemination Workshop’ will regularly take place every two years alongside IACO/ACRN General Assembly, and as already noted, the next workshop will take place alongside the 55th IACO and 13th ACRN General Assemblies in Luanda, in November 2015.

FIELD VISITS

The DRD/ACRN has a field visit program whose objective is to conduct reconnaissance surveys in Member States, in order to acquire adequate information on the exact state of coffee production and marketing, key constraints and opportunities in each country. With the information obtained, demand driven project proposals are developed, aimed at addressing constraints and contributing to increased production, productivity and quality. This program is also aimed at closer collaboration with relevant institutions in member countries and facilitating better coordination, monitoring and directing of regional coffee development projects. During the last seven years, 15 countries were visited and 10 field visit reports have been prepared and distributed to relevant authorities of the respective countries. The reports analyze production status, constraints and opportunities along the whole value chain and provide measures to be taken including policy advice to revamp the coffee industry in each country.
IACO/ACRN has maintained good relationships with the existing technical partners such as ICO, CABI-Africa, Café Africa, Association for Science and Information on Coffee (ASIC), Bioversity International, International Trade Center (ITC), International Center for Agronomic Research and Development (CIRAD, France), Indian Coffee Research Institute, Coffee Leaf Rust Research Center (CIF, Portugal), and all national coffee research centers or institutes.

Over the past four years, IACO/ACRN established new partnerships with some international institutions such as International Coffee Genomic Network (ICGN), World Coffee Research (WCR) and Coffee Quality Institute (CQI). IACO/ACRN is collaborating with these organizations in one or more activities, such as project development, coordination and implementation organization of workshops, seminars and training; information exchange and experience sharing; fund raising for conference participation for African Coffee Scientists; and advisory services.

IACO has close collaboration with various donors, notably CFC, AfDB, ECOWAS and CTA. In the past, the CFC financed most of the regional coffee development projects. ECOWAS has granted a fast track fund for the development of a project proposal on rehabilitation of coffee in Liberia and Sierra Leone and fund approval for the appraisal project is underway. The African Development Bank (AfDB) assisted IACO in building the capacity of the Organization and equipping four regional cup tasting centers in 2003-2006, and these regional centres are in Abidjan, Douala, Lusaka, and Kampala, serving the Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa sub-regions, respectively.

Through the financial support of CTA (Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation) and Association for Science and Information in Coffee (ASIC), ACRN was able to secure funding for the participation of 29 African Coffee Scientists in the last three biennial ASIC Conferences (see Table 2 below). It is, however, a pity that because of the recent structural change, coffee is no more a candidate crop for CTA support as already indicated earlier.
Apart from fundraising and facilitating role, the Director of Research and Development has participated in a number of conferences/meetings including ASIC, ICO Council, FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa), AFCA (African Fine Coffee Association), WCR (World Coffee Research), CAADP (Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program), and many others over the past seven years.

**PUBLICATIONS**

During the last seven years, 18 technical reports were produced of which five were scientific papers (see Table 3 below). The scientific papers were presented at ASIC 2008, Workshop on Coffee Research and Statistics in Africa in 2009, CFC seminar in 2010, and EAFCA 2011.

The field travel reports are technical reports which provide assessment and analysis of the current state of the coffee industry along the whole value chain, key constraints and challenges, and the potential and opportunities available in each country visited. Based on the results of the assessment, the reports provide possible measures to address the constraints and policy advice to the government. In almost all member States, there are indications of the need to review the coffee sub-sector policy on liberalization varying from country to country, in order to reverse the declining trend in coffee production and quality, and to revamp the industry. There is a great need for the governments to resume the provision of research and extension services to farmers, which in most cases were abandoned or significantly curtailed due to implementation of the various liberalization policies. The ICO/ACRN field reports have been submitted to the relevant authorities of the respective countries for their consideration.

**TABLE - 2 : NUMBER OF AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS IN ASIC CONFERENCES THROUGH ACRN FACILITATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>ASIC Conference</th>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CTA</td>
<td>ASIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ASIC 2008, Campinas, Brazil</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ASIC 2010, Bali, Indonesia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ASIC 2012, Jose, Costa Rica</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE - 3 : TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLICATIONS</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Scientific/technical papers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Booklets</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Field travel technical reports</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions and Recommendations

Undoubtedly, the idea of creating both the Department (DRD) and the Network (ACRN) as one of the strategies to address African coffee productivity and quality issues to enhance the competitiveness of the region is a commendable one. The key functions assigned to the Department and the Network, the goals and targets set, were also well planned and pertinent. With the limited resources, the Network and Department have registered modest and commendable achievements in the implementation of programs and activities over the past seven years.

Acknowledgements

The Department of Research and Development/ACRN expresses its gratitude to all members and partners who have supported the secretariat in its efforts to serve the African coffee community in the area of research and development coordination.
The General Directorate of the Stabilisation and Equalisation Funds (DGCSP) is identified as an actor among others, playing a significant role in accordance with the missions which are assigned to it by the Government, in a context of economic diversification and fight against increasing poverty nationwide, an ongoing challenge for the Gabonese Authorities.

Thus, the Government policy contained in “the Plan Stratégique Gabon Emergent (PSGE)” (Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan) through the pillar: “Gabon Vert” (Green Gabon), makes the development of the coffee industry, a priority for the improvement of the living conditions of the populations in rural areas. It is also the coffee production area.

Given the increasing global coffee demand, and the stake of the Sector’s Sustainable Development, it was decided to formulate and implement a strategic plan to revitalise coffee production in Gabon. We must recall that the challenges facing the Gabonese coffee sector are as follows:

- Producer’s motivation and attractiveness of the coffee sector in a competitive environment vis-à-vis other more profitable economic opportunities, including the predominance, does not raise any doubt like the production of rubber, palm oil, food crops;
- Sustainable management of natural resources while considering the imperative development of production capacities;
- Implementation of a certification process in a context where producers are both poorly organized and not very professionalized.

Furthermore, the development of “Green Gabon” goes through the valorisation and sustainable management of resources of the Gabonese soil. The assigned objective is to develop the national...
agricultural potential and foster the creation of added value by domestic processing of agricultural commodities including coffee.

Gabon, as a marginal coffee producer, intends to create conditions in order to promote by 2018, the emergence of a toning and dynamic coffee sector, supported by a professionalised and modernised peasant community activity. The optimisation of production and marketing for that purpose represents two strategic areas:

**PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENT**

The Gabonese coffee industry has experienced a decline mainly characterized by a fall in production. A diagnosis of the coffee sector has highlighted the major challenges to development efforts so far provided. We quote among others: more attractive remuneration in other sectors of activity, conjugate aging producers and production sites, climatic factors including parasitic effects, and institutional dysfunction in the sector.

The actions in the pipeline will help to improve productivity and quality. They will consist of rehabilitation projects and establishment of plantations, facilitation of access to agricultural inputs, especially efficient planting materials, reinforcement of technical and financial leadership skills, partnerships with research institutions and setting up an incentive legal and economic framework for stakeholders, particularly for the youth in order to guarantee the sustainability of the sector.

**MARKETING IMPROVEMENT**

The right price or remunerative price is a constant concern for our producers. We also note their keen interest in optimizing the marketing system on the one hand, and the strict compliance of the agricultural calendar on the other hand. In this chapter, the selected projects aimed at improving and strengthening the Gabonese coffee position on the international trade scene, with the ultimate goal of creating a Gabonese label.

This will therefore, aim to reorganise collection and traceability systems, train the staff on good agricultural practices in order to produce a superfine or in other words gourmet coffee, strengthen pest control, develop promotional activities with populations and to strengthen logistics tools of supervision and producers structures.

The coffee sector must be developed to effectively fight against poverty and encourage sedentary life style of rural populations.

The sources of funding should be identified and channelled through public private partnerships (PPPs) to meet the targets. Given the importance of prioritised actions, the implementation of synergy and pooling efforts from different stakeholders are required as part of the acting actions for sustainable prosperity of the coffee industry in Gabon.
PRESENTATION
Crée par décret n°831/MINECOFIN du 30 septembre 1971, la Direction Générale des Caisses de Stabilisation et de Péréquation (DGCSP) est un établissement public à caractère industriel et commercial doté de la personnalité civile et de l’autonomie de gestion.

RÔLE ET MISSION
Placée sous la tutelle du Ministère de l’Economie et de la Prospective, elle est chargée de mettre en œuvre, par des différents mécanismes, la politique du gouvernement en matière de stabilisation et de péréquation des prix. Il s’agit alors de :

- De réguler les prix du café et du cacao aux producteurs,
- De rechercher et appliquer toutes les mesures visant à améliorer la qualité et quantité de la production,
- De commercialiser le Café et le Cacao,
- De garantir l’approvisionnement régulier du territoire en produits pétroliers,
- D’harmoniser les prix des produits pétroliers sur l’ensemble du territoire et garantir la stabilisation des prix de vente au détail;

LES ENGAGEMENTS DE LA DGCSP
- Soutenir le pilier Gabon vert par la réhabilitation et la création des nouvelles plantations, et par un apui ciblé au planteur
- Sédentariser les populations rurales en assurant au planteur un prix d’achat incitatif du Café et du Cacao,
- Préserver l’environnement à travers l’utilisation des biofertilisants dans les plantations
- Empêcher l’exportation illégale des produits pétroliers,
- Maîtriser les prix des hydrocarbures,
- Garantir un prix d’achat uniforme du carburant et du gaz sur toute l’étendue du territoire,

LES PERSPECTIVES
Dans le cadre du Plan Stratégique Gabon Emergent, la DGCSP participe au renforcement des capacités sur le terrain à travers :
- L’assistance permanente aux planteurs
- Exhorter les jeunes et les femmes à s’intéresser au métier de planteur
- Susciter les Gabonais à la consommation des produits locaux de café et de cacao
- Créer de nouvelles plantation et réhabiliter les plantations abandonnées
- Appeler l’attention du gouvernement sur la situation des blocs industriels
- Consolider notre partenariat avec les instituts de recherche en matière agricole
- Rechercher les financements

LES REPRESENTATIONS PROVINCIALES
La DGCSP consolide son implantation dans le pays à travers ses délégations, qui sont reparties dans les neuf provinces du pays.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Monsieur Léon-Paul N’GOULAKIA
On a recent flight, it was a surprise to read the company proudly announcing that it had been nominated as the most sustainable airline in Europe. If even airlines now vie with each other to be the most sustainable, how much more attention shouldn’t we be paying to this in our world of coffee!

2015 - LANDMARK YEAR: FROM MDG’S TO SDG’S

2015 is a significant land-mark. It is the target year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s), adopted with much optimism at the turn of the century. Much has been achieved, but still so much more remains to be done. These are soon to be replaced by the SDG’s - the Sustainable Development Goals - to take us from 2016 through to 2030. Sustainability has fast been moving out of the Corporate Social Responsibility department in major corporations into the supply chain management and procurement departments, indeed, into their very DNA. It will soon become part of national government reporting to the U.N.

THE BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABILITY – BUT AT A COST

In the coffee market, sustainability made its entry through the voluntary sustainability standards, with their certification and verification schemes. These have contributed to improving not just environmental and social practices in the coffee producing world, but also supported the implementation of some good agricultural practices.

But among producers, while certification has brought significant benefits for some, there are concerns about the way forward. In 2013 about 4.3 million tons of “sustainable” coffee were produced, but demand has not kept up. Probably less than 30% of certified/verified production was traded as such, the rest finding its way into mainstream supply. For the producer, certification comes at a cost.

That cost can be a serious burden, especially for small-holders. Only part can be sold with any sustainability premium, these premiums are under pressure with the “over-supply”. Growth in productivity can take two or three years to feed through into better farm incomes to compensate the added costs.
There is a growing recognition today that sustainability needs to start with the profitability of the farmer - be he a commercial estate or a small-holder. Indeed in their recent code revisions, the voluntary sustainability standards such as 4C, Utz, and Rainforest Alliance and FLO, have placed more emphasis on this aspect as fundamental to sustainability. Without it, a new younger generation is hardly likely to take up coffee growing with any enthusiasm!

**WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS SUSTAINABILITY – AND WHO BENEFITS?**

This then begs two questions: whose responsibility is sustainability? And in whose interest is it? The responsibility ultimately comes down to the producers themselves, the producing countries’ supply chains, and their Governments. In much of Africa, around 50% of the population is under the age of 20. It is clearly in the Governments’ interest to find ways to increase rural employment opportunities. Coffee could make a significant contribution, if productivity and profitability of small-holders could be improved, apart from increasing foreign exchange revenues. The application of environmental sustainability standards is ever more important, thinking towards the needs of future generations, especially in the context of climate change. But the consumers also have an interest in sustainability. Although there is no immediate crisis in the supply-demand balance in coffee, the last 18 months have given everyone pause for reflection. A brief drought in Brazil early in 2014 resulted in the New York Arabica futures market doubling in less than 3 months. Even in January, 2015, the market was nervously watching rainfall reports in the Brazilian coffee belt.

By June 2015, attention had moved to a growing El Niño in the Pacific. The coffee market is making instant meteorological “experts” of us all! In the longer term, even conservative estimates of demand growth point towards the need for large increases in coffee supply to meet growing global demand.

**VISION 2020 – A NEW APPROACH**

Another indicator of the growing and changing interest in sustainability is the recent establishment of “Vision 2020”,
a movement which brings together the private sector, through the membership of the 4C Association, with the development community, represented by I.D.H., the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative, and the public sector, represented by the I.C.O. (International Coffee Organization). They are putting their weight behind a campaign to make coffee more sustainable in a pre-competitive cooperation. This is surely the new paradigm for the 21st Century. Where 50 years ago the world’s coffee community came together in a purely intergovernmental Organization (the I.C.O.) to achieve its shared aspirations and objectives, to achieve these today needs a new level of cooperative collaboration between public and private.

WHAT WILL BE AFRICA’S RESPONSE?

Can this work in Africa? Certainly there is a new emphasis on Platforms for Public Private Partnership, which are beginning to appear in many countries. But will the private sector engage with the process? Will they have confidence in Governments’ willingness to work with the private sector, where in the past the role has been that of regulator, not collaborator? And will there be a mutual accountability which will ensure the effective and efficient use of scarce resources to achieve agreed goals?

There is a need for Africa’s voice to be heard in the international forums relating to sustainability, and the future of the coffee sector. National platforms can certainly be part of that. The idea of an African Sustainable Coffee working Group was discussed in March 2015 at an informal IACO meeting alongside the ICO Council meeting in London, with the creation of an African Coffee Development Fund, with the support of the African Development Bank. Will Africa’s coffee industry rise to this challenge? It needs to start with a strong commitment from governments to sustainable coffee production, and a willingness in both public and private sectors to find new paradigms for working together to achieve the results which can be a win-win for all.

“Africa to Host 4th World Coffee Conference

IACO is proud to announce that the Coffee World will converge to Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia from 6th-8th March 2016 for the 4th World Coffee Conference.

Details will be provided shortly!
Appointed as Head of Coffee and Cocoa Council (CCC) since the election of H.E Mr Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Touré-Litse continues to multiply initiatives to boost this key sector of the Ivorian economy. Here, she answers African Coffee Magazine’s questions.

AFRICAN COFFEE : Mrs.Toure-Litse, since your appointment to this post, we hear here and there, about the « Platform of Public-Private Partnership ». What does this mean in the binomial Coffee-Cocoa Industry?

MASSANDJE TOURE-LITSE : The Coffee and Cocoa sectors in Côte d’Ivoire face many challenges that generate serious threats to the sustainability of these two pillars of the national economy. The major challenges that need to be addressed can be summarized as follows: optimizing production; meeting the increasing demand and the requirements of the consumers; Improving working conditions and living standards of the farmers.

To address these challenges, an integrated programme of sustainable coffee and cocoa, called Quantity-Quality-Growth (2QG) programme has been developed and implemented since 2009 by the Government.

The importance and complexity of the challenges require combined efforts by the State and the private sector, because the actions undertaken by the Government alone do not allow real impact at the national level, due to limited resources. Thus, public and private partnerships are contracted to mobilize additional resources.

The Platform for Public and Private Partnership was set up in May 2012 for this purpose. The PPPP is a permanent Framework for exchange and coordinated actions undertaken by the Government and the private sector to make coffee and cocoa industry sustainable and prosperous for each in the value chain.

AC : What is the mission of the Platform?

MT-L : The platform has a number of missions. The first is to facilitate exchange and dialogue between the players in cocoa-coffee sector, in order to contribute to solving problems encountered along the value chain. It also promotes the coordination of the operations in the fields by harmonizing approaches and, monitoring and evaluating indicators. In addition, the PPPP monitors the implementation of fields’ projects and programmes under the updated 2QG programme.

The projects of general interest including the results and achievements that deserve to be better apprehended by the PPPP Members, may be cases of evaluation, under request by the PPPP Members or the CCC, Management Body of the sector in Côte d’Ivoire. The PPPP contributes to the development of strategies through proposals that could be submitted to the Ivorian National Authorities for approval and adoption. Thus, it will provide inputs and technical support to the Government for reform and regulation policies. Moreover, it contributes to the development of Action Plans for the promotion of the national coffee and cocoa industry.
The PPPP also helps to promote the execution of actions in the fields, in accordance with the national development programmes of the sector. Finally, it should be noted that the Platform is not an institution, but rather an Advisory Body, an instrument for the coffee-cocoa sector to address the challenge of sustainability of both products.

AC: What are the objectives of the PPPP, its composition and its operation?

MT-L: The objective of the PPPP is to develop, implement in a participatory manner, and to ensure monitoring and evaluation programmes and projects that are in line with the national sustainable development of the Coffee-cocoa sector. Likewise, it aims at mobilizing and optimizing the use of material, human and financial resources to address the issues which the 2QG programmes are to provide solutions.

The PPPP comprises all the actors in the value chain of coffee-cocoa sector as follows: the public sector represented by the Government including the ministries and the national institutions involved in the activities of the sector; the private sector especially the Exporters, the professionals of both commodities, the Chocolate Makers, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the buyers, the millers, the transporters, and the inputs suppliers, the financial and technical partners such as UNDP, WORLD BANK, UROPEAN UNION, WCF, IDH, GIZ, AFD, the farmers and their Organizations.

The operation of the PPPP is based on the following organs: a Plenary Assembly which brings together the actors of the platform. It meets in plenary sessions that are opportunities for sharing, exchange and communication between the actors of the value chain; an Executive Body which role is to lead the plenary sessions and report to the Board of Directors of the Coffee-Cocoa Council, the recommendations of the platform, including the Action Plan for decision/approval.

The Executive Body comprises a Chairperson, from the public sector, and permanently represented by Coffee-Cocoa Council; a first Vice-Chairperson from the private sector represented by a designated person from the private sector; and a second Vice-Chairperson from the group of producers represented by their elected delegate. This post will be vacant until the elections to be held at the end of the current activities that will make the arrangement for the representation of the farmers. (Census of the producers etc...).

A Permanent Technical Secretariat, the role of this organ is to ensure the daily operation of the PPPP. The Technical Secretariat is provided by the Coffee-Cocoa Council and Thematic Groups that are Working Groups who have the duty to think of solutions to the problems of the sector. Currently, the PPPP has eight (8) thematic groups.
AC: What are the actions already taken within the framework of the PPPP and what are the results?

MT-L: The Platform for Public-Private Partnership is a resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the 2QG program. In this context, the following key actions and results can be retained. The 2QG developed in 2009, has been up-dated with all Platform partners to elaborate a reference document for all the initiatives aimed at sustainable development of coffee-cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire. Common harmonized indicators to all sustainable programmes initiated by the private sector partners are within the framework of the 2QG Programme. They have been defined and validated by the members of the platform.

The purpose is to put in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the programmes to better appreciate the impact on the sector. As part of the harmonization of the approaches for better coordination, a unique training manual of farmers to good agricultural practices in cocoa production, has been developed and approved by the members of the platform. The PPPP led to the signing of thirteen (13) MOUs for a total mobilized amount, since its establishment in May 2012, of 24,3 billion CFA Francs destined to finance the projects that aim to improve cocoa productivity orchards and, to improve the living and working standards of cocoa producing populations.

It is also important to note that a Plenary Assembly is organized every year since 2012. The last meeting, the fourth of its kind, was lately held from March 30 to April 1st, with 245 representatives from 91 structures involved in the industry.

MT-L: First of all, I think I should make it clear that, this platform is for both coffee and cocoa commodities. Therefore, there is a Thematic Group exclusively dedicated to coffee recovery in Côte d’Ivoire. The mission of this working Group is to contribute to revitalize the coffee sector which is heavily stricken, by seeking synergies between the coffee recovery programme developed by Coffee-Cocoa Council and the other private initiatives that are also underway, to ensure the achievements of the objectives.

This Working Group consists of structures that contribute to boost coffee farming in Côte d’Ivoire. The synergy has allowed to draw upon the skills of each structure, to enhance and consolidate the coffee recovery programme. Thus, actions are taken in synergy within the framework of the management and technical assistance of coffee producers, by encouraging them to renew their farms and improve coffee quality and traceability.
Mrs.Toure-Litse, this is the end of our conversation. Do you have a message to IACO Member States and, to the readers of African Coffee Magazine?

MT-L: I would like to say that Côte d’Ivoire aims at maintaining its position as World Leader in cocoa production and, at revitalizing coffee sector. With this regard, an extensive programme for the development of sustainable coffee and cocoa was developed, and has been implemented since 2009.

This programme was updated in 2014 for a period of 10 years. The update outlines priority actions to be implemented in order to improve production system, product quality, marketing, product promotion, professionalization of the cooperatives and, the living conditions of the producers and their communities. The Public-Private Partnership Platform is the strategy for the implementation of this programme which, we believe, will contribute in the future, to make Côte d’Ivoire, an emerging country.

Indeed, we believe that through the combined efforts of the actors in the global coffee and cocoa economies, we will make the industry prosperous and sustainable for all the players in the value chain, particularly farmers.

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Interview conducted by Dominic Kamanan – CDD-IACO
Do not worry if you are told - and it is quite true - that there is over a hundred varieties of coffee! In fact, there are two important varieties: Arabica and Robusta. The important thing is to consequently know how to distinguish one from the other. Here is, roughly, their technical reporting form.

ARABICA

This is the coffee of choice; for a long time, however, we have only known and cultivated Arabica.

- Its production area: countries with hot and humid climate of Central America mainly (we also grow it in Haiti and in the Sunda Islands).
- Its appearance: the bean is flat and elongated. When it is roasted, that is to say, as you usually see it, it is never very dark, but still light brown, rather matt; the furrow that separates the bean into two is clearer, slightly greyish.
- The most renowned crus: those from Brazil, like the Bourbons, the Maragogype, and the Nacional; even finer and milder: Santos, Minas Geraes, and Pernambuc.
- From Yemen: the maka of small elongated beans from Yemen, the sweetest of the flavor.
- From India: the Mysore, very flavored.
- From Colombia: the Medellin Excelsso.
- From Central America: Salvador, Costa-Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, for the very fine coffees; Guadeloupe, Mexico, Venezuela, for full-bodied coffees.
- From West Indies: Coffee Haiti, Puerto Rico and the renowned Blue Mountain from Jamaica.

ROBUSTA

It is forgoing what an honest current wine is for a wine of Burgundy. It is cultivated in areas where Arabica, too frail, cannot be acclimatized, especially in Africa (Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Côte d’Ivoire, Congo-Kinshasa, etc.). Before the war, it was not widespread. Now, it accounts for - for example - 75 % of consumption in France.

- Its appearance: the bean is rounder and shorter; appears darker after roasting. In blends by roasters made, it is the one which imparts color.
- Its Flavour: it is more acrid, more bitter than Arabica. It contains twice as much caffeine.
- The best varieties: those from Madagascar, such us the Kouillou.
- From Africa: Côte d’Ivoire and former Belgian Congo, Laurentii, Sankaru, Niaduli.
THE BLENDS

Coffee, you buy is usually, a blend made by the roaster. Only the very cheap quality exclusively contains Robusta.

Dosing varieties based on their flavour and their characteristics, is the business of the roaster. You only have to trust him.

Here is, roughly, the method used to obtain a satisfactory blend:

- A strong coffee for color: this is the role of Robusta;
- A flavored coffee for aroma, that of Arabica;
- Finally, there are coffees called «bonifieurs» in the proportion of 5 to 10% of the whole, which role is to modify the flavor.

All this is very good, you will think, but at the time of purchase, how to recognize a top coffee, the sole criteria, the price! Good Coffee is much more expensive (you do not pay the same price for a «good» bottle or a liter of table wine).

Source "The Belgian Office of Coffee"

The Marabout collection is edited and printed by G.E.R.A.R.D & C°
65, rue de Limbourg, VERVIERS - (Belgium)

PUFFED PIE

Ingredients:
Pastry: 200 g flour, 125 g of butter or margarine, 1/3 glass of water, A pinch of salt, 1 tablespoon of fat to grease the mold. Filling: 1 bowl of cream, 1 bowl of cottage cream, 4 eggs, 5 Tablespoons of granulated sugar, 3 Tablespoons of strong coffee.

Heat the oven. Grease the pie dish.
Prepare the dough by mixing all the ingredients. Stop kneading as soon as all the ingredients are mixed:
By insisting, you would only harden the dough! Spread it, roll and garnish the pie dish.

For the filling: separate the white from the egg yolks. Beat the egg white.
Mixing: cream the cheese, sugar, coffee and egg yolks.

Gently pour in the egg whites. Garnish the pie with this mixture and bake in a moderately heated oven.

Preparation: 20 minutes
Cooking: 30 minutes
La Côte d'Ivoire, Premier Producteur Mondial de Cacao.

Réguler - Stabiliser - Développer

Le Conseil du Café-Cacao pour une cacaoculture et un caféculture durables

Premier producteur mondial de cacao, la Côte d'Ivoire est aussi un important producteur de café. Ces deux cultures font vivre environ huit millions de personnes et contribuent à environ 15% au produit intérieur brut. Le secteur du café-cacao est régulé par le Conseil du Café-Cacao dont les missions essentielles sont : garantir le revenu des producteurs, améliorer les conditions de vie des producteurs et leurs communautés, faire la promotion d’une économie cacaoyère durable et veiller à la mise en place des règles de bonne gouvernance et de transparence dans la gestion des filières café et cacao.

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