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PERIODICAL OF THE INTER-AFRICAN COFFEE ORGANIZATION - IAOC N°51



**DRINK AFRICAN COFFEE
BUILD AFRICA**



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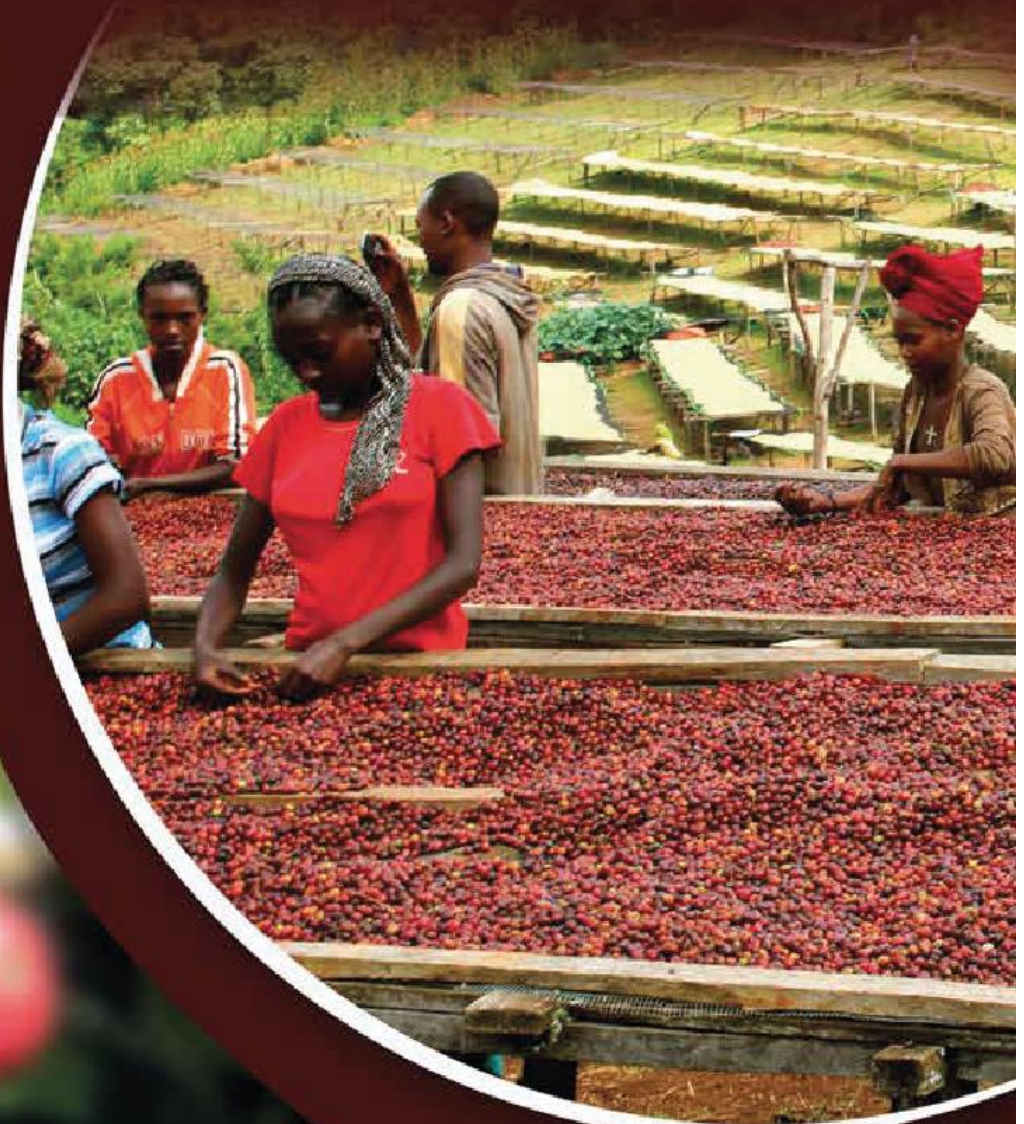


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Imprimerie CREAPUB +225 07 08 52 63 20 Email : creapubdistribution@gmail.com
Directeur de Publication: Amb. Solomon S. RUTEGA, Secrétaire Général de l'OIAC
Rédacteur en Chef: Auguste AOUTI
Rédacteurs: Dr Bema COULIBALY, Dr Celestin GATARAHIYA
Adresse Secrétariat Général de l'OIAC, Immeuble Caistab 3^{eme} Etage
BP V 210 Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire
Tel: +(225) 27 20 21 61 31 / +(225) 27 20 21 61 85 / Fax: +(225) 27 20 21 62 12
E-mail: africancoffee@iaco-oiac.org



InterAfrican Coffee Organisation



IACO General Secretariat,
Caistab Building - 3rd Floor



PO Box V 210 Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire



(00225) 20 21 61 31
20 21 61 85
Fax 20 21 62 12



sg@iaco-oiac.org / oiac_iaco@yahoo.fr



www.iaco-oiac.org



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ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1- Word From The SG



Amb. Solomon Sabiti RUTEGA
Secretary of IACO

Dear Readers

It is my profound pleasure and honor to launch the 9th edition of the African *Coffee Magazine*. This is my inaugural issue as the Secretary General of IACO, a role I assumed on May 7th 2021. On behalf of the Board and staff at IACO, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership and take this opportunity to thank our partners ICS for their support in the publication of the magazine.

When I took up this assignment in May 2021, I pledged to the member states that my vision for the organization would be anchored on four key pillars namely:

1. Mobilizing financial support and partnerships with new institutions;
2. Promotion of domestic coffee consumption in the African region and targeting new emerging markets,
3. Promotion of private sector partnerships and alliances with sports associations, universities and multinational companies;
4. Completion of the new IACO headquarters and institutional capacity building.

So far, the journey of a “thousand miles” has commenced well and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff and board members for the support provided in the execution of my duties.

The first few months were devoted to introductory meetings with Ambassadors, leaders and policy makers from the member states. Besides sharing my vision, most of the consultations were aimed at ensuring that coffee is adopted as a strategic commodity in the AU’s agricultural agenda together with the integration of IACO as the AU agency responsible for coffee. This initiative is critical for the implementation of the IACO vision which is to build and support the industrialization of the African coffee sector across the value chain.

Meanwhile, we are all aware that the coffee sector in Africa suffers from many challenges, however we believe the low domestic consumption and limited value addition require urgent attention. The challenge of the coffee value chain refers to the existing vertical structure, where green bean production occurs in exporting countries and roasting and consumption occurs in importing countries. As IACO we believe this status quo is unsustainable, and in line with our strategic plan for the next 5 years will be focusing our campaign on the promotion of domestic consumption under a new initiative titled “Drink African Coffee Build Africa (DACBA). It is blatantly clear that sooner rather than later Africans must consume what they produce if they hope to receive better prices for their coffee.

There is no doubt, that the challenges ahead are enormous, however as we look to the future, let us also remember that the opportunities are immense. For instance, the coffee industry holds great potential for catalyzing private sector development, creating jobs and generating incomes for both the public and private sectors—including farmers, processors, cooperatives, exporting private enterprises, governments, et cetera. Africa has an increasing urbanization with the youth comprising over 70% of the population, presenting entrepreneurial and consumption potential for the transformation of the Africa value chain. Therefore, there is a great need to build capacity in the value chain for the appreciation of good quality coffee, to build competencies of coffee cuppers, local roasters and café operators, and to create awareness among producers regarding the attention and care that is needed at the farm-level. Half of the coffee consumption in Africa is still imported, in the form of finished products (from EU) and therefore this gap is an opportunity for increased production of value addition.

I wish to assure you that IACO remains committed to transforming and supporting the industrialization of the African coffee industry. So the future remains bright, just as the “eagle soars above the storms”, so will IACO soar and achieve its destiny

As I conclude, I wish to invite all stakeholders that wish to contribute to our subsequent publications through papers, research articles and other coffee related news to freely contact us via email or telephone provided.

Once again I wish to thank you all and welcome you to this edition!


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GENERAL SECRETARY ACTIVITIES

IACO Professional Category


GENERAL SECRETARY

Ambassador Solomon Sabiti RUTEGA, a Ugandan national is IACO's current Secretary General. He was elected at the 60th Annual General Assembly (AGA), held virtually from Accra, Ghana, from 16th to 20th November 2020. He is a holder of a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Melbourne Business School /Australia and a Masters of Public Policy from Harvard University, USA.

Before taking office in March 2021, he was the Coordinator of the National Cocoa Swollen Shoot Disease Control Program. He is also a Consultant-Trainer and certified auditor in sustainable and organic agriculture; any thing that could make a major contribution for more added value to African coffee. 

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT


Dr. GATARAYIHA Mutimura Celestin, a Rwandan national is the Director of Research and Development and the Coordinator for the African Coffee Research Network (ACRN) of IACO. He is a PhD holder in Phytopathology from the Faculty of Agronomy, University of KwaZulu-Natal (south-Africa).

Prior to his assumption of duty in October 2020, he was the head of the coffee division and in charge of the Coordination of the coffee sector at the national level at the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) 



DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. COULIBALY Bema, an Ivorian national is the Director of Economic Affairs. He was elected at the 60th Annual General Assembly (AGA), held virtually from Accra, Ghana, from 16th to 20th November 2020. He is an Agroeconomics Engineer and a PHD holder in Management Sciences from ASMP, France.

Before taking office in March 2021, he was the Coordinator of the National Cocoa Swollen Shoot Disease Control Program. He is also a Consultant-Trainer and certified auditor in sustainable and organic agriculture; any thing that could make a major contribution for more added value to African coffee. 



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GENERAL SECRETARY ACTIVITIES

3- The International Coffee Day Celebration

The International Coffee Day, the day used to create awareness about the history, benefits and popularity of the much-loved beverage – Coffee. It's aimed at celebrating and highlighting the hard work of people associated with the coffee industry who go an extra mile to bring this magical beverage to our lives -- Farmers, roasters, baristas, processors, and coffee shop owners.

Officially celebrated as the International Coffee Day on October 1st, 2015, by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), is annually celebrated to promote the use of coffee and for coffee lovers to celebrate across the world.



The Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) in partnership with the Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC) on October 1st, 2021, joined the rest of the world to organize and celebrate its first International Coffee Day at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire Abidjan. Guests were served with different varieties, blends and flavours of coffee. Present at the occasion were Ambassadors to IACO Member States represented in Abidjan, the leadership and staff of the Conseil du Café Cacao (CCC), coffee roasters, café owners, coffee private sector, coffee lovers and the General Secretariat of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO).

The Secretary General (SG) in his remarks highlighted the main objective of IACO at its inception. In addition to playing an important advocacy role for Member States in international forums and to defend the interests of African coffee, its meant to study the problems relating to African coffee, particularly its production, processing and marketing with a view to ensuring production improvement, market access and remunerative prices, also focusing on the promotion of coffee consumption and demand creation that would expand the market for these coffees and more.

In line with this, IACO's 2020 Agreement which is in the process of ratification and as part of IACO's five-year strategic plan, will focus on the promotion of domestic coffee consumption within the continent in the short and medium term. IACO has therefore developed a new initiative called 'DACBA' (Drink African Coffee Build Africa) which when implemented is expected to boost the domestic consumption of coffee and improve the revenues and livelihood of the African coffee farmers. There is therefore the need for Africa to fully exploit the existing opportunities in the transformation of the African coffee value chain, focusing on both the national and regional markets, in promoting domestic demand and thus consumption, which could help to promote long-term coffee-propelled growth in IACO Member States.

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ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT

4- Launch of coffee houses at Egerton and Kenyatta universities, Kenya, Nairobi, August 16th - 22nd 2021

The Inter- African Coffee Organisation (IACO) and the International Coffee Organization (ICO), in their mission to promote domestic coffee consumption in Africa, collaborated on a project called "Promotion of Domestic Coffee Consumption in Africa". Under this project, IACO/ICO established a Special Fund Project to support the promotion of domestic coffee consumption in African coffee producing countries. The aim of which is to maintain a tight balance between global supply and demand and support reasonable international prices for green coffee. This will help unlock the huge potential of Africa's coffee sub-sector, provide a stable market for African coffee, and contribute to improving the standards of living in rural communities, particularly the youth and women who play a major role in coffee and other forms of agriculture, thus generating increased incomes for their families.

Following the support provided to Kenya, the Secretary General (SG) of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) was invited by the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) - Coffee Directorate of Kenya to officiate the launch of two coffee houses at the Egerton University and Kenyatta University.

Launch of the Egerton University Coffee House

The official launch of the Egerton University Coffee House was held on Thursday, August 19th, 2021, and was attended by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) of the Egerton University, Prof. Richard Mulwa who represented the Vice Chancellor (VC), also present were Deans of Faculties, Dr. Benson Apuoyo, other members of the Egerton administration, planning departments and students. The construction of the coffee house was completed on January 28th, 2021 and is fully operational with a competent Coffee Barista trained by the AFA Coffee Directorate. The team at the AFA have continued to provide the university with technical support and coffee beans in an effort to create awareness and develop the coffee drinking culture at the University. They also assured aggressive promotion and publicity will be made to create visibility of the coffee houses.

Egerton University which was initially established as an Agricultural College in 1939 by Baron Maurice Egerton, a British white settler, later received support from the Government of Kenya in 1979 and was expanded and recognized as a chartered public university. It currently has a student population at all campuses registered at 15,000.

At the launching ceremony, the SG appealed to the student community to start drinking coffee and support the development of a coffee drinking culture in the African continent which will eventually result in improved prices, and more importantly, job opportunities for the youths willing to venture into the coffee business, thereby improving their livelihoods and that of the coffee farmers. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) assured the SG of the university's commitment in promoting coffee consumption among the 15,000 students and expressed confidence that the coffee drinking culture would be embraced as more coffee houses would be required at other locations with high student traffic on campus.

Launch of the Kenyatta University Coffee House & Bakery

The official launch of the Kenyatta University (KU) Coffee House & Bakery was held on Friday August 20th, 2021 and was attended by a chief guest, the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture, Hon. Peter Munya who was represented by his Deputy, Hon. Lawrence Omuha-ka. Also present were the Vice Chancellor of KU Prof. Paul Wainana; Director General Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), Mr. Kello Harsama; Outgoing Director of AFA Coffee Directorate, Mrs. Isabella Nkonge; incoming Director AFA Coffee Directorate, Eng. Enosh Akuma; Deans and Faculty and students.

The coffee house was completed on August 6th 2021, with a joint support by AFA and IACO. The AFA Coffee Directorate has provided 10 trained chefs as coffee baristas and waiters, while the Signage branding and publicity have been effectively carried out by students from the Kenyatta University. Students from the Business School will also provide the management and apprenticeship skills which will equip the students with practical business skills.

Kenyatta University (KU), a public University with its main campus in Nairobi County, Kenya, acquired the status of university in 1985, being the third University after Nairobi and Moi University. With a student population of 60,000 and 13 campuses offering Bachelor, Masters and PHD degrees.

In his welcome remarks, the CAS expressed his gratitude to IACO for the funding opportunity and commended the AFA Coffee Directorate for spearheading the promotion of value addition in coffee and consumption of Kenyan coffee in the country. He was particularly grateful that the Ministry's dream of setting up coffee houses in public Universities to promote domestic consumption of Kenyan coffee had been brought to fruition. He also challenged the University leadership as well as the students to take advantage of the establishment of the Coffee House and come up with locally manufactured coffee making equipment through fabrication and patenting of coffee making machines and pledged to support innovative initiatives.

The SG in his remarks stated that Africa needs to fully exploit the existing opportunities in the transformation of the African coffee value chain, thereby focusing on both the national and regional markets, in promoting domestic demand and thus consumption, which could help to promote long-term coffee-propelled growth in IACO Member States. He also looked forward to the coffee house engaging in local coffee tasting campaigns and competitions with other universities and colleges.



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ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT

5- Mission to Ethiopia and to AU (Addis report)

After the 61st Annual Meetings hosted by the Government of Rwanda from 16th to 20th November 2021, the Secretary General of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation embarked on a mission to Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia from 31st January to 5th February 2022, to engage in discussions with the Coffee and Tea Authority in support of the National Strategies related to Coffee Roasting and Domestic Consumption in Africa. Below are highlights:

Ethiopia Coffee & Tea Authority (ECTA)



- The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will host the 63rd Annual Meetings of IACO in 2023;

☒ Ethiopia's position in ratifying IACO's 2020 Agreement is in progress, as the file is currently with the Council of Ministers, awaiting approval to be transferred to the Ministry of foreign Affairs;

- The Executive Director of ECTA will collaborate with the Director of Research and Development (DRD) of IACO to create the country's profile;

- As part of the domestic coffee processing and consumption project in Africa, Ethiopia will share its success story of the coffee consumption culture to other Member States as an encouragement especially to the youths;

- Ethiopia will develop a concept note on coffee education, as support will be provided by IACO in bringing students / youths from other Member States as tourists for benchmarking studies. These shared experiences will lead to the transformation and mind-set changes of coffee stakeholders in their various countries;

- Tourist visits to Ethiopia will be organised by IACO to understudy the different origins of coffee for benchmarking;

- The Managing Director of Wild Coffee Ethiopia Café, a Café that brings the highest quality 100% Arabica coffee beans and promotes authentic Ethiopian Coffee flavours from the most popular areas of Ethiopia such as Harari, Yirgacheffe, Sidama, Lekempti, Djimma and Limmu, will be invited as a speaker during the symposium at the 62nd Annual Meeting of IACO.



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ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL SECRETARIAT

5- Mission to Ethiopia and to AU (Addis report)



Discussions were held with Executives at the African Union Commission to further discuss on the inclusion of coffee as a strategic commodity in the AU 2063 agenda and IACO as a specialised agency. Below are highlights:

☒ H.E. Amb. Josefa SACKO, Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment assured IACO Secretariat of including coffee as a strategic commodity in the AU 2063 agenda and IACO as a specialised agency on the next Specialized Technical Committee (STC) meeting agenda in 2023;

☒ Mr. Alex Tordeta RATEBAYE, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office of the Chairperson assured IACO Secretariat of including the issue of coffee as part of the agenda during the 3rd AU-EU summit in Brussels on the 17th & 18th of February 2022;

☒ H.E. Dr Monique NSANZABAGANWA, Deputy Chairperson affirmed that Africa needs to come up with its own agenda that will add value to the economy, especially coffee as a commodity that can transform lives. She added that Banks such as the African Development Bank (AFDB) should be approached in order that focus is placed on agro industrialisation thereby bringing in coffee as a value addition;

☒ Amb. Rosette Nyirinkindi KATUNGYE, Technical Advisor on Regional, Integration of the Bureau of the Chairperson, highlighted on the socio-economic flagship programme of the African Union titled New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which has a specific programme titled SME 1000 by 2021 targeted at the youths. Its aim is to pair and link youths with experts in different fields for exposure. She advised that IACO should have a symmetrical partnership with NEPAD after coffee has been included as a strategic commodity on the AU agenda and IACO as the specialised agency.

☒ Mr. Gao LEMMENYANE, Advisor to the Chairperson on Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation pointed out the areas of partnership with IACO will be in providing scholarships for African youths in vocational institutes and to seek support in setting up coffee training vocational institutes of science and technology for youths to be trained on how to make affordable agro-industry machinery.

☒ Dr Beth DUNFORD, Vice President (VP) Agricultural Department and Social Development. As an ardent lover of quality coffee, the VP is willing to participate in any organized coffee tasting session in Abidjan and is available to further discussions in the areas of partnerships with the private sector as the bank is looking for opportunities to invest. Further discussions will also be made on the management of disease and pest of coffee with the Director of Research and Development of IACO.



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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1- 4th ACSC (Conférence Scientifique sur le Café Africain)

The 4th African Scientific Coffee Conference, themed "Enhanced research for a resilient coffee value chain in Africa", was held on the 16th November 2020, online in Accra, Ghana and covered two sessions including Crop Protection and Breeding (Session I), and Agronomy, Agro-Economy and Quality (Session II).



Session 1: Crop Protection and Breeding

Moderated by **Dr. Joseph Kimemia**, from Kenya, six presentations were carried out.

Two presentations by **Mr. Kifle Bellachew Bekele**, Associate Researcher, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)

• *Climate change affects coffee leaf rust (Hemileia vastatrix Be & Br.) epidemics in Ethiopia*

After a background on coffee production globally and in Ethiopia, the presenter indicated that Ethiopia is the 5th largest global coffee producer. However, the country is being affected by various coffee diseases where an incidence and severity of 35.3% and 22.5% respectively are reported probably due to Climate change.

Warm and humid conditions trigger the incidence and severity of the coffee leaf rust and the major control measures are the use of fungicides and resilient varieties. However, the emergence of new races of disease breaks down the resilience of plant varieties. Other methods such as cultural (shade management and pruning) and soil nutrient management practices are also employed in managing the disease.

• *Screening of indigenous mycoparasites associated to coffee leaf rust Hemileia vastatrix for their biocontrol potential on the disease*

The results of the study to collect and subsequently identify and characterize biological control agents for coffee leaf rust (CLR) from different coffee-growing areas in Ethiopia were presented. Susceptibility test was also performed. 110 different parasites associated with CLR were identified. Fifteen (15) of the isolates which mainly belong to the following genera: Digitopodium spp., Fusarium sp. and Lecanicillium spp can reduce the disease severity.

a) Presentation by **Dr. James Gimase**, Research Scientist, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, Nairobi, Kenya

• *Characterization of the putative genome-wide SNP loci associated with resistance to Colletotrichum kahawae (Waller & Bridge) in the variety Hibrido de Timor using GWAS and QTL mapping*

Dr. Gimase gave background information on the coffee berry disease and studies done on genetic finger printing of the disease. His study aimed at characterizing the putative SNP marker for the T gene using GWAS and QTL mapping. He explained the methodologies involved in conducting the study and indicated that the research was able to identify SNP marker and recommended it for validation.

b) Two presentations by **Dr. Abraham Akperley**, Research Scientist (Plant Breeding), Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG)

• *SNP marker-assisted detection of mislabeling and pollen contamination in a Robusta coffee breeding programme*

After presenting the two main strategies in crop maintenance: *ex situ* and *in situ*, Dr. AKPERLEY said that Robusta coffee needed to be preserved in the field because of recalcitrant seeds and explained that there are mislabeling (synonymous and homonymous) problems with *ex situ* storage and how they arise. He highlighted:

- The advantages of molecular characterization over morphological characterization and identified 18.6% mislabeling (synonymous type);
- The significant effect of mislabeling on growth and yield of Robusta coffee where intended crosses were more vigorous at the juvenile growth phase and outperformed unintended crosses (due to pollen contamination or mislabeling) with a yield advantage of more than 2 kg wet cherry per tree; and
- That two main sub-populations were identified using 120 SNP loci on the genetic structure of the germplasm collection.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1- 4^{eme} CSCA (Conférence Scientifique sur le Café Africain)

• Determination of field establishment and early bearing potential of half-sib Robusta coffee families in Ghana.

The presenter explained the result of early field establishment and its effect on early bearing for varietal development and the impact of climate change on crop and recommended that for a successful field establishment, a significant variation among Robusta coffee genotypes [four (4) identified promising families] was necessary.

c) Presentation by **Dr. Simon Martin Mvuyekure**, Coffee Research Leader, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

• East African Coffee Breeding Hub: Coordinating a regional strategy to accelerate the creation of 21st century varieties

The presenter stated that low productivity in the coffee sector is due to varieties which are not resilient to changing weather patterns. In addition, climate change that increases temperature, biotic and abiotic stresses contribute to low productivity as well. To address this challenge, he recommended as follows:

- Building the next generation of coffee varieties and sustaining the industry's genetic resources and breeding potential,
- Creating of a network of regional breeding hubs that countries, research institutes and private sector partners can utilize to accelerate the pace of coffee genetic improvement, and
- Establishing of a hub and information exchange by the various stakeholders including the research community, policy makers and private sector partners.

Session 2: Agronomy, Agro-Economy and Quality

Moderated by **Dr. Christophe Montagnon**, a Coffee Variety and Coffee Agronomic Practices Expert, this session consisted of six presentations.

a) Presentation by **Mr. Kifle Bellachew Bekele**, Associate Researcher, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)

• Sustainable coffee production challenges in developing countries, the case of Ethiopian coffee

The importance of coffee to Ethiopia and its traditional role in the country including the local consumption of half of its production was highlighted. The presenter indicated that most of the farms in Ethiopia are riddled with various challenges to coffee production including diseases, inaccessibility of farmers to chemicals and sustainable production of coffee threatened by the volatility of coffee prices which affect farmers.

b) Presentation by **Daniel Dibue Munkamba**, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Institut National Pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques (INERA), Democratic Republic of the Congo

• Differentiation into roots and leafy stems from cotyledonary leaves of the Robusta coffee tree. Possibility of reproduction of coffee plants affected by Rihizoctoniosis (damping off)

The presenter explained how Rihizoctoniosis affects cultivation and recommended how to recover such affected plants as follows:

- Significant shade treatment effect in leaf re-development and root development due to the fact that light had a significant effect on plant re-generation; and
- Diseased plants could be regenerated from unaffected parts of the plant. This provides a cheaper alternative than acquiring new planting materials for resource-poor farmers.





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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1- 4^{eme} CSCA (Conférence Scientifique sur le Café Africain)

c) Presentation by **Dr. Simon Martin Mvuyekure**, Coffee Research Leader, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Rwanda

• **Stabilizing income in small scale coffee farming systems through crop diversification. The case of coffee banana intercropping practice**

The effect of price volatility, climate change and intercropping systems to stabilize farmers' income are the salient points presented. To address these challenges, he recommended to use of banana to provide shade and a source of additional income. However, when banana was added to existing coffee plantation, there was a significant depressive effect on coffee yield. Intercropping did not affect coffee cup quality, and coffee in the intercrop had less rust disease compared to the monocrop. Planting coffee and banana together did not have a significant effect on coffee yields.

d) Presentation by **Dr. Adabe Kokou Edoh**, Agroeconomist specialising in Agrobusiness and Researcher, Centre de Recherche Agronomique Zone Forestiere (CRAF), Togo

• **Basic investment and cost of production of robusta green coffee in Togo**

The presenter provided a background information on coffee in Togo and its importance to the country's agriculture, specifically information on the production of green coffee and the investment in this regard. Total investment in robusta green coffee for the 4-year study was CFA 771,000 per hectare with 65% spent on farm establishment while the remainder (35%) expended on farm management. The findings of the study also indicated that harvest required a lot of labour and 65% of labour was taken up by family members with 35% being hired labour.

e) Presentation by **Mr. Hyacinthe Legnate**, CNRA, Cote D'Ivoire

• **Sensory qualities of coffees from new Robusta hybrids for optimized use by the industry**

Dr Legnate presented the recent improvement on coffee in Cote d'Ivoire. He indicated the importance of cup quality of varieties in different locations. Using a sensory panel of 12 assessors, he observed significant differences in cup quality for the different varieties. Based on their sensory profiles, the varieties were grouped into four types including coffee with and without fermentation, acidity and aroma.

f) Presentation by **Dr. Okoma Michelle Pamelas**, Research Associate, Genetics and Plant Breeding, CNRA, Cote D'Ivoire

• **A new method for predicting the function and production of coffee: the GreenLab model.**

Dr. Okoma described a model to use in the coffee sector with the potential of forecasting the function and production of the crop. The model could simulate the development and growth of coffee tree. Based on the model, the height of plants and flower activity could be used to predict tree performance. The model enables the prediction of the chronological age of trees. Evaluating the model on 6 coffee species in both dry and wet areas, significant variation in tree growth parameters for the different locations (wet and dry) were identified. The model enables to identify parameters that determine growth in coffee trees by predicting biomass accumulation. This can have an application in developing varieties under a climate change scenario.

Conclusion and recommendations

The sessions of the presentations were engaging and the various speakers provided new insights into areas of coffee research including molecular approaches in breeding, pest and disease control and sustainable production. After discussions and comments provided by the participants, following are recommendations from the conference:

- Participants agreed that information sharing among scientists in the coffee sector in Africa is limiting and should be improved.
- Collaborative efforts at sourcing funds for coffee research in Africa should be promoted.
- It is important to enhance coffee research and innovation in the African IACO member countries
- Research should be oriented in a way to solve challenges faced by the coffee farmers
- It is required to strengthen the linkage between research and extension so as to facilitate the dissemination of research findings to farmers.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

2- Visit to the Research Center

On the 24th February, The Secretary General and the Director of Research and Development visited the Research Station of Man in the Regional Directorate of Man.

The Man Regional Directorate of CNRA is located in the West of the Country, and is formed by three Research Stations including Man, Guiglo and Touba, on an area of 39.311 Km².

The Man Research station visited, is on 300ha and host the Headquarters of the Regional Directorate. Activities of Research in Man Station are carried out on Cola, coffee, Rice, Cassava, Rubber tree and Farming systems.

During our visit to Man research station, we had a meeting with the Regional Director, Dr Bouet Alphonse, and the research team of the coffee program headed by Dr Sery Jean Marc. Discussions focused on the possible collaboration with the IACO's Department of Research and the coffee research program on different activities. The Director of research informed the researchers about the 5th African scientific coffee conference to be held in Lomé, Togo, in November, 2022 and requested them to send the abstracts and participate.

After the meeting the Secretary General and the Director of Research visited the nursery for coffee seedlings production, and the mother garden where the cuttings are collected from for the different clones of Robusta, Arabusta, and other varieties. It was indicated that most of coffee research activities are based in Divo Research Station, in Gagnoa Regional Directorate. Activities of the coffee research program in Divo include the genbank, field trails, and the tissue culture laboratory. A trip to Divo will be planned to visit these activities.



1. Visiting the coffee nursery in Man research station



2. Meeting with Regional Director of Man, and the research team of the coffee program

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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1- 9th African Coffee Symposium (ACS)

The session started with a keynote address delivered by Honourable **Dr. Jean-Chrysostome Ngabitsinze, Minister of State/Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources.**

The theme of the 9th African Coffee Symposium was "Strengthening the Coffee Value Chain for Sustainable Development of the Economy and Improved Living Incomes of African Producers", it was composed of two (2) Panels with two (2) moderators and eight (8) panellists.

Panel 1: Improve value-addition and promote domestic consumption of African coffee

Despite coffee being originated from Africa, the domestic consumption of African Coffee is still low, except Ethiopia which consumes almost half of its production. The situation of low coffee consumption has been worsened by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and its sanitary restrictions, due to closures of coffee-roasting units, cessation of movements and meetings, and closure of distribution outlets. This panel, moderated by Dr Morris AKIRI, Regional Director, CABI-Africa, discussed solutions to streamline these challenges and strategies to improve the value-addition and domestic consumption of the African coffee. It was concluded from the Keynote speaker and the panellists that the process of value addition on coffee should reflect an increased marginal profit for farmers for a sustainable coffee industry. Therefore,

- We need to attract youth in the coffee sector by creating for them an enable environment and policies, and facilities to finance; and promoting local products;
- It is critical for the governments to have a comprehensive coffee policy that specifically includes the objective of promoting the transformation of the local value chain, including domestic roasting, packaging and support for the development of cafés; and develop a strategy to implement the policy, and also to create and enable legal framework;
- Empowering farmers and facilitate them to participate in the value addition will prove the local consumption;
- For the local consumption to improve, there is a need to educate actors to improve the quality; and
- There is a need from the governments to create policies and regulations for discouraging the imports of coffee in African countries.



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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1- 9th African Coffee Symposium (ACS)

Panel 2: Improve the financing of the African coffee sector

Access to finance for production, in-country processing and marketing is one of the main challenges limiting the transformation of the African coffee sector into a vibrant and resilient industry. Most African coffee producers are resource-poor farmers. Developing or establishing funding systems for a better access to finance for them will alleviate their challenge to finance. Moderated by Dr Frederick KAWUMA from Uganda and Coffee Goodwill Ambassador, the panel discussed the strategies and opportunities for accessing the finance in the coffee industry. These recommendations were made:

- Create a guaranty fund to absorb the market fluctuation shocks and improve local consumption trough making coffee prices available to all;
- The challenges in the coffee sector including the lack on investing capital and disengagement of the public sector , the poor organization of farmers and limited access to input need to be addressed;
- It is always better to know the type of finance we need to provide to farmers and provide funding that is favorable to them, identify the different needs and approach the financial institutions to address the issue;
- There is a need of a strong support from the government (the success case of Kenya with the trusty fund);
- Financing the research and development; and
- Financing must be combined with other factors enabling environment



2- Participating in the workshop for the validation of the terms of reference for the geographical indication of the mountain coffee of Man

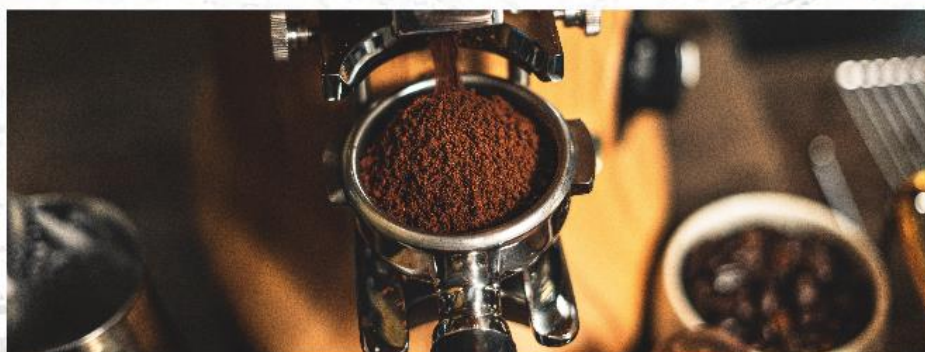
The Secretary General, the Director of Economic Affairs, and the Director of Research & Development attended the opening ceremony of the workshop and paid a courtesy call to the governor of the Region of Man. The Workshop was organized by the "Office Ivoirien de la Propriété Intellectuelle" (OIPI), in collaboration with partners, including IACO and "Conseil du Café-Cacao" (CCC). The Director of Economic affairs gave remarks on behalf of the Secretary General, in the opening ceremony and participated in the entire program of the workshop.

This workshop was attended by approximately 100 persons from government officials, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the extension services (ANADER), researchers (CNRA), the private sector (local coffee dealers, coffee kiosks owners, etc.) and FOPROCAM, the umbrella organization of the coffee farmers.

The need for promoting value addition, marketing and the local consumption of coffee to improve the revenues of farmers was emphasized.

The objective of the workshop was to validate the terms of reference for the appellation of "Café des montagnes de Man". During the workshop, the participants validated the terms of reference, after discussions and some inputs.

It is important to emphasize that IACO is giving support to this initiative since April 2021; the DEA and the Communication officer have worked closely with the staff of OIPI and the CCC, to draft these terms of reference, and identify strategic partners for the project.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

1- Promoting domestic coffee consumption in africa project

Support to national strategies related to coffee roasting and domestic consumption

a) Support in establishing coffee houses

A support was provided to Kenya to establish a coffee house through the coffee directorate of the Kenyan Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA). With the contribution of AFA and its collaboration with the Egerton University and Kenyatta University one coffee house was established at each of these universities. The one of Egerton University was established in 2020, and that of Kenyatta University was Established in 2021. Both coffee houses were officially launched on the 19th and 20th August 2021 respectively, and are now in operation under the management of the respective universities.

Calls were also sent to other countries to provide proposals related to strategies for promoting local coffee consumption that can be supported. Countries supported are DR Congo, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Gabon, and Ghana.



Established coffee Kiosk at the University of Kigali, Rwanda by Sta4d Coffee company



IACO team visiting the St4d coffee Kiosk at the University of Kigali, Rwanda during the AGA in November 2021




Photo: Coffee Kiosk established in Lomé, Togo

african Coffee

GENERAL INFORMATION

1- Promoting domestic coffee consumption in africa project

b) Support in capacity building

To build competencies of coffee cuppers, local roasters and café operators, and to create awareness among producers regarding the attention and care that are needed at the farm-level, the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) organized trainings of roasters to improve their capacity in processing and cupping in Gabon, Libreville, and Ghana in Koforidua, 

- Training Libreville, Gabon

The training in Gabon took place in Libreville from 30th August to the 11th September 2021. Twenty-seven young entrepreneurs in coffee sector were trained on green coffee sensory skills, on roasting and cupping. Handouts and certificates were given to participants after the training. Participants were from Gabon (16), Cameroon (3), DR Congo (2), Guinea (2), Cote d'Ivoire (1) and Togo (3). The training was carried out in collaboration with the CAIS-TAB Gabon, the International Trade Center (ITC) and Agency of Coffee Robusta for Africa and Madagascar (ACRAM).



Group photo at the opening ceremony (Gabon)

- Training in Ghana

The training took place from the 4th to the 9th October 2021, and was organized by IACO in collaboration with ITC-Alliance for action and ACRAM. The training was hosted by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and Ghana Cocoa Board and was carried out at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) at Tafo in Koforidua. Twenty-one people were trained, the majority of the trainees (13) came from Ghana, four from Cameroon, and four from Liberia.

Participants were trained on green coffee grading systems, defects in the green coffee and in the Cup, how to roast, and how to taste (sensory skills), on both theory and practical, and they we had an opportunity to visit also the coffee farms at CRIG.

Speakers at the opening ceremony of the training which took place on the first day, included the Secretary General of IACO, the Acting Executive Director of CRIG, the President of the Ghana Coffee Federation, and the representative of ITC.



Group photo at the opening ceremony (Ghana)

In his remarks the SG thanked the government of Ghana for accepting to host the training and to all the participants and organizers of the workshop. He emphasized the importance of working together as coffee stakeholders in the value chain and welcomed the training as a great opportunity to promote the domestic consumption of coffee in Africa. The SG shared his vision under the Drink African Coffee Build Africa (DACBA) initiative and affirmed that increased domestic consumption would create jobs for the youth and improve prices and livelihoods of the small holder farmers.

The training ended on the 8th October 2021, officials who attended the closing ceremony included the Acting Executive Director of CRIG, The President of ACRAM, the Program Manager of the ITC – Alliance for action, and the Executive Secretary of the Conseil Inter-Profession du café – cacao of Cameroon (CICC). During the closing ceremony, certificates of completion of the training were given to participants.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

2- Good to know : Integrating coffee consumption into eating habits

By Auguste AOUTI, Communication and Documentation Officer, InterAfrican Coffee Organisation).

KALDI, a young Ethiopian shepherd, once noticed that the consumption of the bright little red berries that grew in the bush nearby, by his herd had an energizing effect on it. He in turn chewed some of them and felt the same sensation. Impressed, he brought some to the monks of a nearby monastery.

The monks, after hesitation, threw the berries into the fire and a strong and intense aroma quickly arose. They quickly removed them roasted to grind and dissolve them in hot water. The first cup of coffee was born.

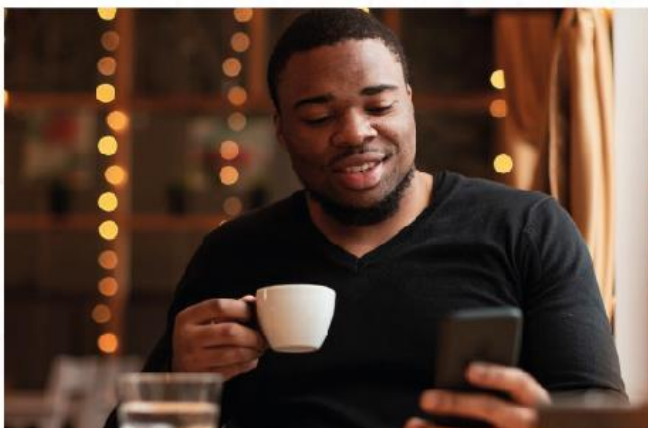
Coffee as a bean was first appreciated for its medicinal virtues and then as a beverage for religious meditations and today for all major meetings.

At a conference organized by IACO in collaboration with the Conseil du Café Cacao de Côte d'Ivoire (CCC), Professor ANZOUAN-KACOU, Cardiologist at the Abidjan Heart Institute (institute de Cardiologie Abidjan - ICA), under the theme "Coffee and Health", made known to the public, the beneficial effects of coffee on health and its virtues.

From the concerns expressed by participants on the side effects of coffee on the human body, Professor, as a health specialist and professional, reassured everyone about the role and contribution of coffee in the life of the consumer.

Moderately consumed, that is, two to three cups of coffee per day depending on tolerance, strengthens the immune system. In addition to being a perfect antioxidant, it offers the caffeine and mineral salts necessary to put and maintain the heart, the brain, the pancreas and the kidneys in perfect working order. As a gentle nervous system booster, coffee makes one more alert and alive. In addition to promoting alertness, coffee is a main source of energy for all physical activities, and it helps build muscle reserves and builds better physical performance for the whole day.

It allows the body to be in harmony with the mind and strengthens the resistance to fatigue. It increases the secretion of saliva and digestive enzymes and improves intestinal transit to facilitate digestion. That's why all over the world, coffee is usually consumed after meals. Regular coffee consumption is therefore indicated for patients who have pathologies of arterial hypertension, diabetes, heart and nervous system. Therefore, he recommended coffee as a daily beverage in eating habits.



3- Promoting coffee consumption in Rwanda the Case of Stafford Coffee box

By Dr Fred KAWUMA, African Coffee Ambassador November 2021

One day, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the National Agricultural Export Promotion Board of Rwanda (NAEB), Ms Sandrine URUJENI, saw coffee served at an unusual kiosk in a prominent location in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. The kiosk drew a host of primarily young people—students, motorcycle taxi riders, and all manner of ordinary folk—who sought a refreshing drink. She inquired who was behind this innovation and learnt that it was one Stafford RUBAGUMYA, a millennial coffee entrepreneur, the Managing Director of Stafford Coffee Brewers Company, Rwanda. Thus, Ms Urujeni brought NAEB's attention to the exciting coffee start-up and its prospects in furthering domestic coffee consumption in Rwanda. It was to mark the beginning of a partnership between NAEB and the Stafford Coffee Brewers Company.

With the mandate to promote the coffee sector in Rwanda, NAEB was on the lookout for every opportunity to boost the love for coffee among the country's impressionable young population. Mr Claude BIZIMANA, the CEO of NAEB, believes that given the growing middle-class in Rwanda, the proliferation of coffee houses in the city and the presence of imported coffee brands, there is evidence of demand for coffee. He, therefore, believes that it is imperative to develop the local coffee business in terms of consumption among the ordinary folks to consume Rwandan coffee, particularly the youth who form the bulk of the population.

Mr Bizimana asserts that the promotion of domestic consumption should translate into a significant internal market that serves as a buffer against international price volatility. A substantial local market will help stabilise local producer prices and guarantee the farmers' prosperity. Moreover, the activation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) provides an excellent opportunity for African coffee in the continental market, thus expanding prospects for Rwandan coffee (and other IACO producers) among African consumers.

Rubagumya had previously worked with a coffee export company in Kigali, where he gained critical skills, including coffee quality-control, cupping and barista skills. The company had also deployed him to train farmers to produce high-quality coffee, particularly wet-coffee processing—an essential process in preparing Rwanda's award-winning coffee for the market. He developed a passion for promoting Rwanda's coffee consumption domestically. He believed that Rwanda's coffee quality was exceptional and needed to be enjoyed by both visitors and the Rwandans themselves.

On one occasion, he had gone to a café in Kigali to get a cup of coffee which cost him the equivalent of two US dollars and a question popped into his mind as to whether the ordinary folk could afford such a drink. Subsequently, he conferred with one of the motorcyclist-taxi riders, who disclosed that although he loved coffee, he could not afford a cup in any café and wished for an affordable alternative, which got the young entrepreneur thinking. Before long, he developed his business model and started to pilot it, finally quitting his job to concentrate on building the new business with the brand of Stafford Coffee Box. Eventually, he established six coffee kiosks around the city and a restaurant on the southern highway in Musambira, where travellers stop for coffee and snacks and get refreshed in clean restrooms. He has also opened coffee shops upcountry in Kamonyi and Kayonza.

Two objectives drove Rubagumya, affordability and accessibility. He wanted to make Rwanda coffee affordable to ordinary consumers by offering a good quality cup for prices ranging from 30 US cents to 1 US dollar, depending on the type of coffee one wants. In comparison, high-end restaurants sell a cup of coffee for prices ranging from 2-3 US dollars. He addressed the issue of accessibility by setting up colourful kiosks depicting attractive designs in high traffic areas where those in need of a cup of coffee could quickly get one. Such places include shopping malls, bus stations, markets and universities. Rubagumya contacted NAEB for support in further expanding his ambitions of promoting the domestic consumption of coffee in Rwanda



Rubagumya explains a point to the IACO Secretary General, Amb. Solomon RUTEGA

african Coffee

GENERAL INFORMATION

3- Promoting coffee consumption in Rwanda the case of Stafford Coffee box

IACO Opens a New Chapter in Promotion of Coffee Consumption

To make the coffee value chain in Africa both inclusive and granular, the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) launched a programme in 2019 to promote domestic coffee consumption in Africa to enhance the transformation of the value chain. IACO's objective was to work towards the African Union goal of commodity-led industrialisation in Africa, increase the participation of young Africans in the value chain, and boost the prosperity of African producers through the de-commoditisation of coffee. IACO's priority was the establishment of cafés at universities to promote consumption amongst the youthful influencers. Through NAEB, its agency responsible for coffee regulation and promotion, Rwanda expressed interest in participating in the IACO initiative, and in 2021 the process commenced in supporting Stafford Coffee Box to expand its operations in the different universities in Rwanda. The initial kiosk under this project was the outlet at the University of Tourism at Sonatube, then another at the University of Kigali, which are to be followed by three others at different universities. So far, the results have been impressive, and NAEB's choice of this partnership is a win-win strategy as a model for others to follow.

During the recently concluded IACO annual meetings hosted by the Rwanda Government, the IACO delegation was pleasantly surprised during the visit to the coffee box at the University of Kigali. IACO is engaging in similar initiatives in different African countries, hoping to get Africa's young population to appreciate the beloved African beverage that has won the hearts of consumers around the world. While Africa is the origin of coffee, and coffee is indeed Africa's gift to the world, due to influences of colonial hangups (except for Ethiopia), Africans had been denied the pleasure of coffee consumption for a long time.

Rubagumya is optimistic that replicating the model at different universities will be pivotal in getting university students to adopt the coffee culture that will translate into a corporate culture when the students get into the marketplace. One exciting feature of the Stafford Coffee Box is that it provides employment opportunities for young women and supports their academic pursuits by supplementing their tuition expenses. Rubagumya and his colleagues have embarked on a mission to educate people about the benefits of coffee consumption, particularly among the youth, though clients have included even much older people. Rubagumya reported an encounter with one of their oldest clients, an 85-year-old male, who was all praises for Stafford Coffee, narrating how getting access to an affordable cup of coffee had transformed his daily routine. The outlets also sell packaged roasted coffee which has been attractive to both locals and tourists, and some of them also sell crafts.

IACO believes that there is an excellent scope for coffee tourism in Africa, with unique stories to tell in each producing country, beautiful artefacts, exceptional ethnic cuisine for visitors to discover and enjoy, and a host of other attractions. There is much to explore in Africa—for both Africans and outsiders—and one can venture into discovering the secrets of the unique coffees in each producing country. The promotion of domestic consumption in Africa is now really picking up! IACO's coffee consumption slogan is "Drink African Coffee Build Africa's Economy." So, the question is, what coffee are you drinking? ☐



Fred KAWUMA and Stafford RUBAGUMYA at the Kigali University outside a coffee box supported under IACO's promotion of domestic coffee consumption

About the Author: Dr Frederick S.M. KAWUMA, Secretary General Emeritus of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO), is a Goodwill Ambassador of African coffee. He has a great passion for the promotion of African coffee. He can be reached on fkawuma@gmail.com



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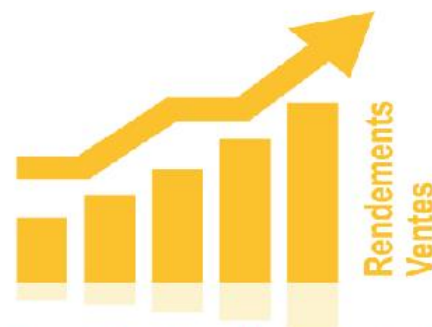


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ANNONCES



AFRICA COFFEE YOUTH FORUM (ACYF)

The Africa Coffee Youth Forum (ACYF) as part of the Digital Youth Platform project of the Inter-African Coffee Organisations (IACO), whose main aim is to better understand and develop the landscape of young entrepreneurs operating along the coffee value chain on the African continent, will be hosting its maiden edition of the Africa Coffee Youth Forum, virtually at **10:00am GMT on March 10th, 2022.**

IACO'S 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2022 Annual Meetings of IACO will be hosted by the Republic of Togo under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Commerce, Industry and Local Consumption. The 10th African Coffee Symposium and the 5th African Coffee Scientific Conference as part of the 62nd Annual Meetings of IACO, will take place in November 2022. Further details on the exact dates and venue will be provided accordingly.

10th AFRICAN COFFEE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND 5th AFRICAN COFFEE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The 62nd Annual Assemblies will take place in November 2022. Details on the exact dates of the 10th African Coffee Symposium and the 5th Scientific Conference on African Coffee will be provided later.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COFFEE WORLD IN 2022

25th May 2022	African Union International Africa Day
September 2022	ICO's 2022 Council Meetings in Colombia
30th September 1st October	Festicoffee: DACBA Initiative

