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**Department of Research and Development/**

**African Coffee Research Network (ACRN)**

**DRD Activity Report 2021/2022**

**Abidjan, October 2022**

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**Introduction**

The Department of Research and Development serves as a technical body for the Organization to coordinate research and development in order to contribute and to improve African coffee productivity, production and quality.

The ultimate objective is to improve competitiveness and regional market share by exercising key functions such as collaboration with sub-regional organizations, national research institutions to identify, collect and analyse research priorities, improve resource management in the context of the cropping system, fight against coffee pests and diseases and contribute to the environment management and the development of the coffee industry. Activities of the Department of Research and Development respond to the strategic objective 2 of IACO, related to the coordination of coffee research and its implementation in Africa. The plan of activities for 2021-2022 was presented in the 61st Annual meetings of IACO in Kigali, Rwanda from the 15th to the 18th of November 2021, and was approved. The proposed activities were grouped into the following 4 components:

* Preparation and dissemination of scientific, technical and reference information;
* Development and follow up of research projects;
* Coordination and support to research centres in member countries;
* Administrative support and representation of IACO.

Report of the implementations of activities under these components is detailed in the table below.

**Table: Report on the implementation of DRD/ACRN activities 2021/2022.**

| **Activity** | **Objectives/Expected output** | **Achievements** |
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| **Component 1: Preparation and dissemination of scientific and technical information** | | |
| Update the directory of Coffee Research Centres, and the list of researchers and ACRN focal points in member countries. | A directory of Research Centres and Researchers ready and made available to the different partners for reference and use. | List of coffee researchers from ACRN member countries are updated for 2021-2022 and posted on IACO’s website |
| Work with research institutes to develop extension materials on coffee (brochures, manuals) for farmers. | Extensions materials on coffee plant protection and cultivation developed. | A manual on cultivation of coffee was drafted and is still under review, |
| Organise workshops to share scientific information on coffee | At least one workshop organised. | A zoom meeting was organised on the 21June 2022 with focal points in member countries to share information on IACO’s activities and discussion on the implementation of projects. |
| **Component 2: Development and follow up of research projects** | | |
| Drafting research projects for submission to donors for funding. | Workshop organised to draft projects.  At least one regional project developed and submitted to different donors. | One project drafted in collaboration with the Sustainable Food Lab entitled: Facilitating implementation of living and prosperous income commitments, was developed.  The proposal was submitted to GIZ for funding, and it was approved.  The project funds were received, and the project is being implemented  IACO in collaboration with ICO and CABI prepared a project proposal on Rapid appraisal of the financing landscape for the coffee sector in Africa’ that was submitted to Afreximbank for funding.  The Bank approved the grant to implement the project, and funds were transferred to IACO.  Followed up a call for the proposal sent by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Bioresources Innovations Network for Eastern Africa Development Programme (BioInnovate Africa), IACO mobilised researchers from Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda in drafting proposals which are now ready to be submitted for funding. The deadline for submission was on the 19th of July 2022. |
| Follow up on the implementation of the project: ‘Promoting Domestic Coffee Consumption in Africa’ in IACO Anglophone member countries. | At least one training on cupping and roasting organised.  Projects on the promotion of local coffee consumption in member countries (Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, and Kenya) well monitored and reported. | A training on coffee roasting and cupping was organised in Ghana from the 4th to the 7th of October 2021. 21 participants from Ghana, Cameroon, and Liberia attended.  Visit to the coffee kiosks in Rwanda established by the Stafford company on the 23rd of August 2022: The project has funded the establishment of 5 coffee Kiosks by Stafford company through the National Agricultural Export Board (NAEB) of Rwanda. These Kiosks were established and are now operational. Details of the visit are presented in the mission report.  A report of the project was also prepared and submitted to ICO, it was presented during the ICO joint committees meeting on the 29th of March 2022 by the ICO Chief Economist and the Secretary General of IACO. |
| To carry out an assessment on the status of the regional cupping Laboratories supported by IACO. | Cupping labs in three countries (Cameroon, Uganda and Zambia) visited and status assessed. | The regional cupping centres in Uganda, Zambia and Cameroon were visited and assessed.  The centre was visited from the 15th to the 18th of March 2022 in Uganda, 19th to 22nd March 2022 in Zambia and on the 1st of July 2022 in Cameroon (Douala). The assessment report is being prepared and will be available soon.  A courtesy call was also paid to the coffee board authorities in respective countries to discuss how the centres can be improved.  A visit was conducted in Douala, Cameroon to discuss with the Office National of Coffee and Cocoa (ONCC) on the establishment of coffee Kiosks at the university for the promotion of the local consumption. |
| **Component 3. Coordination and support to research centres in member countries** | | |
| Working with SG in strengthening collaboration / cooperation with ACRAM, AFCA, ITC, and international research organisations. | Meetings for partnership discussions organised.  Partnership agreements initiated  Informing partners about IACO activities.  Negotiate Funds for IACO / ACRN activities.  Field visits | The Secretary General and the DRD met with the Chief of Staff of the AfCFTA and his team on the 5th of October 2021 in Accra., to share the IACO vision on promoting the local consumption of coffee through the DACBA (Drink African Coffee, build Africa) initiative and value addition to African coffee.  The AfCFTA-IACO MoU was prepared and signed on the 4th of April 2022  MoU between IACO and Café Continent for collaboration in establishing a coffee training center for youth in Barista was signed.  MoU with IACO and the African Regional Standards Organisation (ARSO) was prepared and signed on the 29th of June 2022. A follow up of its implementation is being done for the development of coffee standards for Africa.  A visit to the Coffee Research Center in Man took place from 23rd to 25th February 2022 to discuss improving our collaboration with coffee Researchers (detailed report available)  Visit to the Coffee Research Institute in Kenya on the 1st of June 2022 and discussed with the Director of the Institute to strengthen the collaboration. The delegation from IACO was composed of the SG, the DEA, the DRD, and the Secretary.  Visit to the Institute National de Recherche Agricole de Benin (INRAB) on the 14th of May 2022 and discussion with the coffee researchers in Benin (detailed report of the visit available)  Visit to the Produce Monitoring Board and the Sierra Leone Agriculture Research Institute (SLARI), Sierra Leone. From this visit it was recommended to have an MoU with SLARI to work on the development of the Sierra Leone new coffee species ‘*C. stenophylla’* known for its features for the resilience to climate change and good quality. The mission report with details of the visit was prepared.  During the year other contacts were also made to strengthen research collaboration partners including the meeting with Regional Director of CIRAD in Abidjan, Dr Cilas Christian, the Scientific Secretary of ASIC, Dr Benoit Bertrand. |
| Participate in scientific meetings  - AFCA 2022;  - SCA 2022;  - WCPF 2022. | * Representation of IACO/ACRN * Follow the different scientific presentations; * Meeting WCR authorities and discuss how to revamp the collaboration. | The Secretary General of IACO and the Director of Research attended the Specialty Coffee Association events in Boston from the 6th to 10th April 2022. During the event, meetings with different partners including the president of the Specialty Coffee Alliance, the president of the World Coffee Producers Forum, the CEO of the World Coffee Research, the Chairperson of the International Women’s Coffee Alliance, and other partners were organised. A detailed report for the mission is available.  Participation to the 3rd Ethiopian Coffee Science Society (ECSS) conference organised from the 17th to 18th June 2022, in Metu, Ethiopia. A presentation was made by DRD on the role of ACRN in the development of the coffee industry in Africa.  Participation to the 1st edition of 3rd World Coffee Producers’ Forum (WCPF) organised on the 12 July 2022 online. The 2nd edition of the 3rd WCPF will take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 13th to the 14th of February 2023. |
| Organisation of the 5th African Coffee Scientific Conference. | -Send out call for abstracts and preparation of all necessary documents.  -Organise the conference. | Call for Abstracts were sent out to researchers for their participation to the scientific conference to be held in Lomé, Togo on the 15 November 2022 during the IACO annual meetings. 65 Abstracts were sent by 47 researchers from 15 ACRN member counties.  These abstracts were reviewed and 34 of them were approved for oral presentation in the conference. |
| **Component 4. Administrative support and representation of IACO** | | |
| Review the ACRN agreement document. | ACRN agreement document reviewed and aligned with the new IACO agreement. | This activity should be carried out after the ratification of IACO’s 2022 agreement |
| Prepare the Organisation’s different administrative documents / files. | Support to IACO Administration. | Ongoing activity |
| Participation in the preparation of IACO’s annual meetings. | AGA, Symposium and technical committees for 2021organized, and well prepared for 2022. | The AGA 2021 was well prepared and organised in Kigali, 2021.  Participation in the organization of the African coffee submit in Nairobi |
| Represent IACO in various forums in and outside Abidjan. | IACO represented in various forums. | The SG, DEA and DRD paid a courtesy call to Governor of Man and attended the Workshop organized by the ‘Office Ivoirien de la Propriété Intellectuelle’ (OIPI) on the validation of the terms of reference for the geographical indication of the mountain coffee of Man. The mission report was prepared and is available |
| Follow up on ACRN contributions from member countries. | Mobilise ACRN member countries to pay their contributions. | Letters to member countries as reminder for contribution sent out. |