

**Report on the 2nd Meeting of the
Focus Group on Specialty Coffee**

1. The Executive Director, Dr Vanússia Nogueira, welcomed all participants to the second meeting of the Focus Group on Specialty Coffee (FGSC), which took place on 3 July 2024.
2. Representatives of the following Members were present: Brazil, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Honduras, India, EU-Italy, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru and Vietnam.
3. The Executive Director shared the report of the first meeting of the FGSC. Said report was then approved.
4. The Executive Director highlighted the scope of work to be discussed by the FGSC, notably including:
 - The introduction of private sector representatives
 - Working towards a specialty coffee definition
 - Examining collaboration opportunities with coffee research and development institutes
 - Sharing learnings and discoveries across the coffee producer landscape
 - The promotion of specialty coffee consumption
5. As mentioned in the first meeting of the FGSC, the second meeting had been organized to hear from the leaders of specialty coffee organizations in each country. The Executive Director asked the countries to tell them about their observations.
6. The head of the Brazilian Specialty Coffee Association (BSCA) mentioned that the sector was developing quickly in terms of productivity, identification of geographical origins, and participation of women and young generations in the production of specialty coffees. To this end,

the head spoke on behalf of the developing sector's priorities and illustrated the importance of a robust definition of specialty coffee. He believed that such a definition would make it possible to elaborate trade statistics on the value of the specialty coffee market and hence allow new connections between producing and importing countries, with the aim of increasing specialty coffee consumption. He stated that specialty coffee production had grown dramatically, from 150,000 bags in the early 1990s to over 8 million bags today. For him, this highlights the need to guarantee sustainability for the entire supply chain, from the producers to the consumers, and therefore promote a sustainable value chain for production, imports and consumption in new markets.

7. The delegate of Brazil highlighted that all of the goals shared by the BSCA could be mirrored by other countries, allowing the FGSC to focus on matters important to all Members. Furthermore, the delegation suggested that the Secretariat study the creation of carbon credits so as to enable additional revenue for coffee growers.

8. The Executive Director highlighted the main objectives of the BSCA, which are:

- To provide a global definition for specialty coffee
- To provide statistics on specialty coffee
- To promote the consumption of specialty coffees by reinforcing the links between producers and consumers

9. The delegate of El Salvador highlighted that most specialty coffee producers are smallholders. However, since the production costs remain extremely high, the delegate suggested that the FGSC examine how to reduce these costs for smallholders.

10. The delegate of Honduras expressed his support for the FGSC and committed to share more details about cooperation with the FGSC within Central and Latin American countries.

11. The delegate of India stated that he was in discussions with the Specialty Coffee Association in India and would share findings at the next FGSC.

12. The delegate of the EU-Italy stressed the importance of establishing a definition for specialty coffee, and gave as an example the definition offered by the Coffee Quality Institute (CQI), which says that coffee must score above 80 points on the Specialty Coffee Association Cupping Form to be classified as speciality. Furthermore, the delegate of the EU-Italy stressed that further highlighting the special qualities of coffees would increase consumption, benefitting the coffee market.

13. The delegate of Papua New Guinea stated that the CQI definition was a reasonable starting place, but noted that it had evolved over time and that, at the present time, unique coffees not scoring above 80 points are also classified as speciality. The delegate gave examples of criteria that can be used for defining specialty coffee, namely:

- Elements pertaining to price premiums
- Quality

- Certifications (geographic indications or production methodologies)
- Self-definition

14. The delegate of Papua New Guinea further noted that focus on specialty raised the quality profile of all coffees as well, thus promoting consumption. In this regard, the importance of accurate statistics was stressed, which would assist in quantifying the level of consumption. He consequently suggested the following:

- The compilation of a non-exhaustive list of definitions by the FGSC
- The dissemination of information on how each origin handles specialty coffee throughout the marketing chain, especially in view of the large role of microlots

15. To assist with the definition, the Executive Director shared that a task force of the International Trade Centre on coffee market segmentation had divided the coffee market into three tiers; commodity coffee, premium coffee, and specialized coffee.

16. The delegate of Peru suggested that the FGSC focus on promoting domestic specialty coffee consumption.

17. The delegate of Panama shared how their national specialty coffee association was a valuable source of information, specifically in establishing a definition. Furthermore, she mentioned how research and development and accurate statistics are all equally important fields to be explored.

18. The delegates of Brazil, EU-Italy, Honduras and Papua New Guinea suggested that the Secretariat compile all current definitions of specialty coffee and disseminate to the FGSC.

19. Members decided on a tentative date for the next meeting, to be decided through a survey. The preferred time remains at 12pm, UK time.

20. The FGSC agreed that the Secretariat prepare definitions of specialty coffee for the next meeting.
--