INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

MR 12/25

Mission report

Subject	AGX Unconference
Place and dates	Nairobi, Kenya – 23 and 24 July 2025
ICO staff member	• Lavinia Gasperini, Junior Professional Officer, Sustainability and Partnerships
Purpose of travel	• Participate in the AGX Unconference
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	**Five-Year Action Plan** • **Strategic Goal II**: Using the Organization's convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors • **Strategic Goal III**: Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships **Results and Deliverables from the PoA** • II.A.3 Consultations and advocacy to increase the engagement of ICO Members, private sector/other stakeholders in CPPTF and the realization of the Roadmap • II.A.6 Engaging IGOs, IFIs and NGOs in ICO events and participation in external events • II.A.9 Outreach programmes, special events and information materials

OVERVIEW

1. AGX Unconference

The AGX Unconference was convened in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Gates Foundation, GIZ, the Digital Integration of Agricultural Supply Chains Alliance (DIASCA), and DevGlobal. The event focused on the topic "Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture: A More Efficient Future" and was designed and facilitated as a participant-driven gathering. It brought together diverse stakeholders, including producers, technologists, researchers, policymakers and investors to discuss how DPI and AI can be leveraged to propel the future of agriculture towards more efficient, inclusive and resilient systems. This included focused discussions on Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly with regard to Kenyan coffee, and Asia.

Through interactive formats, attendees were invited to uncover insights and build actionable strategies to strengthen the digital and AI-powered ecosystems driving

sustainable transformation of agrifood systems.

The Junior Professional Officer attended in the context of work carried out within the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and, in particular, to support Technical Workstream 3's joint actions on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. The Junior Professional Officer participated in the unconference sessions to gather in-depth information and updates on the latest trends and developments within DPI and AI. She also engaged in several conversations with coffee stakeholders from Kenya and other African countries to discuss current issues.
2. The 2025 AGX Unconference was the first gathering of a series of "unconferences" and the following meeting was forecast for October 2025 in Bengaluru, India.
3. Regarding the interaction between DPI and AI, key considerations/issues raised were around:
   (a) **Data quality:** There are currently no common standards for data accuracy.
   (b) **Inclusivity**: Many people remain excluded from data creation and access.
   (c) **Trust**: Many people, especially producers, lack clarity on how their data is collected, used, and shared, or what value it generates for them. Discussions focused on the importance of raising awareness, building trust, and developing mechanisms that allow farmers to benefit directly—financially or otherwise—from their data contributions.
   (d) **Governance**: Data ownership and accessibility emerged as key issues, with differing views on which actor(s) should collect, own and share data, and on where this data should be stored.
   (e) **Relevance**: AI and DPI must be adaptable to local contexts and needs, as well as to local digital infrastructure and literacy.
   (f) **Duplications**: Currently, there are many different tools that involve AI and DPI, causing confusion among potential users. Increased awareness and coordination are needed. The idea of a "one-stop shop" in countries was also suggested several times.
   (g) **Financing**: Even if many DPI solutions are open source, maintaining and updating them has recurring costs. They often depend on donor funding, limiting scalability. Additionally, high internet costs in many African contexts were highlighted as a major affordability barrier for end users.
4. The EUDR remains a key focus for African countries, who are making significant efforts to advance their compliance before December 2025.

5. The Government of Kenya and producer associations are prioritizing inclusivity and resilience in the coffee sector by exploring digital solutions aligned with national agricultural strategies, while seeking to address key challenges such as climate impacts, plant diseases, limited technical capacity, high production costs, and low engagement of youth and women.

6. The Kenyan coffee sector is supported by several key platforms and initiatives, including the Direct Settlement System (DSS); Kilimo News App; and the National Coffee Information System (NCIS). Other information systems include the Asset Registry, Land Registry and Farmer Registry, which will be fully interlinked with the NCIS, which already includes DSS data.

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