INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

Mission report

Subject	XXVI Latin-American Coffee Farming Symposium and connected events
Place and dates	San Salvador – 15 to 18 July 2025
ICO staff member	Vanúsia Nogueira, Executive Director
Purpose of travel	• Attend the closing of the Korea-Latin America Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KOLFACI) Forum. • Participate in field visit to Finca Plan del Hoyo • Participate in the opening of the Symposium. • Participate as a keynote speaker at the Symposium. • Pay a courtesy visit to the Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador. • Participate in discussions about mechanization possibilities. • Participate in discussions about partnerships with CATIE and coffee-producing countries.
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	**Five-Year Action Plan** • **Strategic Goal III**: Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships **Results and deliverables from the PoA:** • Follow-up, facilitation and technical advice to partners, elaboration of proposals (under Strategic Goals II and III of the Five-Year Action Plan) • Encourage Members to provide their national coffee strategies and country coffee profiles to share best practices among Members. • Provide a forum for dialogue on coffee-related issues. • Develop links with senior government representatives when visiting ICO member countries. • Organize missions to Member countries. • Participate in national and international coffee events. • Participate in coffee events organized by regional and national coffee organizations or associations. • Support the design and implementation of national coffee strategies and encourage sharing of best practices.

OVERVIEW

1. Closing of the Korea-Latin America Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KoLFACI) Forum

KoLFACI is a multilateral cooperation initiative that was officially inaugurated in September 2014. It has the following mission and objectives:

(a) To establish a strong agricultural technology cooperation network with Latin American and Caribbean countries;

(b) To disseminate Korea's advanced agricultural technology in Latin American and Caribbean countries;

(c) To organize agricultural exchange programmes between Korea and Latin American and Caribbean countries;

(d) To contribute to resolving the current agricultural issues in Latin American and Caribbean countries;

(e) To improve Korea's national image and become an advanced country in agriculture; and

(f) To enhance the agricultural productivity of the member countries and facilitate the use of agricultural products in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Executive Director attended the closing of the KoLFACI Forum in order to engage with relevant stakeholders. To date, numerous projects have been implemented in 15 countries, of which 11 are ICO Members (Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru).

2. Field Visit to Finca Plan del Hoyo

The Executive Director participated in a field visit to Finca Plan del Hoyo, located on the northern side of the Santa Ana Volcano in the Apaneca-Ilamatepec mountain range. The visit brought together coffee specialists, agronomists, and industry professionals for hands-on learning at four specialized demonstration stations, led by experts from the Salvadoran Coffee Institute and UNEX (*Unión de Exportadores, S.A. de C.V.*):

(a) **Station 1 – Specialized Nutrition – Profitability**: Ing. Carlos Carballo and Ing. Jorge Sandoval.

(b) **Station 2 – Sustainable Canopy Management – Agronomy**: Ing. Iván Rivera, Ing. Camila Miguel, and Ing. Juan Luis Ochoa.

(c) **Station 3 – Genetics – Production – Quality and Resilience**: Ing. Fátima Díaz and Ing. Gregorio Tenorio.

(d) **Station 4 - Quality –Market Opportunities – Profitability:** Ing. Jorge Escobar and Ing. Francisco Ramos.

The visit provided an overview of new experimental approaches aimed at increasing productivity and resilience while preserving cup quality, including the use of hybrids, improved seeds, and clones.

3. Symposium – Opening ceremony: "Together Toward the Future of Coffee Farming

The **XXVI Latin-American Coffee Farming Symposium** began on Wednesday 16 July 2025. The Executive Director participated in the opening ceremony which sought to advance discussions on the future of coffee cultivation in Latin America. The event brought together leading experts, including scientists, coffee producers, technical experts, and industry traders.

The session included a keynote address by Muhammad Ibrahim and a panel discussion entitled "**Coffee in Transformation: Science, Inclusion and Technology with Purpose**".

4. Symposium – Keynote speech by the ICO Executive Director: "The coffee-growing family: challenges and opportunities"

The second day of the Symposium began with the theme "**Coffee with its own name: gender inclusion, youth, and family in the transformation of coffee growing**". The ICO Executive Director opened the session with a keynote speech about small producers, new challenges and opportunities. Her presentation is available on the Symposium website and the full speech can be viewed on the PROMECAFE YouTube channel. This was followed by a panel discussion called "**Diverse women, diverse strategies to achieve gender equity in the coffee value chain in Central America**", featuring the following participants: Blanca Castro (IWCA), Karla Merlos (IWCA), Italo Sosa (Ofi), Wilmer Escobar (Volcafe).

Day 2 included three other specialized thematic blocks, namely:

(a) **Navigating the EUDR - Local Challenges and Responses in the Coffee Chain**, co-moderated by Anna Kühnel and Lars Gottschalk:

(i) **Keynote address:** "EUDR and Advances in Honduras" by Dolan Castro.
(ii) **Presentations** covering compliance with the EUDR, and digitalization and traceability.
(iii) **Panel discussion:** "Due Diligence for EUDR Compliance" with representatives from Becamo, EU Delegation Honduras, IHCAFE, and regulatory experts.

(b) **From waste to resource - circular innovation sustaining coffee farming,** moderated by Harold Gamboa:

(i) **Keynote address**: "Application of circular bioeconomy in zero-waste coffee processing" by Nelson Rodriguez.
(ii) **Presentations** covering sustainable leather development using coffee pulp and regenerative coffee initiatives.

(c) **Beyond price - commercial strategies to sustain coffee,** moderated by Justo Gonzáles:

(i) **Keynote addresses**: "Perspectives on C. Canephora cultivation" by Alfredo Zamarripa and "New trends in international trade and challenges for the Central American coffee sector" by Gloria Abraham.

(ii) **Presentations** covering financing, price protection alternatives and Korean coffee industry research.

There were also dedicated Q&A sessions to facilitate stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange.

5. Courtesy visit to the Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador

The Executive Director met with Mr. Félix Ulloa, who is actively working to strengthen El Salvador's strategy for the recovery of the coffee sector.

6. Discussions about mechanization possibilities.

The Executive Director actively participated in in-depth discussions focused on exploring opportunities for the mechanization of coffee cultivation in the region, in partnership with PROMECAFE.

7. Discussions about partnerships with CATIE and coffee-producing countries

The Executive Director engaged in strategic discussions focused on forging partnerships with Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (*Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza* – CATIE) and coffee-producing countries around the world.

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. Closing of the KoLFACI Forum, Field Visit to Finca Plan del Hoyo and XXVI Latin-American Coffee Farming Symposium

The Forum, Field Visit and Symposium provided an overview of new experimental approaches aimed at increasing productivity and resilience while preserving cup quality, including the use of hybrids, mechanisation, improved seeds, and clones. Progress with regard to the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) was shared and diverse strategies were promoted by the countries of Central America.

In recognition of her keynote speech and participation in the academic, technical and knowledge-sharing activities of the Symposium, the Executive Director was presented with a certificate signed by Mr Daniel Dubón, Executive Secretary of PROMECAFE, and Mr Mauricio Sansivirini, President of the Salvadoran Coffee Institute. The certificate states that her commitment and presence contributed to strengthening the coffee sector and to the sustainable development of coffee farming, and is attached to this Report as **Annex I**.

2. Courtesy visit to the Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador

The meeting between the Executive Director and Vice-President Mr. Félix Ulloa contributed to continued dialogue between ICO and El Salvador.

3. Discussions about mechanization possibilities.

The Executive Director engaged with representatives from Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador to explore how the ICO/CPPTF can support their efforts as part of the Living Income initiative—specifically aiming to close gaps by reducing costs and addressing the critical issue of labour shortages. In the context of these discussions, she requested that a detailed project proposal be prepared, including a budget.

4. Discussions about partnerships with CATIE and coffee-producing countries

Strengthening partnerships and collaboration with CATIE and coffee-producing countries will enhance knowledge exchange, foster innovative research, and support programmes addressing the key challenges faced by coffee farmers globally.

XXVI SIMPOSIO LATINOAMERICANO DE CAFICULTURA

PROMECAFE y el Instituto Salvadoreño del Café
Otorga el presente diploma a:

VANUSIA NOGUEIRA

Por su destacada participación como **conferencista magistral** en las actividades académicas, técnicas y de intercambio de conocimientos desarrolladas durante

XXVI Simposio Latinoamericano de Caficultura,
realizado del 15 al 18 de julio del 2025.

Su compromiso y presencia contribuyeron al fortalecimiento del sector cafetalero y al desarrollo sostenible de la caficultura.

Daniel Dubón
Secretario Ejecutivo
PROMECAFE

Mauricio Sansivirini
Presidente
Instituto Salvadoreño del Café (ISC)

San Salvador, El Salvador 2025.

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