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**Report on the ICO Technical  
Statistics Workshop – Africa**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
26–27 July 2025**

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**REPORT ON THE ICO TECHNICAL STATISTICS WORKSHOP – AFRICA**  
**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**  
**26–27 JULY 2025**

1. The ICO/IACO Regional Statistical Workshop for Africa was held over two days (26–27 July 2025) at the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority’s Coffee Training Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**A. Participation**

2. All ICO Members and IACO Members in Africa were invited.

**A.1 Attendance**

3. A total of **35 participants from 10 African countries** attended (excluding ICO Secretariat staff): Burundi (2), Cameroon (1), Democratic Republic of the Congo (3), Ethiopia (19), Kenya (1), Malawi (2), Rwanda (2), Sierra Leone (2), Togo (2), and Uganda (1).

4. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), through the Advancing Climate Resilience and Transformation in African Coffee Programme (ACT Coffee Programme), in partnership with the Government of Italy, sponsored participants from Kenya, Malawi and Uganda. The broad participation reflected strong regional interest in strengthening statistical capacity and coordination between the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO).

**B. Structure of the workshop**

5. The workshop was jointly organized and delivered by the ICO and IACO.

6. It was led by:

- (a) Mr Dock No – Statistical Coordinator (ICO);
- (b) Mr Alexander Rocos – Associate Statistician (ICO);
- (c) Dr Charles Doukoure Fe – Chief Economist (IACO); and
- (d) Mr Assiongbon Dosseh – Assistant to the Secretary-General (IACO).

7. The structure followed four main thematic blocks:

- (a) Statistical obligations of Members – review;
- (b) Statistical reporting formats and WCSD;
- (c) Data collection, Certificates of Origin (CoO) and trade statistics; and
- (d) System integration and digitalization.

8. The methodology emphasized:

- (a) Interactive discussion and open participation;

- (b) Distribution of hard copies of key ICO statistical documents;
- (c) Practical operational guidance; and
- (d) Peer exchange between national statistical focal points.

9. The workshop was opened with high-level addresses from:

- (a) Dr Adugna Debela, Executive Director, Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority;
- (b) Mr Dejene Tezera (UNIDO);
- (c) Ambassador Solomon Rutega (IACO); and
- (d) Dr Vanúsia Nogueira, Executive Director (ICO).

## **C. Topics presented**

### **C.1 Statistical obligations of Members**

10. The opening technical session placed statistical reporting within the broader objectives of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007 and the ICO Five-Year Action Plan (document [ICC-120-11](#)).

11. Participants reviewed:

- (a) The Rules on Statistics – Statistical Reports ([ICC-102-10](#));
- (b) Rules on Statistics – Certificates of Origin ([ICC-102-9 Rev. 5](#));
- (c) Monthly Trade Statistics (MTS); and
- (d) The Coffee Report & Outlook.

12. The session emphasized that:

- (a) All Members are subject to the same reporting obligations;
- (b) Accurate statistics are foundational to market transparency; and
- (c) National focal points play a critical role in global price discovery and policy-making.

### **C.2 Statistical reporting formats**

13. The Secretariat explained the evolution of reporting templates and the transition to automated ingestion through the World Coffee Statistics Database (WCSD).

14. A key finding was that none of the participants were aware of or using the WCSD.

15. Participants were informed that:

- (a) The WCSD is owned by Members and available free of charge;

- (b) Access can be granted upon request via the designated contact;
- (c) Reporting formats must align strictly with WCSO ingestion specifications; and
- (d) Data inconsistencies and language variations often lead to ingestion rejection.

16. The eventual objective of database-to-database integration was introduced: to eliminate manual intermediate submission steps.

### **C.3 Data collection and dissemination**

17. The session focused on:

- (a) CoO as the statistical backbone of ICO trade data;
- (b) The legal and commercial significance of the CoO;
- (c) Classification by:
  - (i) Type (Arabica / Robusta);
  - (ii) Method (Washed / Unwashed); and
- (d) Monthly reporting timelines.

18. Participants were encouraged to:

- (a) Submit incomplete datasets on time rather than complete datasets late;
- (b) Clearly indicate any missing data components; and
- (c) Provide follow-up submissions following the resolution of bottlenecks.

19. The operational objective was to maximize the inclusion of African Member data in the MTS releases.

### **C.4 System integration and digitalization**

20. The final session addressed:

- (a) Digital Public Infrastructure tools;
- (b) Open-source solutions such as traceability platforms;
- (c) National georeferenced databases;
- (d) Real-time data collection mechanisms; and
- (e) Data cleaning and transformation processes.

21. Examples of collaboration opportunities were presented, including the possibility of adapting existing digital systems (e.g. Brazil's CoO architecture).

22. The long-term vision presented was full digital integration between African Member systems and the ICO database.

**D. Results identified**

23. The workshop achieved several important outcomes, as detailed below.

**D.1 Strengthened statistical capacity**

24. Participants demonstrated improved understanding of:

- (a) ICO statistical reporting obligations;
- (b) Proper completion of the CoO;
- (c) Monthly reporting deadlines; and
- (d) Format alignment with WCSD ingestion requirements.

**D.2 Identification of knowledge gaps**

25. Key findings included:

- (a) Lack of awareness of the WCSD platform;
- (b) Limited familiarity with digital submission standards;
- (c) Need for deeper practical training on Excel templates and data tools; and
- (d) Demand for training on yield estimation and production modelling.

**D.3 Reinforced ICO–IACO coordination**

26. The joint format strengthened cooperation between ICO and IACO in supporting African Members.

27. The workshop confirmed:

- (a) Alignment with the Kampala Declaration objectives;
- (b) Recognition of the need for strengthened research, innovation and investment; and
- (c) Greater integration of statistics within broader sector transformation agendas.

**D.4 Engagement and community building**

28. The interactive format:

- (a) Fostered peer exchange among focal points;
- (b) Built stronger personal and institutional relationships; and
- (c) Laid the foundation for a Community of Practice (CoP) among African statistical contacts.

## **E. Challenges encountered by countries**

29. The workshop revealed structural and operational constraints across several Member countries:

- (a) Capacity and resource constraints:
  - (i) Limited financial resources to attend workshops;
  - (ii) Insufficient staffing dedicated to coffee statistics; and
  - (iii) Weak inter-institutional coordination.
- (b) Technical challenges:
  - (i) Non-standardized reporting formats;
  - (ii) Data cleaning and transformation difficulties;
  - (iii) Limited digital infrastructure; and
  - (iv) Lack of familiarity with statistical tools.
- (c) Communication and logistics.

30. In order to assess the quality of the workshop and identify areas for improvement for future events, a satisfaction survey was conducted. The results are presented in **Annex I**. Based on the 12 responses received, all participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the workshop. The feedback also highlighted some areas where improvements could be considered:

- (a) Short notice communication;
- (b) Logistical coordination challenges;
- (c) Need for more practical, hands-on exercises; and
- (d) Desire for more frequent regional training sessions.

## **F. Identification of follow-up actions**

31. The following actions were identified:

- (a) Immediate Secretariat actions:
  - (i) Circulate reporting templates and slide decks to participants;
  - (ii) Send reminder emails on WCSD access procedures;
  - (iii) Initiate bilateral follow-up meetings with participating Members; and
  - (iv) Begin establishing an Africa Statistical CoP.
- (b) Medium-term actions:
  - (i) Organize practical, hands-on workshops (data entry exercises in plenary);

- (ii) Provide deeper training on:
  - (A) Excel-based statistical tools;
  - (B) Kobo tools and digital data entry systems; and
  - (C) Yield estimation methodologies.
- (iii) Encourage pre-workshop online engagement between focal points; and
- (iv) Explore funding mobilization to increase participation.
- (c) Strategic direction:
  - (i) Promote harmonized continental statistical architecture;
  - (ii) Encourage digital integration and interoperability;
  - (iii) Strengthen Member compliance monitoring under ICO statistical indicators; and
  - (iv) Support Africa's structural transformation agenda through improved data systems.

## **G. Conclusion**

32. The ICO/IACO Regional Statistical Workshop successfully advanced:

- (a) Strategic Goal I: Delivering world-class data and analysis; and
- (b) Strategic Goal II: Using the Organization's convening power for dialogue.

33. The workshop enhanced statistical capacity across African Members, identified critical technical and institutional gaps, strengthened ICO–IACO collaboration, and laid the groundwork for a structured CoP.

34. It confirmed that improving statistical compliance in Africa requires not only technical guidance, but sustained engagement, digital modernization, and coordinated institutional support.

## **H. Implementation of follow-up actions**

35. Following the workshop held in Ethiopia, the following actions have been implemented, as of 6 March 2026:

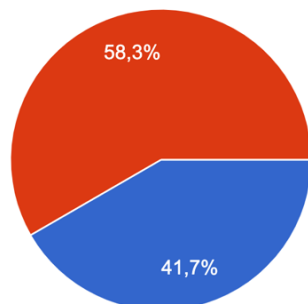
- (a) Reporting templates and slide decks circulated to participants;
- (b) Support provided, when required, to access the WCSD;
- (c) Invitations to bilateral meetings on statistics between the ICO Statistics and Economics Section and national statistical focal points sent to all ICO African Member countries;

- (d) Bilateral meetings on statistics held with five African Member countries, with discussions covering digitalization, APIs, and other relevant topics; and
- (e) CoP on statistics established, with the first meeting scheduled for 12 March 2026. All national statistical focal points of ICO African Member countries have been invited, and ICO delegates informed and invited through document [ED-2499/26](#).

## WORKSHOP EVALUATION SURVEY

### 1. Satisfaction globale /Overall Satisfaction

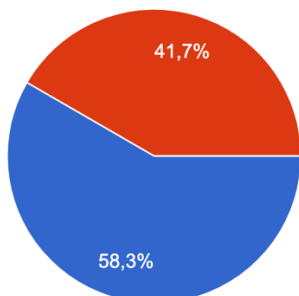
12 réponses



- Très satisfait(e) /very satisfied
- Satisfait(e) /satisfied
- Neutre / neutral
- Peu satisfait(e) /Somewhat dissatisfied
- Pas du tout satisfait(e) /Very dissatisfied

### 2. Pertinence du contenu / relevant of the content

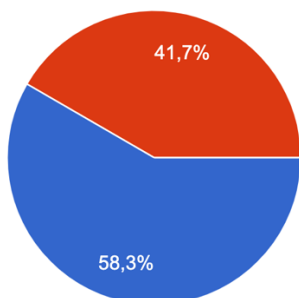
12 réponses



- Très pertinents / very relevant
- Pertinents / relevant
- Neutres / Neutral
- Peu pertinents / somewhat irrelevant
- Pas pertinents du tout/ Not relevant at all

### 3. Clarté des présentations / Clarity of Presentations

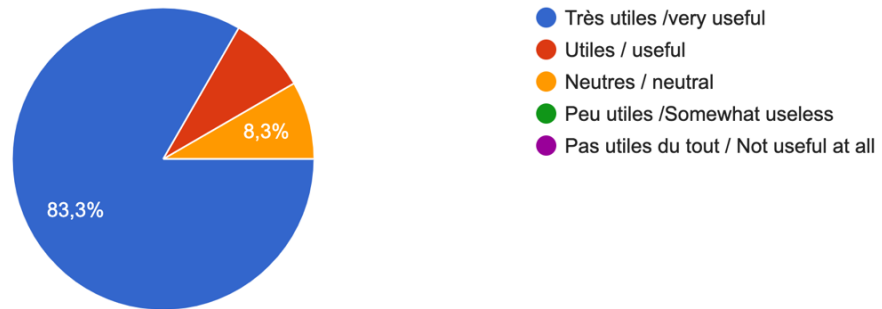
12 réponses



- Très claires / very clear
- Assez claires / clear
- Neutres / neutral
- Peu claires / somewhat unclear
- Pas claires du tout /very unclear

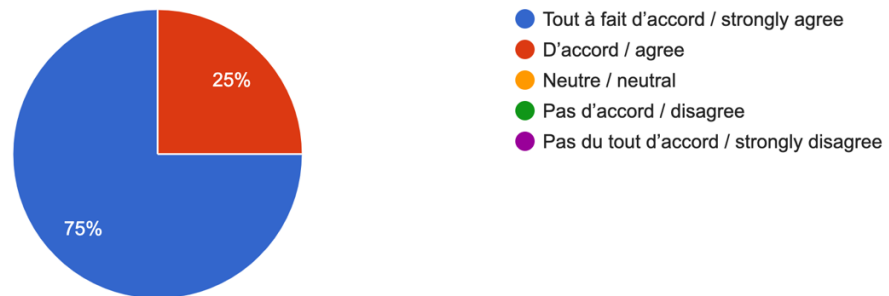
#### 4. Utilité des supports pédagogiques /Usefulness of Training Materials

12 réponses



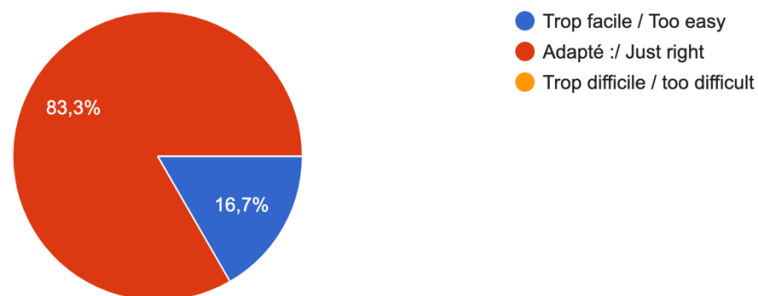
#### 5. Interaction et participation / Interaction and Engagement (. Avez-vous eu suffisamment d'occasions d'interagir (questions, discussions, exe...rtunities to interact (Q&A, discussions, exercises)?

12 réponses



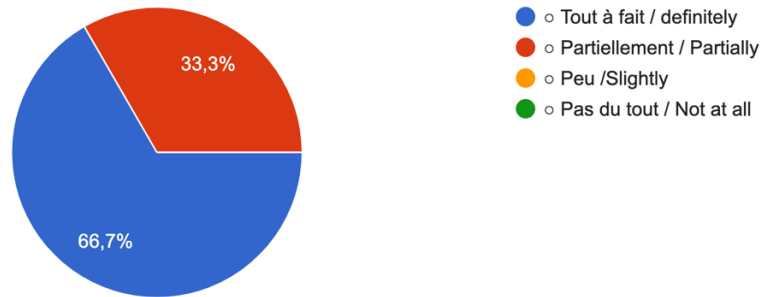
#### 6. Niveau de difficulté / Difficulty Level (Was the workshop's difficulty level appropriate for your prior knowledge?

12 réponses



7. Applicabilité pratique / Practical Applicability (Do you think you can apply what you learned in your work?)

12 réponses



8. Gestion du temps / Time Management (Were the duration and pace of the workshop well-balanced?)

12 réponses

