

Mission report

Subject	International Coffee Organization (ICO) Technical Statistics Workshop – Americas
Place and dates	San Pedro Sula, Honduras – 16 to 17 October 2025
ICO staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanúsia Nogueira - Executive Director • Laurent Pipitone - Chief Economist • Dock No - Statistical Coordinator • Alexander Rocos - Associate Statistician
Purpose of travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen statistical capabilities of ICO Members by conducting a two-half day in-person training workshop for Member countries in the Americas. • Hold technical sessions and discussions for Members' staff working on coffee statistics. • Provide a platform for country presentations on 'coffee national reporting systems'
Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	<p>Five-Year Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goal I - Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policymakers. • Strategic Goal II - Using the Organization's convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors <p>Planned Result I.A: Enhanced market transparency through collection, processing, validation, analyses and delivery of high-quality data and statistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.A.1 Providing statistical services for meetings (Member states, ICC, ad-hoc expert group meetings, etc.) • I.A.2 Strengthening ICO Members' statistical function and focal points and engaging with Members, subscribers, international organizations, private sector and data providers. • I.A.3 Assessment of Members' compliance with ICO-SCI/E-ICO-SCI/I Indicators • I.A.5 Providing support related to statistics and data to ICO Members <p>Planned Result I.B: Positioning of the ICO as the world's most respected coffee statistical authority, enhanced and recognized through the elaboration and dissemination of relevant statistical data and economic analysis related to the global coffee sector and the global economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.B.3 Promotion of ICO statistics/ mobilization of additional subscribers and resources <p>Planned Result II.A: Strengthening ICO engagement with Members and other external stakeholders by providing a multi-sectorial leadership forum for dialogue and knowledge exchange on issues impacting the coffee sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • II.A.1 Providing operational and technical services for meetings (Member states, ICC, ad-hoc expert group meetings, etc.)

OVERVIEW

Objectives and participation

1. The ICO Technical Statistics Workshop, held during the week of the International Coffee Council meetings, provided training for statistical personnel from ICO Member countries in the Americas. The workshop aimed to enhance Members' compliance with statistical reporting obligations and to strengthen collaboration with the ICO Statistics Section. Its other objectives were:

- (a) To build the Americas' capacity in statistical offices for coffee statistics.
- (b) To present the ICO's statistical reporting requirements.
- (c) To support Members in improving data collection and reporting.
- (d) To share best practices on data collection and management.
- (e) To enhance market transparency through quality data delivery.
- (f) To position the ICO as the leading authority on coffee statistics.

2. The workshop was organized by the ICO Secretariat and the Regional Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Farming (PROMECAFE), hosted by the Government of Honduras, and sponsored by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Sixteen participants from nine countries attended: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic (non-Member), El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica (non-Member), Mexico, and Panama.

3. In her opening address, the Executive Director stressed that reliable, timely, and comparable data are the foundation of the ICO's work and essential for decision-making. She highlighted that the quality of ICO statistics and services depends on the information submitted by each country, and therefore on the capacity of Members to comply with their statistical requirements. Dr Nogueira noted that the workshop was key in strengthening national capacities, understanding the constraints faced, and jointly finding practical solutions to enhance market transparency, reduce price volatility, and build a more resilient and sustainable coffee sector. Ms Orietta Alvarenga (PROMECAFE) and Ms Anna Kuehnel (GIZ) also welcomed participants and stressed the importance of reliable and consistent data.

Technical sessions and discussions

4. The workshop included interactive discussions on the following five topics:

- (a) A review of Members' statistical obligations in the context of the ICO's objectives and the global coffee industry.

- (b) Statistical reporting formats, focusing on trade data reporting and the requirements of the World Coffee Statistics Database.
- (c) Data collection and dissemination, covering the ICO Certificates of Origin and practical reporting steps.
- (d) A review of data systems for compliance with EUDR (delivered by GIZ).
- (e) System integration, exploring digitization opportunities and database connectivity, including Application Programming Interface. (API).

5. Hard copies of key ICO publications were distributed, including the Rules of Statistics, Monthly Trade Statistics, and Coffee Report & Outlook.

6. Participants were encouraged to deliver monthly trade data within the specified timeframe. If Members encounter difficulties in providing complete statistics on time, they were advised to proceed as follows:

- (a) Submit incomplete trade datasets rather than delay submissions, since late data cannot be incorporated into the forthcoming edition of the Monthly Trade Statistics (MTS).
- (b) When only a small portion of the dataset is missing, send the data on time and clearly indicate what is missing, and send an update later.
- (c) When persistent late reporting occurs due to ongoing bottlenecks, send the incomplete dataset, explain how much is missing, and update later.

Country feedback on national reporting systems

7. Several countries provided an overview of their coffee data collection system and their respective processes to submit data to the ICO:

- (a) **Colombia** presented its SAP HANA coffee portal, which enables real-time export data analysis and provides farmers with access to market and farm-level information.
- (b) **El Salvador** reported on SICEX, an electronic platform for real-time data exchange between exporters, government agencies and the Central Reserve Bank.
- (c) **Honduras** reported on its approach for collecting information and generating daily reports for local coffee stakeholders.
- (d) **Jamaica** has a centralized coffee data management system for grading, packaging, and origin standards, in particular to maintain the reputation of Jamaica Blue Mountain.

- (e) **Costa Rica** provided an update on its CR CAFÉ app which supports farm- and mill-level data collection, farm/lot characterization, and monitoring tasks.
8. The main challenges reported in complying with ICO statistical requirements include:
- (a) Managing changes in the destination of coffee exports, from pre-registration in national systems to the final export stage.
 - (b) Submitting data in a timely manner, as quality checks must be completed and multiple internal approvals and signatures are required before submission to the ICO.

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

1. The workshop improved understanding of the ICO's statistical reporting requirements, identified bottlenecks in existing data collection systems, and facilitated the exchange of best practices. The ICO also provided guidance on how Members can access and use its statistical database and outlined the improvements that are underway.
2. Digitization was highlighted as essential for accuracy, efficiency, and a reduced administrative burden. Most countries have made—or are making—significant progress in digitizing coffee data systems. These efforts support compliance with international requirements such as the EUDR, as highlighted in a presentation given by GIZ.
3. Participants agreed to explore setting up a Community of Practice to strengthen regional collaboration, data quality, capacity building, knowledge sharing and digital transformation.
4. Overall, the workshop fostered closer cooperation between the ICO Statistics Section and statistical personnel from Member countries, reinforcing the importance of accurate reporting for market transparency and the global coffee value chain.

AOB

N/A

