



Organización Internacional del Café
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**Improvement of coffee production in Africa
by the control of coffee wilt disease
(Tracheomyces)**

Project progress report as at December 2004

Background

The attached document contains extracts from the progress report on “Improvement of coffee production in Africa by the control of coffee wilt disease (Tracheomyces)” and covers the period from January to December 2004. A copy of the full progress report is available to Members on request.

Action

The Council is requested to note this report.

PROGRESS REPORT

Project Summary:

Title: Improvement of coffee production in Africa by the control of coffee wilt disease (Tracheomyces)

Number: CFC/ICO/13

PEA: CAB *International*-Africa Regional Centre.

Participating countries: Uganda (CORI), Democratic Republic of Congo (ONC), Tanzania (TACRI), Rwanda (ISAR), Ethiopia (EARO), Cameroon (IRAD) and Cote d'Ivoire (CNRA).

Starting date: 1st October 2000

Completion date: 30th September 2005 (proposed new date
31st December 2006)

Financing:

Total Project Cost US\$ 8,951,587

Of which,

CFC Financing US\$ 3,516,888

Co-financing US\$ 3,212,329

Counterpart contributions US\$ 1,085,920

Period covered by this report:

From: January 2004

To: December 2004

Periods covered by previous reports:

From:

May 2001

January 2001

January 2002

January 2002

January 2003

January 2003

January 2004

To:

September 2001

December 2001

June 2002

December 2002

June 2003

December 2003

June 2004

Status of Project Implementation

Planned activities	Targets set	Present status	Remarks
Component I: Implement a regional programme to develop improved management practices			
Activity 1.1			
Develop a coordinated framework of activities to facilitate the programme.	Project activities implemented according to agreed annual workplans.	Project coordination (financial, scientific, communication, etc.) running smoothly.	Target fully realised.
Activity 1.2			
Gather information on environmental, physical and agronomic parameters affecting disease severity and importance (biological surveys).	Biological survey for coffee wilt conducted in Rwanda and DRC by end of December 2004.	Surveys conducted in Rwanda, and initiated in DRC. Submission of final report from Cote d'Ivoire also delayed	Delays in the DRC caused by theft of project funds, and in Cote d'Ivoire due to political instability.
Activity 1.3			
Identify socio-economic and technical constraints to the improvement of coffee management and marketing (socio-economic surveys).	Socio-economic surveys for coffee wilt conducted in countries where CWD is observed by December 2004.	Surveys so far in Rwanda have not identified the CWD. Survey to be done in DRC after completion of biological survey.	Activities on-going.
Activity 2.1			
Understand the interaction between pathogen variation and disease resistance enabling durable resistance to be identified and selected (modified to form Project 2).	Collect, preserve and establish variability among isolates of CWD. Describe the life cycle of CWD in the field. Maintain database on CWD isolates. Operate field inoculations in Africa to validate inoculation method. Describe the spatio temporal spread of CWD. Train scientists from National Programme.	Isolates of CWD collected and preserved. Studies on biology of pathogen in field on-going. Studies on genetic diversity of CWD on-gong. Database on CWD established. CWD pathogen found on stems and roots but not in soil	Activities on-going.
Activity 3.1			
Understand the disease epidemiology so that appropriate intervention practices to reduce disease impact can be devised (modified to form Project 3).	Collect isolates of CWD. Determine variability of CWD. Determine spread of CWD in Uganda. Study pathogenicity	Purified isolates of CWD from Uganda, Ethiopia, DRC, Ethiopia and Tanzania collected and preserved. CWD characterised	Activities on-going.

	of isolates of CWD Train staff from Ethiopia.	by the use of different molecular techniques. CWD shown to be spreading in all districts in Uganda. PhD student from Ethiopia completed studies.	
Activity 4.1			
Demonstrate use of aerial pictures to describe the distribution of the coffee wilt disease in Uganda (Project 5)	Define areas to be surveyed. Develop protocol for aerial survey. Undertake aerial photography. Collect ground data on wilt disease.	Project completed and report written	Target fully realised.
Activity 5.1			
Develop and evaluate more effective management practices based on biological and socio-economic information produced.	Analyse results from surveys and, together with farmers and extensionists, participatorily identify and evaluate various control methods against CWD.	On-farm and on-station trials being monitored by farmers and supervised by extensionists in Uganda, DRC, Tanzania and Ethiopia.	Activity on-going.
Component II: Develop of a compatible programme of extension, information dissemination and training for smallholder coffee producers/scientists (Project 4)			
Activity 1.1			
Provide extension workers with greater understanding of the disease and management practices through appropriate training.	Extension staff trained on different aspects of coffee wilt disease and how to pass information to farmers.	Training on-going in Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.	Activity on-going.
Activity 1.2			
Directly inform and empower farmers with a greater understanding of the disease and management practices through information, training and farmer participatory approaches.	Farmers trained on aspects of coffee wilt disease and how to pass information to other farmers.	Training on-going in Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.	Activity on-going.

PEA's Assessment of Project Progress & Prospects:

Assessment of Resource Utilisation:

Overall expenditure for the reporting period is 52% of the total budget. Spending position improved in the last half of the year due to intensified training and dissemination programmes. However, a number of reasons contributed to this expenditure shortfall. The theft of funds suspended all project activities in DRC, which accounts for nearly 50% of the expenditure shortfall. Activities in DRC resumed in the 3rd quarter, pending the resolution of the theft case. There is still a low pace in the carrying out of training and dissemination activities in Uganda, accounting for 25% of the expenditure shortfall.

There is need for all the Collaborating Countries to continue intensifying their training and production of dissemination materials in Component 2, in 2005.

Delays in the submission of financial returns and reports to the PEA by some collaborating countries, made it difficult for the PEA to submit consolidated 6-monthly and annual reports to CFC and ICO in time. PIs were advised to improve on their reporting by making accurate and regular claims, allowing for reasonable reimbursable lead times.

Please refer to Annex 1 below for more details on expenditure by category.

Assessment of Project Co-ordination and Management:

Addressing the loss of project funds in DRC was a time consuming challenge. The slow and protracted judicial procedures as well as internal political strife have slowed down the recovery of the lost funds. However, the understanding by CFC and subsequent disbursement of additional funds to DRC to sustain project activities is appreciated. Delays in submission of statements of expenditure by some PIAs still lead to delays in the replenishment of project funds and submission of Progress Reports to CFC. Frequently this necessitates visits to these countries by staff from CABI.

Due to other commitments by staff from some collaborating institutions, some project activities have commenced later than were planned.

Dr. Girma Adugna is the new National Coordinator of the CWD project in Ethiopia. After coordinating the project for 4 years, Dr George Oduor has been replaced by Dr Sarah Simons (CABI-ARC) from January 2005.

(See also Component I: Activity 1.1)

Social and Environmental Effects of Project Implementation:

Being a perennial crop, death of each infected trees is a loss of long-term investment by the farmer. Some farmers relate such a loss to death of a child.

Forward Planning of Project Implementation:

Recommendations of the consultants as well as the annual RCWP Planning and Stakeholder's Workshop in November 2004 were a crucial in agreeing on the future activities to be implemented in the project in an open and participatory manner.

Being the last 2 years of the project, efforts will be made to transfer the project activities into National Programmes of the collaborating countries. Activities will include policy analyses followed by recommendations on how the project can be assimilated into the Plant Protection Programmes of the collaborating countries.

Raising awareness on the CWD and especially training of extensionists and farmers on the management of this disease will continue to be a priority of the project. Mr Martin Kimani will visit all the collaborating countries to oversee and advice on the running of FFS as well as supervise and facilitate the extensionists in their training of farmers. Production and distribution of dissemination materials will be intensified using different channels.

Results so far from the on-farm and on-station trials on methods to control CWD, although interesting, are still not conclusive. These trials will continue to be monitored by farmers, under close supervision by the extensionist and scientists. Activities in DRC especially will require close supervision.

An analysis of the policy and institutional arrangement in each collaborating country will be undertaken to facilitate the transfer of the coffee wilt project activities into the National Programmes of the PIAs.

Overall coordination of the project will continue including facilitation audits, providing technical and administrative backstopping. As the project approaches its end, visits to the various countries and in the region by the PEA will be intensified to effect closer monitoring and timely implementation.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The extension of the project by 15 months should allow for improved implementation and increased impact of the project. Although project activities were suspended in DRC, overall activities in collaborating countries continued as planned. Training and dissemination continue to be a priority and assimilation of the project into the collaborating country's government ministries should provide an effective exit strategy for CFC and other donors.