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**Robusta quality and marketing
improvement by optimal use
of coffee terroirs**

**Project progress report
(June – December 2005)**

Background

The attached document contains a progress report for the project “Robusta quality and marketing improvement by optimal use of coffee terroirs” and covers the period from June to December 2005.

Action

The Council is requested to note this report.

**ROBUSTA QUALITY AND MARKETING IMPROVEMENT
BY OPTIMAL USE OF COFFEE TERROIRS
PILOT PROJECT CFC/ICO-05**

**PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
June – December 2005**

By

**Dr KOFFI Ngoran: Project Coordinator
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1. Pilot Project Summary

1. Project Title: Robusta quality and marketing improvement by optimal use of coffee terroirs
2. Project number: CFC/ICO-05
3. Objective: To define quality parameters for Robusta coffee in relation to pedological, climatic and human characteristics of the coffee producing regions and to prepare a catalogue based on the identified terroirs for the international market. To improve the knowledge of all participants in the coffee chain in Cameroon, Togo and Madagascar.
4. Location: Côte d'Ivoire
5. Duration: October 2005 to September 2007
6. Total cost: US\$942,000
7. CFC financing: US\$448,000
8. CNRA counterpart: US\$348,000
9. IACO counterpart: US\$146,000
10. Supervisory Body: ICO
11. Project Executing Agency (PEA): African Coffee Research Network (ACRN)
12. Collaborating Agencies: IACO, CNRA

2. Period covered by Report:

June – December 2005

3. Evaluation of activities

Component 1: Characterisation of Terroirs

Activities	Objective	Current Situation	Comments
Activity 1.1.1			
Mission to Abidjan involving two experts and the project coordinator	To ascertain existing capacities and importance of standardised methods		Activity not carried out
Activity 1.1.2			
Project launch workshop	To publicize the project among all coffee chain participants and the general public. To disseminate standardised protocols and methods among project participants	Workshop organized by IACO/ACRN in collaboration with the CFC, ICO, CNRA, Togo, coffee chain participants in Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar held on 23 and 24 June 2005	Activity carried out with the support of the CNRA
Activity 1.2.1			
Typology of terroirs in Côte d'Ivoire	To identify and characterise four terroirs in terms of climate and soils	Four terroirs have been identified: Abengourou, Man Aboisso and Divo/Gagnoa	Activity completed

Activity 1.2.2	Objective	Current Situation	Comments
Survey of coffee varieties grown	To identify the coffee varieties grown in different regions	Questionnaires in process of preparation	Fieldwork not yet under way
Activity 1.3.1			
Choice and characterisation of farms and cultural techniques	To select nine farms per terroir according to three levels of cultural technique	Nine farms and three cultural levels selected in Divo/Gagnoa, Aboisso, Abengourou; total of 27 farms	Activity completed except for the Man terroir
Activity 1.3.2			
Characterisation of farms	To collect soil samples and obtain complementary information on farms	Preparation of programme of field visits and equipment	Field activities not yet under way
Activity 2.1.1			
Collection of plant material, cuttings and seeds	To collect plant material from identified farms	Cuttings from coffee trees have been collected	Activity completed except for Man
Activity 2.1.2			
Creation of field collection established	To establish nurseries using material collected	Nursery established and maintained in the Divo station	Activity in process of completion

Component II: Coffee quality characterisation

Activities	Objective	Current Situation	Comments
Activity 3.1.1/3.1.3			
Training in Europe for researchers on coffee quality characterisation and biometrics	To train researchers from IACO/ACRN and CNRA in chemical and statistical analysis and cup-tasting		Activity to be carried out at CIRAD during the second semester
Activity 3.2.1			
Harvesting of fresh berries in identified farms in the four terroirs	To harvest coffee berries for sun-drying and preparation of samples for analysis	Missions have visited terroirs to buy berries and prepare coffee using both sun-dried and wet processing methods at the CNRA station in Divo	Activity completed in three terroirs with the exception of Man

Component III: Project Supervision, Management and Coordination

Activities	Objective	Current Situation	Comments
Activity 5.1.1			
Project supervision, management and coordination	To gain a better understanding of supervision, coordination and follow up activities of the Technical Steering Committee	Working session held during the project launch with the ICO and CFC	
Year	Activity	Responsibility	Results
June 2005	Courier to be sent to coffee chain participants for the appointment of the Steering Committee following the project launch on 23 and 24 June	PEA for the establishment of the Steering Committee	Eight representatives designated by their respective bodies during the 3 rd quarter
October 2005	Appointment of National Coordinator	CNRA management for project implementation	Project Coordinator appointed in October 2005
October 2005	Rehabilitation of IACO Cup Tasting Centre initiated	PEA and National Coordinator (NC) for the analysis of pro forma invoices	The best offer was accepted
October 2005	Rehabilitation of the Cup Tasting Centre	PEA and NC for carrying out rehabilitation of the Centre	The Centre has been rehabilitated
October 2005	Initiate purchase of computers, fax machines and video projector	PEA and NC for the analysis of pro forma invoices	The best offer was accepted
November 2005	Purchase of computers, fax machines and video projector	PEA and NC for undertaking purchases	Computers, fax machines and video projector have been bought and are available
November 2005	Initiate purchase of vehicles	PEA and National Coordinator for the analysis of pro forma invoices	The best offers were accepted. Offer of Rwanda vehicle for Abidjan
November 2005	Preparation of programme of activities and budget for the first year	National Coordinator and PEA for forwarding to the CFC and ICO	The programme and budget have been prepared

Year	Activity	Responsibility	Results
November/December 2005	Funds to be made available to the CNRA for field activities	PEA, IACO, CFC and National Coordinator	Funds for field activities have been made available to the CNRA
November/December 2005	Prepare financial report for reimbursement of project launch costs	National Coordinator, PEA and IACO	The report has been prepared for submission to the CFC
November/December 2005	Prepare terms of reference for selection of two resource persons for the IACO/ACRN Cup Tasting Centre	National Coordinator, PEA and IACO for employing local personnel	The two resource persons have been selected
October/December 2005	Hold technical meetings on the implementation of project activities. Documentation on IACO quality description methods 1993	National Coordinator, PEA, IACO	A number of technical meetings have been held to review the progress of activities

4. Report on activities

4.1 Component 1: Characterisation of terroirs

Activity 1.1.1: Working visit by experts and Project Coordinator

In view of the socio-political situation in Côte d'Ivoire, it was not possible to carry out the mission involving two experts, the Project Coordinator and consultants to evaluate existing capacities at the National Agricultural Research Centre (CNRA) and the IACO Coffee Tasting Centre. Consequently, the planned standardisation of methods and protocols in collaboration with researchers did not take place.

Activity 1.1.2: Project launch workshop

In 2004, the CNRA management designated Dr Koffi Ngoran to participate in workshops with Dr Onzima, Director of Development Research and ACRN Coordinator, and Mr. Djouka Venance, Financial Administrator of IACO/ACRN in the context of the effective project implementation.

These workshops led to the signing of a project implementation agreement between the CNRA and the IACO/ACRN in September 2004 (document 069/06). At the same time, a team of CNRA researchers held a number of workshops at institutional level to gain a better understanding of project activities.

The project launch workshop organized by IACO/ACRN in collaboration with the CNRA was held on 23 and 24 June 2005. The workshop was attended by representatives of the following international and national institutions, cooperatives and economic operators in the coffee sector: ICO, CFC, Permanent Representation of Côte d'Ivoire to International Commodity Organisations in London, CRAF/IRA (Togo), FOFIFA (Madagascar), CNRA, Bourse du Café et du Cacao (BCC), National Rural Development Agency (ANADER), University of Côte d'Ivoire, Coffee and Cocoa Cooperatives Guarantee Fund (FGCCC), Coffee and Cocoa Regulatory Authority (ARCC), Regulation and Control Fund (FRC), Côte d'Ivoire National Producers Association (ANAPROCI), the Côte d'Ivoire Ministers of Agriculture, Trade and Scientific Research.

More than fifty participants attended the workshop.

Activity 1.2.1: Identification of terroirs

On the basis of the available documentation, the CNRA research team identified four terroirs according to climate, soil type and volume of coffee produced in the area. The selection was made before the workshop was held.

The terroirs concerned are located in: the Abengourou region, with schistic-based soils and production accounting for 13% of the national total; the Abidjan region, with tertiary soils and production accounting for 14% of the national total; the Divo/Gagnoa region with granitic soils and production accounting for 14% of the national total; and the Man region, a mountainous area with granitic soils and production accounting for 25% of the national total.

These four regions account for 66% of national coffee production. The complete report will be presented in relation to Activity 1.3.2.

Activity 1.2.2: Survey of varieties grown

The preparation of questionnaires is the only item currently in progress. When the project began to be implemented in October 2005, harvesting of the coffee crop was already well under way in all regions and it was important to concentrate on Activities 1.3.1 and 3.2.1 in order to obtain samples of 2005 coffee for chemical and cup-tasting analysis.

Activity 1.3.1: Choice and characterisation of farms

On 19 October 2005, a meeting involving the newly-appointed Project Coordinator, Dr Koffi Ngoran and the CNRA team of researchers permitted the identification of criteria for the selection of villages, farms and levels of cultural technique.

These criteria were: (i) select three villages distributed well apart from one another in each terroir and accessible at all seasons; (ii) select three farms per village, also accessible at all seasons, reflecting three levels of cultural technique i.e.: farms applying good agricultural practices with selected plant material; farms with an average level of cultural technique using unselected plant material; and farms with poor cultural techniques and unselected plant material.

In addition, the quantity of fresh berries was raised to 50kg per farm instead of 40kg to take into account the wet processing method.

The following researchers are involved in this activity: Dr Yoro Gballou (Agro-pedologist), Dr Kébé Boubacar Ismaël (Head of the Coffee-Cocoa Programme), Mr. Konan Amani (Agronomist), Mr. Légnaté Hyacinthe (Geneticist) and Mr. Yapo Abé Antoine (Geneticist).

Activity 1.3.2: Farm characterisation

This activity is planned for the next semester for the reasons indicated under item 1.2.2.

Activity 2.1.1: Collection of plant material

Coffee tree cuttings were collected from farms during the harvesting of coffee berries provided for under Activity 1.3.1.

Activity 2.1.2: Creation of field collection

A nursery has been established at the CNRA Research Station in Divo using cuttings collected from identified farms.

4.2 Component 2: Coffee quality characterisation

Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.3: Training of researchers in Europe

Contacts will be made with the CIRAD in Montpellier for the training of researchers from IACO/ACRN and the CNRA in chemical and statistical analyses, cup-tasting and biometrics during the second quarter of 2006.

Activity 3.2.1: Harvesting of fresh berries in farms

Once criteria had been determined, missions were carried out from 26 October to 22 December 2005 in the Abengourou, Aboisso and Divo/Gagnoa terroirs to identify villages and farms and to harvest fresh berries from identified farms. A total of nine villages and 27 farms were visited. In view of the socio-political situation, missions to the Man terroir were not carried out.

Coffee samples were prepared using both dry and wet-processing methods at the CNRA Research Station in Divo.

4.3 Component 3: Project supervision, management and coordination

IACO/ACRN have made a number of contacts, in particular with the CNRA, for the purposes of project implementation. An agreement was prepared and signed in September 2004.

Following the project launch workshop on 23 and 24 June 2005, couriers were sent out to coffee chain participants identified during the workshop in order to set up the Project Steering Committee. Of the required total of 11 representatives, 8 have been designated by the appropriate bodies: the Ministers of Agriculture, Trade and Scientific Research; ARCC, FRC, CNRA, ANAPROCI and ANADER.

Following the appointment of the Coordinator by the CNRA in October 2005, IACO/ACRN carried out the rehabilitation of the Cup Tasting Centre and purchased four computers, one of which is portable, two fax machines and a video projector. The purchase of two vehicles was also initiated but following the offer of a vehicle from Rwanda the vehicles have not been bought.

Finally, the Coordinator, in collaboration with IACO/ACRN, has prepared the programme of activities and budget for the first year. Technical meetings have also been held to monitor the progress of activities, to prepare a financial report and terms of reference, and to select two resource persons for the IACO/ACRN Cup Tasting Centre.

It should be noted that the first year of the project is from 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006.

4.4 Activities for the next semester

- Drying of coffee berries at the CNRA Research Station in Divo; hulling and preparation of coffee samples,
- Establishment of the Project Steering Committee,
- Training of IACO/ACRN and CNRA researchers in Montpellier,
- Carrying out of activities relating to the survey of varieties grown and farm characterisation,
- Purchase of laboratory material and equipment,
- Carrying out of coffee quality characterisation and cup-tasting following training and standardisation of methods in Montpellier.

4.5 Conclusion

There was a slack period between the date of the project launch and effective implementation of activities because of the need to establish proper coordination. Despite the delay in purchasing the vehicles required for the project, it proved possible to carry out initial activities using existing transport provision at the CNRA.