



Organización Internacional del Café  
Organização Internacional do Café  
Organisation Internationale du Café

WP Statistics No. 90/05

14 June 2005  
Original: English

E

Report

Statistics Committee  
January 2006  
London, England

**Report of the Statistics Committee  
on the meeting of 16 May 2005**

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Statistics Committee took place on 16 May 2005. The meeting was chaired by Mr. David Hallam of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Committee adopted the draft Agenda contained in document WP-Statistics No. 84/05 Rev. 2.

**Item 2: Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

3. The Committee decided to re-elect Mr. David Hallam as Chairman for coffee years 2004/05 and 2005/06 and noted that the election of the Vice-Chairperson would be deferred until the next meeting.

4. The Committee further noted that Mr. Manoel Bertone of Brazil would replace Mr. Jaime Payne as one of the representatives of producing Members.

5. The Chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting including observers from exporting and importing Members, from non-member countries, other organizations and representatives of the private sector.

6. The representative of the USA stressed the importance of the Committee in the work of the Organization and said that his country would be an active participant in order to ensure market transparency.

**Item 3: Report of the Statistics Committee on the meeting of 20 September 2004**

7. The Committee approved the report of the meeting of 20 September 2004, contained in document WP-Statistics No. 83/04.

**Item 4: Compliance with statistical rules**

8. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 85/05 containing information on the status of compliance by Members with the Rules on Statistics for coffee years 1994/95 to 2003/04 and the first six months of coffee year 2004/05 (October 2004 to March 2005). Based on three-year average trade data (coffee years 2001/02 to 2003/04) full and satisfactory compliance by exporting Members was over 84% while that of importing Members was around 77%.

9. The Committee took note of this report and of document WP-Board No. 971/05 containing a report on compliance with the Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme. It noted that there had been some improvement in compliance with statistical information by Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo. On the other hand, Indonesia was failing to comply with its obligation to provide statistical reports and Certificates of Origin. The Chairman volunteered to discuss this matter with the Indonesian authorities during his visit to the country in July 2005.

10. The Committee welcomed the initiative of Côte d'Ivoire in relation to the programme being arranged for staff from the *Bourse du café et du cacao (BCC)* to visit the Organization for training in the Statistics Unit. The Committee also noted that the Executive Director would visit the FAO to formalise the technical assistance offered to exporting Members.

11. Finally, the Committee noted that Members should be encouraged to improve their compliance with the rules with a view to increasing market transparency, which in turn, would enhance the reliability of statistical publications.

**Item 5: Survey on inventories and stocks**

12. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 86/05 containing the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> survey on inventories and stocks of green coffee as at 31 December 2002 and 2003 which had been initiated in June 2004. The Committee took note of this document and further noted that since the preliminary results were presented in September 2004, there had been only 10% improvement in the number of replies received – from 48% to 58%.

13. It was suggested that the Organization should liaise with the European Coffee Federation (ECF) secretariat before carrying out the next survey in order to avoid duplication

of work as a similar exercise was being carried out by the ECF with warehouse associations in major European ports. The ECF survey would be carried out regularly where information on the volume of stocks, with a breakdown between Arabica and Robusta, was available.

14. The Committee suggested that in order to obtain a greater response from warehouse managers in the next survey – to the levels obtained by the International Cocoa Organization which were currently around 90% – there should be a more proactive approach by the Secretariat, with a letter from the Executive Director and telephone calls to warehouse managers. The survey should be aimed at warehouses located in markets not covered by the ECF as collaboration between both organizations would enhance the results achieved.

**Item 6: ICO indicator prices**

15. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 87/05 containing information on the share of markets and group weightings in the calculation of the ICO composite and group indicator prices. In accordance with Annex I of the Procedures for the collection, transmission, calculation, and publication of group and composite prices contained in document EB-3776/01 Rev. 1, every two years there should be a review of the market share for each group and in the weightings used for the calculation of the ICO composite and group indicator prices.

16. The Committee took note of this document and further noted the importance of this established procedure. It decided to recommend to the Council that, with effect from 1 October 2005, the market share for the calculation of group prices should be as follows:

- Colombian Milds: 43% New York – 57% Germany
- Other Milds: 43% New York – 57% Germany
- Brazilian Naturals: 20% New York – 80% Germany
- Robustas: 17% New York – 83% France

In addition, group weightings for the calculation of the ICO daily composite indicator price should be as follows:

- Colombian Milds: 13%
- Other Milds: 24%
- Brazilian Naturals: 29%
- Robustas: 34%

**Item 7: Organic coffee**

17. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 88/05 containing a table showing exports of organic coffee based on information extracted from Certificates of Origin in calendar year 2004.

18. Informal notes containing guidelines on organic coffee definition and certification were also circulated and the Chairman referred to a document published by the FAO on organic farming. The Committee took note of this report and further noted that the Organization should continue to monitor these data as the organic sector continued to interest consumers worldwide.

19. It was suggested that the Organization should also compare the data extracted from Certificates of Origin with that published by other sources, e.g. the FAO website on organic farming and other international organizations.

**Item 8:                   Speciality soluble coffee**

20. The Statistician introduced document WP-Statistics No. 89/05 containing data on imports of soluble coffee based on import returns classified under two specific Harmonized System (HS) codes (210.112.92 and 210.112.98) in coffee year 2003/04.

21. The Committee took note of this document and further noted that the totals for the volume traded under these codes in 2003/04 revealed a considerable increase (around 52%) from the volume recorded in 2002/03, however the volume of coffee traded under these two codes was very small compared to the total volume of all soluble coffee traded.

22. As the description of HS codes 210.112 (Preparations with a basis of coffee extracts, essences or concentrates or with a basis of coffee) implied that the coffee contents might be very low, it was suggested that an exercise be conducted based on trade data by Eurostat from 1995 showing the volume of imports under these codes. This would enable the Committee to analyse the trend and suggest possible amendments to the volume of soluble coffee trade data in the Organization's database taking into account adjustments made by reputed bodies on the basis of similar information.

**Item 9:                   New statistical software at the ICO**

23. The Statistician updated the Committee on progress on upgrading the statistical system. He said that the indicator prices module had been operational since July 2004 and the Certificates of Origin module was currently being tested. The exports and imports modules should be delivered for testing by September 2005 and the Production and Economics module was expected by the end of this year. The Committee took note of this information.

**Item 10: Report to the Council**

24. The Committee agreed that the Chairman should stress to the Council the importance of the Statistics Committee as a vital tool in enhancing market transparency and in obtaining reliable and timely statistics from Member countries.

**Item 11: Other business**

*Information from non-member countries*

25. The Committee noted that a reliable and inexpensive source for the Organization's statistics on non-member countries – the library of the Department of Trade and Industry in London – was expected to close in 2006. The Committee suggested that alternative sources be used such as the FAO, the International Trade Centre (ITC), Eurostat and the World Trade Organization (WTO) databases. In addition, it was suggested that the ICO should contact sources such as the Global Trade Atlas for more general data which could be restricted to aggregate levels only.

*Compliance with the Rules on Statistics and provision of other data*

26. The Committee noted that document ED-1863/02 contained a reminder to Member countries to provide information requested in previous ED communications, and urged Members to respond to this request.

*Assistance from the US Department of Labor*

27. The Committee noted that at the Private Sector Consultative Board meeting the representative of the National Coffee Association of the USA had suggested the possibility of assistance to exporting Members in statistical collection and/or analysis through collaboration with the US Department of Labor. This new approach would have to be carefully discussed with the US authorities before a formal proposal could be made to countries which had expressed interest in such assistance.

**Item 12: Future meetings**

28. The Committee decided that as there were no urgent matters on its agenda and in view of the heavy schedule of ICO meetings in Brazil in September 2005, its next meeting should take place at the headquarters of the Organization in London at the time of the Executive Board meetings in January 2006.