

Rehabilitation of neglected coffee plantations into small family production units in Angola

The ICO Chief Economist, Dr. Denis Seudieu, participated on 4 and 5 May 2006 at the launch in Luanda, Angola of a project designed to assist the resettlement of displaced coffee farmers due to a long period of civil war in Angola. The project was sponsored by the International Coffee Organization and financed by the Common Fund for Commodities with counterpart contributions from the Government of Angola. Mr. Caleb Dengu, Project Manager of the Common Fund for Commodities also attended this event. The project was launched in the presence of high ranking authorities of Angola, including H.E. Mr. Gilberto Buta Lutucuta, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Governor of the Province of Kuanza Sul and the Vice Ministers for Finance and Agriculture.

The ICO as supervisory body, will closely monitor the project while the Coffee Institute of Angola (INCA) will manage the project as Project Executing Agency with the assistance of a Chief Technical Adviser, Dr. George Oduor from CAB International.

In his address to the participants at the launch meeting, Dr. Denis Seudieu, on behalf of the Executive Director, congratulated the Government of Angola for putting the coffee industry on their development agenda with the aim of regaining their place in the world of coffee by emphasizing quality. He presented a report on the world coffee market and outlined the development strategy of the ICO.

The objectives of the project include increasing the income of the participating families through the development and marketing of high quality Robusta coffee for niche markets and the facilitation of the resettlement of displaced families as well as the development of the technical capacity of the personnel and institutions involved in the project for future sustainability. The project will take place in the province of Kuanza Sul, which used to be the main coffee producing area of Angola before the devastating civil war.

The total cost of the project, which covers a period of three years, is US\$8,530,000 including a grant of US\$1,990,000 and a loan of US\$2,760,000 from the CFC. The Government of Angola has contributed US\$3,780,000 in cofinancing and counterpart contributions.