

ADVANCING AFRICA'S COFFEE SECTOR THROUGH POLICY, RESEARCH, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Showcasing progress, partnerships, and innovation in Africa's coffee industry

"Africa's coffee future is now."



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1 Editorial

Message from the Secretary General

In this inaugural issue of the IACO Newsletter, I am pleased to share key highlights of our collective achievements as we advance the vision set forth in the 2020 IACO Agreement — adopted at the IACO 60th General Assembly in Ghana and operationalised during the 63rd General Assembly in Ethiopia in 2024. This landmark agreement provides a modernized framework to guide member states in strengthening cooperation, promoting value addition, engaging the private sector, and driving sustainability across the African coffee sector.

This quarter, our efforts have centered on strengthening strategic partnerships, advancing scientific research, and aligning our actions with the African Union's Agenda 2063. Notably, the 3rd G25 African Coffee Summit held in Dar es Salaam marked a pivotal step forward, with the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration, a forward-looking roadmap that sets clear targets for increasing production, boosting domestic consumption, and investing in value addition across the continent. *For more information please read the [report](#).*

As we continue on this path, IACO remains committed to working closely with all stakeholders—from member states and development partners to youth and women driving innovation along the value chain.

“ Together, we are building a resilient, inclusive and globally competitive African coffee sector. “

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Research & Development

Science and Innovation at the Heart of Africa's Coffee Future

Africa's coffee sector is stepping boldly into the future, driven by research, innovation, and collaboration. IACO in partnership with the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI), hosted the 6th African Scientific Coffee Conference on 24–25 February 2025 during the Second African Coffee Week in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Under the theme **“Enhancing Research in Value Addition to Unlock the Potential of African Coffee,”** the conference brought together researchers and experts from across Africa and around the world to explore how science can add greater value to African coffee from the farm to the cup. Discussions focused on cutting-edge developments in farming practices and crop improvement; climate resilience and sustainability; pest and disease management; coffee quality enhancement; socio-economic development through coffee; and innovations to support agro industrialisation, all aimed at improving livelihoods and strengthening the sector.

The conference also underscored the importance of working together across borders and with international partners to build a stronger, more competitive coffee industry for Africa. A key outcome of the discussions was renewed support for the establishment of the African Centre for Coffee Research (ACCR), a continental research hub that will drive innovation and knowledge-sharing tailored to Africa's coffee-growing realities.

With continued investment in science and strong partnerships, Africa is not only safeguarding its rich coffee heritage—it is positioning itself as a global leader in coffee science and quality.

“Next step: ACCR Working Group kickoff, Q3 2025.”



3 Economic Affairs

Advancing Data Management in Africa's Coffee Sector

IACO is taking significant steps to enhance data management within the African coffee sector. In March 2025, IACO convened a virtual meeting with key stakeholders from member states to discuss the development of a centralized coffee sector statistical database, aimed at improving data collection across the coffee value chain. The centralized coffee statistics platform will help Member States track export trends in real time, align policies with regional trade data, and boost investor confidence..

The new database will provide a comprehensive view of the coffee sector, enabling IACO and its partners to make informed decisions that drive the industry forward. Efforts will also focus on improving data collection skills through capacity-building programs and creating standardized templates for consistent reporting.

This initiative is part of IACO's broader commitment to strengthening the African coffee industry and fostering more sustainable practices. By working closely with member countries and partners, IACO aims to build a more efficient and transparent coffee sector that benefits all stakeholders. Member States are encouraged to designate their national data coordinators for onboarding in the upcoming data portal

“Reliable coffee data is a foundation for policy. With this platform, we’re not just collecting numbers—we’re empowering governments to act.”



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Policy & Governance

AU–IACO Cooperation & Strategic Engagements

Following the adoption of coffee as a strategic commodity under the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the official recognition of IACO as the AU’s Specialised Technical Agency for Coffee, IACO can advocate more for policies that reflect Africa’s priorities and contribute to shaping the future of coffee both continentally and internationally.



Amb Solomon Rutega, Secretary General, IACO, and H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission.

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the African Union (AU) and IACO, the organization has taken active steps to strengthen its continental presence. IACO proudly participated in key AU events, including the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 38th AU Assembly, ensuring that the interests of African coffee producers are well represented at the highest policy-making levels.

INSTITUTIONAL MILESTONES: RATIFICATION/ ACCEPTANCE UPDATES

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional alignment and regional cooperation, Togo officially submitted its instrument of acceptance for IACO 2020 Agreement in April 2025, during a formal handover ceremony at the IACO General Secretariat in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.



Amb. Solomon Rutega, Secretary General, IACO, and Mr Ensleme Gouthon, Secretary General, CCFCC and Chairman of ACRAM

In addition to Togo’s milestone, several other member states are in the process of finalising their ratification processes, supported by IACO’s technical expertise and guidance to facilitate these efforts. These actions signal a strong collective commitment to advancing the shared vision of a unified and modern African coffee industry.

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Member State Spotlight

Tanzania's Commitment to Coffee Excellence



Tanzania demonstrated strong leadership by hosting the 3rd G25 African Coffee Summit, which led to the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration. The government also committed land for two key institutions: **the African Centre for Coffee Research (ACCR) in Kilimanjaro and the Coffee Training Centre in Dodoma.** These initiatives align with IACO's priorities of research excellence, value addition, and institutional capacity building under Agenda 2063.

IACO is working closely with Tanzanian authorities to operationalize these institutions and integrate them into Africa's wider coffee development ecosystem. Capacity-building activities, stakeholder outreach, and curriculum development are planned for Q3 2026.

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Youth & Women in Coffee

Tanzania's BBT Initiative: Youth at the Heart of Coffee Transformation



The Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiative in Tanzania is empowering youth to play a central role in revitalizing the coffee sector. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Tanzania Coffee Board, and Moshi Co-operative University, the program offers hands-on opportunities across four key areas:

Production: Youth are trained to multiply seedlings and operate farm machinery. With over 115 acres already planted, and tools worth TZS 290 million provided, the program is driving productivity while creating jobs.

Extension Services: To rejuvenate ageing plantations, youth receive training in rehabilitation techniques, such as stumping, with theory in Kagera and practical work in Mbinga.

Marketing & Trade: Through MoCU, young participants gain skills in coffee cupping, trading, and barista work, enhancing Tanzania's market presence and enabling youth entrepreneurship.

Local Consumption: The Mobile Coffee Shops initiative trains youth in barista and business skills, helping them launch mobile coffee carts that promote local consumption and offer flexible, low-cost business entry.

"BBT is more than a youth program—it's a blueprint for sector-wide revitalization."



Recent scientific studies continue to validate the positive health benefits of moderate coffee consumption. Coffee, rich in antioxidants, has been associated with improved cardiovascular health and cognitive function. For example, a 2022 study[1] published in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology* found that consuming up to three cups of coffee daily was linked to a 12% lower risk of all-cause mortality, a 17% lower risk of cardiovascular disease-related death, and a 21% lower risk of stroke (European Society of Cardiology).

Additionally, a 2024 study[2] published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* found that moderate coffee consumption (approximately three cups per day) was associated with a 48% reduced risk of developing multiple cardiometabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease (News Medical).

These global findings resonate with traditional coffee cultures in Africa, such as in Ethiopia, where coffee ceremonies are not just a social ritual but also a daily health practice. In many Ethiopian communities, it is customary to consume three rounds of coffee—Abol, Tona, and Baraka—each symbolizing deeper social connection and reflection. These three cups align with modern recommendations for moderate consumption, highlighting how Africa's ancestral traditions have long embraced responsible coffee intake.

At IACO, we remain committed to promoting responsible coffee consumption in Africa, fostering a culture of domestic value appreciation, well-being, and pride in our coffee heritage.

[1]Cicco, S. (2022). Diet as a cornerstone of cardiovascular prevention: the key role of coffee consumption. *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, 29(6), 979-981.

[2] Lu, X., Zhu, X., Li, G., Wu, L., Shao, L., Fan, Y., ... & Ke, C. (2024). Habitual Coffee, Tea, and Caffeine Consumption, Circulating Metabolites, and the Risk of Cardiometabolic Multimorbidity. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, dgae552.

8 Upcoming Events

Save the date



September 2025 – Groundbreaking Ceremony:
African Centre for Coffee Research (ACCR) – Kilimanjaro
Coffee Training Centre of Excellence – Dodoma, Tanzania.

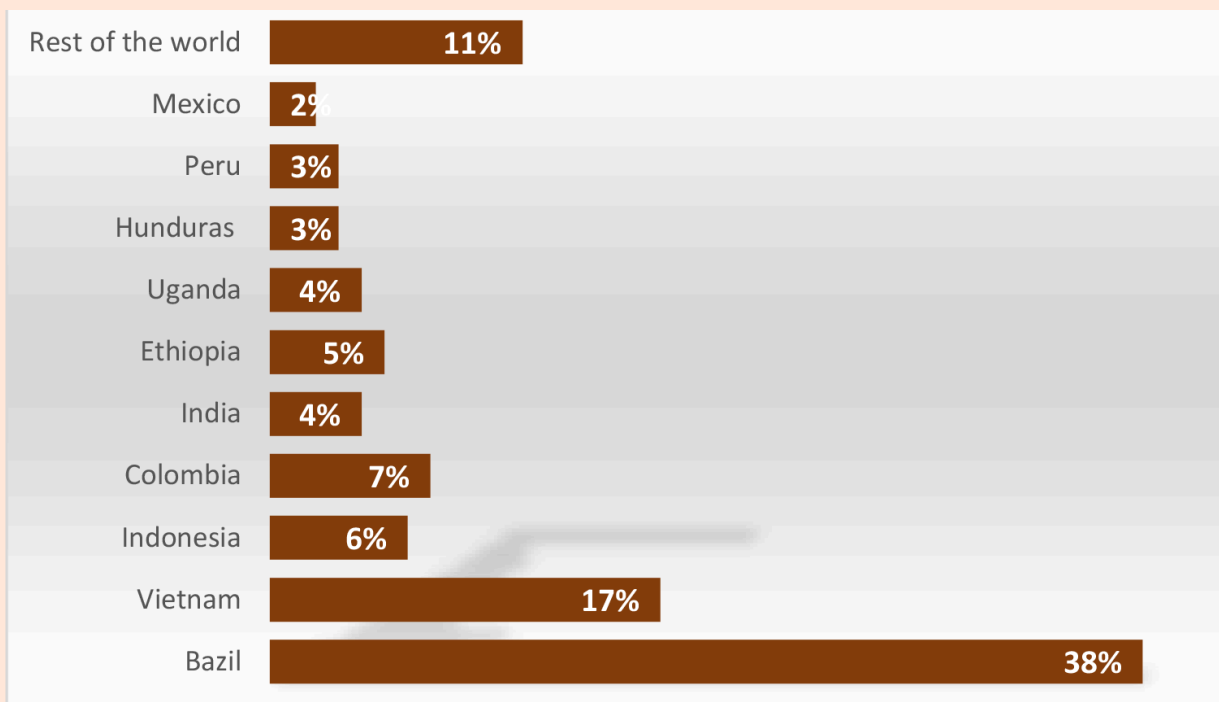
October 2025 – International Coffee Day Celebration
Accra, Ghana.

November 2025 – IACO 65th Annual Meetings
Bujumbura, Burundi | Hosted by the Government of Burundi.

December 2025 – AU Liaison Office Inauguration
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

9 Coffee Data Corner

Coffee production in the world in 2024



Source : US Department of Agriculture

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