

**8TH CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON COFFEE SECTOR  
FINANCE**

# **HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR INVESTMENTS IN THE COFFEE SECTOR**



**18 SEPTEMBER 2018, 09:30-13:30  
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR**

**ED-2278/18**



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

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# BACKGROUND

The use of digital technologies, ranging from mobile phones to big data applications and blockchain, is spreading fast in the agricultural sector, breaking information barriers and increasing transparency and efficiency along the value chain.

At the same time institutional and private investors show increased interest in market-based finance solutions, such as impact investment and green bonds, so as to raise capital for projects to benefit rural communities while addressing environmental and social challenges.

Participants in the 8th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance will explore how digital technologies and new financing instruments could reach small- and medium-sized coffee growers to improve their access to finance and increase investment in the coffee sector as a whole.

The Forum provides an opportunity to learn about innovative approaches currently being developed or implemented across agricultural commodity sectors.

Participants will also discuss the potential for adoption of these innovations in the coffee sector, and identify the barriers that need to be overcome to ensure financial inclusion.



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# PROGRAMME

## **09:30 – 10:00 Opening of the Forum**

Kirill Matrenichev - Chair of the Consultative Forum

José Sette - Executive Director, International Coffee Organization

Christoph Sängler - Senior Economist, International Coffee Organization

“The role of technology and innovation in coffee sector finance”

## **10:00 – 11:30 Panel 1: Technological innovations**

Digital innovations, such as blockchain, crypto-tokens and index insurance platforms, have the potential to increase coffee farmers’ bankability by improving their risk profile and creating a direct and efficient interface with financial institutions.

What are the infrastructural, institutional and regulatory barriers that need to be overcome to foster widespread adoption of new technologies in coffee producing countries? How can we ensure that the digitization of the coffee value chain benefits small- and medium-sized growers?

Moderator: tbc

Panelists:

- Richard Counsell - CEO & Founder, Stable
- Daniel Jones - CEO & Founder, bext360
- Srivatsa Krishna - CEO and Secretary, Coffee Board of India (tbc)
- Thorsten Beck - Professor for Banking and Finance, CASS Business School, City University of London

## **11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break**

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# PROGRAMME

## **12:00 – 13:20 Panel 2: Innovative financial instruments**

Impact investments, as well as climate and green bonds, could channel additional funds into the coffee sector, to support investments in the rehabilitation and renovation of ageing coffee trees as well as to increase productivity and resilience to the impact of climate change.

How can the coffee sector position itself to attract impact investors leveraging social or environmental objectives? How can innovative models help to link up social lenders, donors, traders, local banks and smallholder farmers? What is the potential of green bonds in finance for commodity trading?

Moderator:

Ric Rhinehart - Executive Director, Specialty Coffee Association

Panellists:

- Michaela Seimen - Sustainable Debt Strategist, UBS
- Nicolas Tamari - CEO, Sucafina (tbc)
- Nick Silver - Co-founder, Climate Bonds Initiative
- Herbert Lust - Conservation International / IDH (tbc)

## **13:20 – 13:30 Concluding remarks: outcomes and next steps**

Kirill Matrenichev, Chair of the Consultative Forum

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# REGISTRATION

**Please register to attend and share this event within your network:**

<https://8thconsultativeforum.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Registration closes on 10 September 2018.**

## WHAT IS THE CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON COFFEE SECTOR FINANCE?

Hosted by the International Coffee Organization, the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance was launched in 2011 and is held on an annual basis. It has established itself as an important sector event which attracts a wide audience of coffee experts from the public and private sectors across the globe.

Over the past seven years, the Forum has been the focal point of discussions covering a wide array of topics, ranging from improving access to finance and risk management tools, to strengthening the role of the public and private sectors in addressing constraints to production currently holding back coffee farmers in many countries.

