



ED 2261/18

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28 March 2018  
Original: English

**INVITATION TO ATTEND A DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON COFFEE LEAF RUST  
MEXICO CITY, 9 APRIL 2018**

1. The Executive Director presents his compliments and wishes to inform Members and observers about a Dissemination Workshop on Coffee Leaf Rust which will take place at the Hilton Mexico Reforma hotel, Mexico City from 14:30 to 18:00 on Monday 9 April 2018.
2. The objective of the Dissemination Workshop is to share information and good practice on how Members and the wider coffee sector are addressing the challenges of coffee leaf rust. As a result of interest shown by Members, the workshop includes presentations on the achievements and lessons from Project CFC/ICO/40 which focused on increasing the resilience of coffee production to leaf rust and other diseases in India and four African countries.
3. The Workshop is open to all ICO Members, Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) associations and accredited observers to the Council who are attending the 121<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council and associated meetings in Mexico City, in addition to registered participants. Information about these meetings has been circulated in the Convocation ([document ED-2260/18 Rev. 1](#)). Interpretation in the four languages of the ICO will be available.
4. The Workshop will be of interest to:
  - Representatives of ICO Members
  - Government agencies
  - Private sector organizations involved with coffee production, handling, export and marketing
  - Research institutions/universities
  - Farmers' associations in coffee producing countries
  - International organizations
  - Civil society
  - Press.

5. For further information, please contact:

Ms Sarah Eldred  
Secretariat and Communications Officer  
International Coffee Organization  
222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB  
Email: [eldred@ico.org](mailto:eldred@ico.org)



As at 27 March 2018

## DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON COFFEE LEAF RUST

MONDAY, 9 APRIL 2018

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

14:30 – 14:40 **Welcome and introduction**

**International Coffee Organization:** Mr José Sette, Executive Director

**Moderator:** Ms Vera Espíndola Rafael, Director Sustainability and Shared Value, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), Mexico

14:40 – 15:10 **Management of Coffee Leaf Rust – India’s Experience**

- Dr Surya Prakash Rao, Head Division, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI), India

15:10 – 15:40 **Increasing the resilience of coffee production to leaf rust and other diseases in India and Africa: Lessons learned from Project CFC/ICO/40**

- Dr Charles Agwanda, Coordinator (Commodities), Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Kenya

15:40 – 16:00 **Discussion**

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee Leaf Rust: The Amazing Race towards Resistance and Resilience**

- Dr Carlos Ariel Ángel, Head of Plant Pathology, National Coffee Research Centre (Cenicafé), Colombia

17:00 – 17:30 **Title of presentation tbc**

- Mr Alfredo Zamarippa, Advisor, Operative Technical Unit for the Directorate for the Promotion of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), Mexico

17:30 – 18:00 **Discussion**

## BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF PRESENTERS

### Ms Vera Espíndola Rafael (Moderator)



Since 2016, Ms Espíndola started to work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food in Mexico (SAGARPA) for the Plan Integral de Atención al Café – Plan for the Care of Coffee. She focuses on harmonizing the elements of sustainable coffee production in as well as overseeing the market strategy. Since 2017, she also oversees the market strategy for other key crops in Mexico, for example palm oil and grapes.

Ms Espíndola has a Masters' Degree in Development Economics and a Bachelor in International Business; she has previously worked for Anacafé in Guatemala and later on for the sustainability program

UTZ as Global Coffee Program Manager, now called Rainforest Alliance.

Since October 2015, Ms Espíndola is also member of the Sustainability Council of the Specialty Coffee Association and leading the work on the Farm Profitability theme.

### Dr Surya Prakash Rao



Dr Prakash Rao obtained his Doctoral degree (PhD) in Cytogenetics & Plant breeding from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India in 1989 for his work on 'Heterosis breeding employing a male sterile line, effect of some agricultural chemicals and cytogenetics of certain mutants in Chilli' (*Capsicum L.*). Subsequently, he joined the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI), Balehonnur, India, in 1990 and since then has worked in different positions.

Since 2009, he has been Head of the Plant Breeding and Genetics Division at CCRI and has gained extensive research experience of over 25 years in genetic improvement of coffee, especially breeding for durable rust resistance. He is actively involved in the

development and evaluation of several new Arabica hybrid lines for commercial exploitation in India.

In his post-doctoral work, Dr Prakash Rao worked under the supervision of Mr Philippe Lashermes at the Institute for Research and Development (IRD), Montpellier, France from 1999 to 2000. He jointly implemented an international collaborative project on durable rust resistance from 2002-2004, with (IRD, France) and Coffee Rusts Research Centre (CIFC, Portugal), sponsored by Agropolis International, France. The project led to the identification of AFLP markers linked to SH3 gene for rust resistance and this led to the development of SCAR markers linked to SH3 gene, at IRD, which have been used for marker assisted selection/breeding of coffee in India for the first time.

As Principal Investigator, he implemented a multi-country project "Increasing the resilience of Coffee production to leaf rust and other diseases in India and four African countries" funded by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and sponsored by the International Coffee Organization, Amsterdam. He has published about 45 research papers in peer reviewed national and international journals, as well as six chapters in books on Coffee. These research achievements contributed to CCRI's efforts in the development of durable rust resistant Arabica lines for commercial cultivation in India.

### **Dr Charles Agwanda**



Dr Charles Agwanda is currently the Coordinator for the Commodities theme at CABI Africa. The theme aims at improving the productivity, quality, safety and profitability of smallholder crops, including coffee, cocoa, coconut, high value horticulture and cotton, in order to improve market access. He has close to 23 years of experience in agricultural research and development and value chain enhancement for crops. He has helped African countries to set realistic visions for commodity development, develop roadmaps for realizing the country visions and develop fundable projects as tools to operationalize the country strategies.

Prior to this, Charles worked for the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa, ASARECA, (2003 - 2007) as the coordinator for the Coffee Research Network (CORNET). In this capacity, he was responsible for coordinating regional activities aimed at increasing productivity, value and competitiveness of the national coffee systems in 10 coffee producing countries in the region. He was also the Head of Coffee breeding program in Kenya (1987 - 2003) and Senior Research Officer (1991 - 2003) at the Coffee Research Foundation in the same country. He started his profession as a District Agricultural Officer in charge of farm planning under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in the Government of Kenya.

Dr Charles Agwanda has developed and implemented a number of major projects in his professional area. He coordinated the project to improve coffee quality in East and Central Africa through enhanced primary processing practices implemented in Rwanda and Ethiopia (2004 – 2008) financed by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and illycafé, coordinated the project to develop the potential of Gourmet Robusta markets in Gabon and Togo (2007 – 2011) financed by the CFC and developed and coordinated the project on the introduction of improved coffee washing technology (Central Processing Units - CPU) in Cameroon (2010 – 2012) financed by the World Bank among others. Currently he is leading on the project on sustainable credit guarantee scheme to promote scaling out of enhanced coffee processing practices in Ethiopia and Rwanda and the project to boost coffee productivity in Kenya and Malawi through better access to and use of modern technologies and innovations Financed by the European Union.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Plant Breeding from the University of Montpellier, France, Master of Science of Plant Breeding and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya

### **Dr Carlos Ariel Angel**



Dr Angel is a qualified Agronomist Engineer from Caldas University (Manizales) 1990-1994. In 1995 he joined FNC – Cenicafé as an Internship Fellow at the Plant Pathology Discipline, working on Coffee Stem Stain Canker. From 1996 to 2000 he received fellowships from FNC – Cenicafé, Inter-American Development Bank and Colciencias, to conduct research on pests and diseases of Colombian Orchids, the diagnostics of a possible new coffee virus and genetic resistance, as well as the diversity and economic importance of Coffee Brown Eye Spot or Berry Blotch Disease, among other topics. In 2000, he was appointed to the Faculty of Cenicafé to continue some of these research topics.

Three years later he became a visiting scientist at the University of Missouri (Columbia, MO, USA) and

Fellow of the Spain International Cooperation Agency (AECl). From 2004 to 2009 he received a PhD assistantship at Mr. James E. Schoelz's Lab at the University of Missouri (Columbia, MO, USA), to perform studies on understanding the resistance mechanisms to several viruses in *Nicotiana* (Tobaccos) wild species.

From 2009 to 2012, Dr Angel conducted postdoctoral studies on virus biotechnology and plant stress biology at the University of Missouri, focusing on virus intracellular movement and functional genomics for disease resistance. From 2013 to early 2016 he was appointed Head of the Plant Pathology Area at the Colombian Sugarcane Research Center (Cenicaña). Since April 2016 Dr Angel has worked as Scientific Researcher and Head of the Plant Pathology Discipline at Cenicafé. His main research areas are plant-microbe interactions of coffee diseases, functional genomics for resistance, and integrated disease management.

He has been author and co-author of books, chapters, and scientific papers on journals such as *Molecular Plant Microbe Interactions* and *Virology*, and presented numerous talks and posters at national and international meetings, receiving some recognitions. He is an active member of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), as Chair of Virology and Tropical Plant Pathology Committees. He has also been mentor to several undergraduate, bachelor, master, and PhD students, and enjoys discussions and training activities with agronomists, extension agents, but mainly with coffee farmers and their families.

**Mr Alfredo Zamarippa**

More information to follow.



**DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON COFFEE LEAF RUST  
Monday, 9 April 2018**

**ATTENDANCE FORM**

I will attend the Dissemination Workshop on Coffee Leaf Rust in Mexico City (please tick as appropriate):

<b>Attendance at workshop</b>	<b>Yes</b>
14:30 – 18:00 Monday, 9 April 2018	

Name of ICO Member country/  
PSCB association/observer: .....

Name: .....

Position: .....

Organization/company: .....

Phone: .....

Fax:  
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Email: .....

**Please complete and return to:**

Ms Sarah Eldred  
Secretariat and Communications Officer  
International Coffee Organization  
222 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8HB  
Email: [eldred@ico.org](mailto:eldred@ico.org)