



**Second edition of ICO Award for Excellence
in Coffee-Related Research**

**Extension of deadline for submission of
papers**

The Executive Director presents his compliments and wishes to inform Members, observers, the Private Sector Consultative Board, universities and research institutions that, following the disruption due to the outbreak of the covid-19, the deadline for submission of papers for the second edition of the ICO Award for Excellence in Coffee-Related Research has been extended until **31 March 2021**. Moreover, the focus of the theme for 2019/20: “Sustainable Coffee Value Chain and Sourcing” has also been expanded adding: “Resilience of the coffee value chain to shocks and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic”.

Introduction

The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the main intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing countries to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation. In this regard, the ICO provides a convergence platform for all initiatives promoting the development of the world coffee economy, particularly encouraging initiatives with a positive impact on sustainable development of the coffee sector and the livelihood of coffee farmers. Coffee is a powerful instrument for development, but the world coffee sector still faces immense challenges in transmitting benefits to all those involved in the value chain, especially smallholder growers.

Against this background and within the framework of its Five-Year Action Plan, namely Strategic Goal II (B) “**Priority actions to strengthen engagement with third parties**”, the International Coffee Council approved the ICO Award for Excellence in Coffee-related Research.

Therefore, the ICO calls for papers for the coffee year 2019/20 ICO Essay competition for coffee-related economic research. This Award aims to promote high-quality research on emerging issues in the global coffee sector. More specifically, the ICO Award seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote high quality economic research on coffee-related issues with emphasis on the ICO yearly thematic focus and the Five-Year Action Plan. The ICO thematic focus for the current coffee year 2019/20 is “**Sustainable Coffee Value Chain and sourcing – Resilience of the coffee value chain to shocks and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic**”.
- Engage young economists and researchers in the assessment of socio-economics-related issues affecting the coffee sector.
- Generate discussion on innovative approaches to address development-related issues in coffee-producing countries and the contribution of the coffee sector to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, the research paper should cover a relevant topic related to the sustainable development of the coffee sector. Some ideas for particular topics could include improving the contribution of the coffee sector to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and/or the importance of coffee in social and economic development, as well as the value distribution in the global value chain including living income and wage and market forces. While candidates have freedom to choose their own topics, provided they are relevant to the coffee sector, preference will be given to those papers addressing research questions that fall under the ICO thematic focus for coffee year 2019/20. **Only papers tailored to address the specific research topics relevant to the ICO will be considered by the selection panel.**

Eligibility

The competition is open to all economists and researchers in social sciences who are in the process of completing a PhD or who have completed their degree in the last five years, are citizens of an ICO Member country or affiliated to an institution based in an ICO Member country, and have a proven interest in the area of coffee economics.

To enter the competition, the candidate should submit an essay, thesis work or journal article, in English, which should not exceed 15,000 words.

Selection panel

The selection panel will comprise leading university professors of economics or related fields and world coffee experts and senior officers of the ICO. The ICO Chief Economist will coordinate the work of the panel.

Award

The winner of the award in addition to the visibility and recognition by the coffee stakeholders and academia, will be presented with £2,000. In the case of a co-authored paper, the prize will be equally divided among the authors. To enable the winner to attend, the award ceremony in person, travel costs of up to £800 shall be covered by the ICO¹ or online video conference could be set-up. An award certificate will be presented to the winner and the winning essay will be published on the ICO website and social media channels, in addition to being circulated among ICO Member countries.

Deadline for submission

All submissions should be sent to essay.award@ico.org not later than **31 March 2021**. Submissions should include as separate attachments in PDF format:

- a) The essay.
- b) The curriculum vitae of the author(s), specifying:
 - i. Current affiliation(s).
 - ii. The academic institution awarding the PhD and the year (or expected year) of completion of the degree.
 - iii. The date of birth of the author(s).

¹ *The ICO is not in a position to provide assistance with regards to visa, travel insurance and other matters related to attending the award ceremony.*