



Agence des Cafés Robusta d'Afrique et de Madagascar

REGIONAL MEETING ON AFRICAN ROBUSTA CAFES

« Post-Covid – what approach for the resilience of the Robusta coffee sector in Africa? »

Hotel 2 Fevrier, Lome (Togo), April 26 - 30 , 2021.

9th General Assembly of ACRAM

Report of the Gender Committee

On Thursday, April 29 of the year 2021 was held in the FASAO room at 2:50 pm, the meeting of the ACRAM Gender Committee. It saw the participation, face-to-face and by videoconference, of women from Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Ghana, Liberia, Togo and representatives of organizations such as COMOD'AFRICA, LADYAGRI and International Women Coffee Alliance (IWCA).

The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Patricia NDAM NJOYA, President of the ACRAM Gender Committee, who opened the proceedings by wishing the most cordial welcome and fruitful work to the participants. She then gave the floor to the Executive Secretary of ACRAM, Mr. Ismaël NDJEWE; the latter declined the Draft Agenda, which was adopted.

At the beginning of the work, a film illustrating the production of soap based on coffee parch was screened. Following this, the President of the Gender Committee set the scene with her presentation of the context of Gender in the coffee value chain and her level of involvement on the gender inequality index in the ACRAM space. It appears that the gender inequality index was high in the ACRAM countries, where at the same time it is established the strong involvement of women in the agricultural sector: hence the interest of the action to be taken towards women coffee farmers, to guarantee the development of the sector, which ACRAM proposes through its Program: "Economic Empowerment of Gender in the Robusta Value Chain in Africa. »



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Indeed, the revival of the sector integrating the revaluation of women coffee farmers, the state of play, the problems, the Executive Secretary recommended actions to be carried out, as a way of solution for the expected results, namely, the economic empowerment of women coffee farmers.

A Program that nourished with hope, the ACRAM Gender Focal Points who took the floor in turn for their communication on the Theme:

« **The Country Experience in the context of Covid-19 and Gender Issues in the Coffee Sector** ". The format of these presentations is appended to this report.

The Gabonese focal point, **Mrs. Calice Anabelle BIFANE**, speaker first, presented, by a reminder, the primordial role of women in coffee farming in general. She also spoke about the actions taken towards Gabonese coffee farmers despite their low representativeness in the sector and the economic and social impact of the pandemic.

The presentations continued with presentations by the focal points of Ghana and Liberia, Ms Ivy OSEI-SAMPAH and **Ms. Josephine G. FRANCIS**. The first one drew the portrait of women in the coffee sector in Ghana, who are very present at the level of processing, and the prospects. The second addressed the action plan developed by the Government of Liberia for the rehabilitation of agricultural farms that had been destroyed during the war. She said very little is being done in favour of women in coffee and hopes that the ITC-ACRAM collaboration will help improve the coffee sector in Liberia.

The focal point of the DRC, **Mrs. Régine TIKA**, will contribute with a presentation of the coffee sector in Congo, through its strengths and weaknesses and the involvement of Congolese women, very active in the value chain.

The focal point of Togo, **Mrs. Célestine SOKPOR**, presented her communication focused on the efforts made by the Togolese government, in order to enable the economic empowerment of women in the value chain.



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The presentation of the activities of the Association of Cameroonian Women in Coffee (AFECC) made by Mrs. Patricia NDAM NJOYA ended the first part of the work.

The session continued with the presentation, by **Mrs. Bénédicte CHATEL** (President of COMMODAFRICA) of the Film and Conference Project for Africa on Robusta, whose objective is to arouse the enthusiasm of young people to invest in the coffee sector. A provisional budget and potential partners and donors were exposed to assistance.

The floor went to **Mrs. Hilary BARRY**, who built the Committee on the NGO LADYAGRI, the NGO of which she chairs the destiny, at the service of women's entrepreneurship in the coffee value chain. Its actions are divided into three pillars: technical assistance, access to finance, market access.

Mrs. **Blanca Maria CASTRO** presented the experience of the International Woman Coffee Alliance (IWCA) and the models of success in Africa, according to three areas of action: leadership development, market access, creation of strategic alliances.

Finally, the floor was given to the audience through debates that gave rise to several recommendations. The meeting was adjourned at 6.00 p.m.

Recommandations

At the end of the discussions around the themes addressed, the following recommendations were made:

- Implement concrete actions to support women's resilience;
- Opening the market to women.
- Promoting the representation of women in decision-making bodies;
- Encourage ACRAM partners to support and encourage the implementation of the Gender Economic Empowerment in Africa Value Chain Programme.
- Promote the establishment of a college of women coffee producers in each country of the ACRAM space.



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- Ask national governing structures to encourage national public and private bodies to support women coffee farmers: this can be done by adopting a MOU of the national gender policy in the sector. Discrimination would be reduced considerably.
- Access to finance for women coffee farmers can be ensured if advocacy is made at the level of Member States for the establishment of Agricultural Banks.
- Ensure the representation of women at all levels of the Value Chain, and at the research level.

Lome April 30, 2021

The President of the Gender Committee

The right Honorable Patricia NDAM NDJOYA