



Organización Internacional del Café Organization
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

WP Statistics 114/07

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Statistics Committee
26 September 2007
London, England

**Future statistical priorities for the
Organization under a new
International Coffee Agreement**

(Communication from Colombia)

Background

1. In April 2007 the Head of Operations contacted all members of the Statistics Committee inviting them to provide their comments on the implications of obtaining information with a view to increasing the range of time series to be disseminated by the Organization to operate under a new International Coffee Agreement.

2. The attached reply was received by the representative of Colombia, Mrs. María del Pilar Fernández, Advisor to the General Manager of the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia.

Action

The Statistics Committee is invited to discuss this matter and to make recommendations to the Council.

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM COLOMBIA – AUGUST 2007

On behalf of the Colombian delegation I would like to comment on the implications of obtaining new types of information as proposed in Chapter XII of the new draft Agreement¹:

1. We recognize the greater importance of differentiated coffees and niche markets and we believe that a considerable amount of information is missing in order to have a clear understanding of these new market trends.
2. With this aim, the compilation and analysis of information on production volumes, consumption, trade and retail prices, with a geographical perspective is crucial.
3. In requesting such information it is important to establish categories of differentiated coffees to avoid the identification of specific groups or companies producing, processing or marketing coffee.
4. It is also important to note that some information, like particular production costs, should not be required since it could affect the competitiveness of coffee growers. Additionally, because of the differences in technologies, agronomical practices, and environmental conditions, there is a huge variety of production costs, even within the same country, that would make it almost impossible to have unique official data. Even an average could be misleading because of the great standard deviation between observations. Independent studies such as the ones made by Landell Mills or the World Bank are welcome but this type of data series should not be part of the ICO's official databases.
5. All this new information should be requested and made available, after the validation process, to all Members.

¹ *Document WP-WGFA 3/07 Rev. 5.*