



STATUS AND CURRENT RESEARCH STRATEGIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE COFFEE BERRY BORER IN AFRICA

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Highlights to the presentation

- The problem of the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Africa is real and the situation is increasingly becoming worse, probably due to climatic changes (“Global warming”)
- Chemical control is not an appropriate option due to health and environmental concerns, and is prohibited by policy in some countries due to rising interests in specialty coffee e.g organic coffee;
- Cultural control options are insufficient on their own, and only meaningful when carefully integrated with or supplemented by biological control options. Where effective natural enemies have been blended with application of cultural recommendations, CBB has been severely curtailed.
- The most effective natural biological control situations in Uganda, with the lowest CBB incidences (<1%), had *H. coffeicola* and *P. coffeae*, alongside either of *P. nasuta* and *C. stephanoderis* effectively working in cohort with each other, reinforced by the entomo-pathogens *B. bassiana* and *M. anisopliae*.
- The missing link in most CBB biological control programmes worldwide is therefore *H. coffeicola*, confirmed as the most efficient natural enemy of the CBB in Uganda, the natural home of Robusta coffee where CBB is endemic;
- No meaningful attempts have been made by Africa’s research institutions to develop varieties that are resistant to CBB, although this is ultimately the most desired solution.
- There is need to complete the work previously undertaken on *H. coffeicola* in Uganda through an international partnership between NARO/COREC (Uganda), CRF (Kenya), CENICAFE (Colombia) and CABI (UK and ARC) with support from USDA/ARS, to enable its integration in biological control programmes;
- While Ugandan and Kenyan scientists are fully committed to this goal through a regional project still at the conceptual stage, additional regional and international commitments are sought (from CABI and others) in order to further enrich the technical expertise and secure adequate funding;
- CFC and ICO are therefore urged to step up to the challenge.