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International Coffee Organization  
Organización Internacional del Café  
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Organisation Internationale du Café

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## ICO Seminar on Genetically Modified Coffee

The Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), Mr. Néstor Osorio, today announced that a Seminar on Genetically Modified Coffee will be held at the ICO headquarters in London, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17 May 2005. The event will be chaired by Mr. Ezzedine Boutrif, Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Although there is currently no genetically modified coffee available on the market, research programmes are proceeding. The seminar will provide an opportunity for those involved in this field, from research institutes, scientists, producing countries, industry and NGOs to inform ICO Members about the different aspects of this issue and share their experiences.

### Confirmed speakers include:

- Mr. Ezzedine Boutrif (Chairman of the Seminar), Chief, Food Quality and Standards Service, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**
- Dr. Peter Baker, Coffee Projects Coordinator, **CABI Bioscience**
- Mr. Christophe Montagnon, Adviser for Coffee and Cocoa Matters, **CIRAD, France**
- Professor Vivian Moses, Chairman of CropGen Panel, Visiting Professor of Biotechnology at **King's College, London**
- Mr. Luíz Gonzaga Vieira, Researcher, **Embrapa Café, Brazil**
- Dr. John I. Stiles, Chief Scientific Officer, **Integrated Coffee Technologies Inc., Hawaii**
- Mr. Francois Meienberg, **Bern Declaration, Switzerland**
- Mr. Pete Riley, Director, **Five Year Freeze Campaign**
- Dr. Abdourahmane Sangare, Directeur, Laboratoire Central de Biotechnologies, **Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA), Côte d'Ivoire**
- Mr. Peter Loosen, LL.M., German Food Industry Federation, Head of Brussels office, for **Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU (CIAA)**
- Dr. Anne Chetaille, **Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques (GRET)**

Néstor Osorio, ICO Executive Director, said “*This initiative by the Organization is designed to facilitate analysis and discussion of a range of aspects of genetically modified coffee such as its contribution to development, benefits to the coffee industry, as well as any negative consequences and impact in areas such as health and environment.*”

***About the ICO:** The International Coffee Organization is an intergovernmental organization created under the auspices of the United Nations to serve the international coffee community. Established in 1963, the ICO is unique in bringing 74 producing and consuming countries together to exchange views and address policy issues. In the last four calendar years, average world coffee exports amounted to some US\$6 billion worth of coffee, and average world imports amounted to some US\$9 billion worth of coffee each year. The ICO provides the following services: up-to-date information and statistics; innovative projects to benefit the world coffee economy; country coffee profiles and economic studies; and promotion of coffee consumption in emerging markets.*

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