

PRESS RELEASE

Study Tour on the Future of African Coffee: Exchange Programme between Africa and Italy Kicks Off in Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa, 24 September 2026 – The “Advancing Climate-Resilience and Transformation in African Coffee” study tour kicks off today at the Coffee Training Center (CTC) in Addis Ababa. The programme is dedicated to the future of the coffee sector and to sharing knowledge, skills and experiences between Africa and Italy.

Promoted by **UNIDO** and funded by the **Italian Government under the Global Gateway framework**, the study tour brings together participants from **Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi**. The initiative is part of the **ACT Coffee Programme**, one of the flagship initiatives of the **Mattei Plan for Africa**, and contributes to the European **Global Gateway** strategy by fostering cooperation among public institutions, research centres and the private sector. From **24 September to 4 October 2026**, the programme includes institutional meetings, technical sessions and visits to institutions, research centres and organisations working in the coffee sector in **Addis Ababa, Trieste, Turin and Florence**.

The inaugural day in Addis Ababa opens with welcome remarks by **Counsellor Luca Carpintieri, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Italy in Ethiopia**, followed by contributions from **Michele Morana, Head of AICS Addis Ababa Office**, and **Stephen Kargbo, UNIDO Representative in Ethiopia**. The session continues with a presentation of the study tour programme and an overview of the **Ethiopian coffee sector**, including the contribution of the **Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA)** and perspectives on the development of the coffee value chain, presented by **ECTA Director General Dr Adugna Debela**. The day concludes with visits to the **Coffee Training Center and Fill Coffee**.

An initiative for the development and transformation of the coffee value chain

The study tour is part of the “**Advancing Climate-Resilience and Transformation in African Coffee**” initiative, which aims to promote knowledge exchange and strengthen skills across the

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coffee value chain, connecting experiences and expertise from different African countries and Italy.

The **ACT Coffee Programme** also aims to strengthen the sector's climate resilience, promote sustainable industrial development and foster greater local value creation from farm to export, while contributing to improved livelihoods for **smallholder farmers and rural communities** that sustain the sector.

For Italy, the coffee sector represents a space for cooperation that goes beyond production and trade. The value chain connects **training, technical expertise, research, innovation and economic opportunities**, creating opportunities for collaboration among institutions, research centres and sector stakeholders.

Through exchanges between the **five participating African countries and Italy**, the programme provides an opportunity to compare different experiences and approaches, while recognising and valuing the specific characteristics of each context. It also offers a space to explore how knowledge and skills can contribute to the development of the coffee value chain and create new opportunities for the people and communities that depend on it.

Ethiopia, one of the world's leading coffee-producing countries and widely recognised as the birthplace of *Coffea arabica*, hosts the first part of the programme. Following the activities in Addis Ababa, the delegation will continue its journey in Italy, with stops in **Trieste, Turin and Florence**, to learn from institutional, scientific and business organisations working across different areas of the coffee value chain.

The study tour therefore represents an opportunity for **five African countries and Italy to exchange experiences, expertise and perspectives on the future of the sector**, within the framework of cooperation between Africa and Italy promoted by the **Mattei Plan for Africa**.

Further information:

Advancing Climate-Resilience and Transformation in African Coffee – UNIDO

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