

Research on Organic Arabica Coffee Farming in Indonesia

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SUMMARY

Arabica coffee growing areas in Indonesia at the moment covers 75.000 ha. The main growing areas are located in the highlands of Gayo (Aceh, Sumatera), Tana Toraja (South Sulawesi), Ijen Plateau (East Java), and Kintamani (Bali). The government intends to increase Arabica production by converting Robusta coffee grown in the highlands.

Most of the Arabica coffee produced by smallholders is grown without using any inorganic synthetic materials to increase soil nutrition or to control pests and diseases. The traditional farmers normally produce less than 500 kg green coffee/ha/year.

In order to increase Arabica coffee yield at the traditional farmers' level a research program on organic coffee farming has been established in Gayo highlands. The research is mainly aimed to create a sustainable farming system at the farmers' level by applying components of organic agriculture.

Some components of organic coffee farming studied on the program above consist of improvement of plant materials, the use of legumes as shade trees as well as to prevent soil erosion, and research on biofertilizer in addition to biological control of major pests and diseases. This paper will discuss the highlight of the research progress and some preliminary implementation at the farmers' level.