

Sustainable Environment and Production Resource for High Quality Arabica Coffee

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ABSTRACT

The paper outlines those factors necessary in the production of high quality coffee. Agriculture is a major non-point environmental pollutant through the use of pesticides, fertilizers, sediment discharge, by-products from industries, poor and irresponsible cultivation practices (Njoka, 1994). In conventional agriculture, many agricologenic plant diseases are due to simplification of the ecosystem and introduction of foreign factors (Hodges and Scofield, 1983). Therefore, the importance of employing environmentally sound and resource sustaining production principles in reference to coffee industry cannot be over emphasized. Environmentally benign coffee production practices are discussed and cross-referenced with the conventional production practices. This highlights those practices that promote environmentally and resource sustainability in coffee industry. Special emphasis is placed on the control of soil and nutrient erosion, through sustainable production cultural practices; exploitation of biological systems to combat coffee pests and diseases with ultimate goal to enhance soil fertility, coffee yield and quality. Suggested production practices are selected on the basis of practical ecological and economic principles deemed necessary to make coffee industry more environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable. To sustain the environment and resource base on which coffee thrives, farmers and change agent should be treated as collaborators in the generation of innovations.