

Coffee Diseases and Their Significance in Ethiopia

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SUMMARY

Yield losses caused by coffee diseases remain among the major constraints to increased production in many parts of Ethiopia, where a number of diseases have been recorded. Follow-up studies were necessary to determine whether or not there was a major shift in the status of coffee diseases. The study covered sites that were truly representative of all the coffee growing regions, where the prevalence and distribution of diseases was determined. Severity was determined as the area or volume of plant parts. Trachemycosis was severe (32%) in plantations while high leaf rust severity (27%) was observed in Hararge region. However, the severity in garden coffee in the south and southwestern region was very low. The prevalence of other minor diseases was insignificant. Currently only coffee berry disease is economically important, the overall national loss due to CBD is estimated at 24-30%, but this should not give one the impression that the other diseases will remain minor indefinitely because these diseases may gain economic importance if the host parasite relationship is disturbed. From the results of the study there was no major shift in the status of coffee diseases. However, trachemycosis in plantations and coffee leaf rust in Hararge region should get due Attention.