The Status of Coffee Wilt Disease (Tracheomycosis) and Strategies for Its Control in Uganda

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SUMMARY

Coffee is an important and leading cash crop for the small-scale farmers in Uganda. Pests and diseases are among the major production constraints, which reduce both productivity and quality of coffee. Coffee wilt disease due to *Fusarium xylarioides* Steyaert on robusta coffee was confirmed in Uganda in 1993 in two districts bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire). Currently, the wilt occurs in 12 districts, to the south and east of the original foci. Disease incidence varies from a few infected trees to over 50% tree mortality. The control measures being implemented are sensitisation of farmers and civic leaders about the disease, urging farmers to cut and burn affected trees *in situ*, restriction on movement of unhulled coffee, a ban on use of coffee husks as mulch in coffee, and replanting on new land Little information is available on the biology and epidemiology of the disease. There is, therefore, urgent need to intensify research in these areas and to identify sources of resistance, which are basic in formulating effective control strategies.