

Enhancement of Coffee Quality Through the Prevention of Mould Growth: Start Up Experiences in Uganda

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ABSTRACT

A two-year project on Quality Improvement through Prevention of Mould Growth financed through the Technical Co-operation Programme between Government of Uganda and Food Agricultural Organisation started in May 1999. Initial experiences in the start up areas which are in the high-density natural robusta districts show that this project forms a good starting basis and cross fertilisation for the global project.

Through evaluation of the coffee production, processing and marketing systems in the project areas, potential problems and critical control points relevant to health safety and quality deterioration due to mould contamination have been identified especially at drying and storage levels.

The paper illustrates using data so far gathered, how production costs, availability of labour and inputs and producer margins affect adoption and application of GAP/GMP. Preliminary or first experiences show that differential pricing greatly influences farmer and processor adoption of GAP/GMP.

Operational parameters which can be important in mould growth reduction employed at each critical control point at farmer and processor levels in the Gourmet Project have shown considerable quality improvement through organoleptic evaluation. Use of tarpaulins and or trays during the coffee drying stage seem to offer the best applicable solution at this stage.