

Rationalizing Control of Coffee Tree Diseases

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SUMMARY

The risk of an epidemic developing results from the pathogen, its host, the environment, human intervention through the cropping system, and their interactions. Disease is conventionally represented by a tetrahedron, each extremity of which is occupied by one of these factors. However, few parasite management systems are based on all these elements at the same time. For instance, cropping system is rarely taken into account. Yet, it will be shown that all the components of the tetrahedron need to be taken into account for optimum parasite management and durable control, especially the cropping system. Indeed, with knowledge of the physical, technical and biological attributes of a plantation, it is possible to assess the extent of the epidemic risk to which it is exposed, and deduce control recommendations which are both in relation to that risk and adapted to the cropping system. Some considerations on coffee rust, American leaf spot of coffee, coffee berry disease, tracheomycosis and crespera are given.