

Morphological Characterization of Hararge Coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) Germplasm Accessions for Qualitative Characters

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SUMMARY

A field experiment was conducted at Awada Agricultural Research Sub-Center using one hundred Hararge coffee germplasm accessions for morphological characterization. Data on 8 qualitative characters were obtained on those coffee germplasm accessions representing 16 woredas of Hararge coffee growing areas along with 4 standard checks originated from southwest Ethiopia. Based on centroid linkage method of hierarchical cluster analysis for qualitative characters, the germplasm accessions got grouped into 7 clusters at 75 per cent level of similarity. Accordingly, the 100 Hararge coffee accessions fell into the first 5 clusters while the 4 standard checks grouped in the last two clusters. Majority of the Hararge coffee accessions (92) were grouped in cluster I indicating the narrow genetic base of Hararge coffee germplasm for the qualitative characters considered. Characterization of the germplasm accessions was done based on the value of cluster centroids of the respective character.