

Water Harvesting and Conservation in Coffee Farms

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SUMMARY

Water is a vital input in coffee production among other life systems and plays a very important role in nutrition uptake and hence the subsequent yields and quality. Its adequate availability and at the right time has to be assured. For this reason, all the relevant measures have to be in place to ensure that any form of water supply system is able to deliver the water into the soil as intended. The soil status must be such that it provides an adequate reservoir for the supplied water for easy release to the coffee later during the crop cycle as required.

However, if recent observations are anything to go by, all is not well. This is particularly evident in rain fed regions where heavy run off water has been seen after only receiving very little rainfall. Consequently, the crops encounter water deficits even after adequate rain has been received. This implies that very little water infiltrates into the soil whenever it rains leading to the loss of the larger component. The necessary physical and cultural measures required to prevent surface water run off are coincidentally absent under such circumstances. The water runoff also takes away a lot of soil to waste, thereby aggravating the situation. The lands become barren and can hardly support life with ease. The amounts of rainfall also decline due to dwindling vegetation. Hence life heads towards a stand still.

This presentation revisits the worst situations, which can arise with an intention to stimulate interest and positive action necessary to restore the potential of coffee farms. By so doing our environment will be conserved for better living status devoid of the rampant poverty inflicting some of the regions in world. The available technical, economic and social options necessary for the rehabilitation of our soils are critically exposed.