

Rain Water Harvesting for Water Conservation - Need of the Day and Future for Small Coffee Growers

H.R. MURALIDHARA¹, S. KAMALA BAI², Y. RAGHURAMULU²

¹Division of Agronomy, Coffee Research Sub Station, Chettalli-571 248, Kodagu District, Karnataka State, India

²Analytical Laboratory, Coffee Board, No. 1, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-1, India

SUMMARY

Nearly 90% of coffee growers in India are small growers. Their knowledge on creating water resources, scientific and judicious usage of available water is very poor. During the last three years, majority of coffee growers in coffee tracts faced ever seen drought conditions. The average rainfall of the coffee tracts ranges from 1400 to 3400 mm and nearly 69-80% of this is received only during the monsoon period, which lasts [or three months from mid June to mid September. Most of the rainfall flows out of growers field as runoff after fulfilling the surface retention, infiltration and saturation capacity of the soil. Nearly 50% of rainfall received during the monsoon flows as runoff accounting to 14 to 40 lakh liters of water from one acre in a year. Hence, under the present drought scenario, all coffee growers must get sufficient knowledge about rainwater harvesting and harvest this valuable runoff water for critical operations like blossom and backing irrigation, Bordeaux spraying and lindane swabbing to be carried out during the pre and post monsoon period. Besides this, rainwater harvesting helps not only to increase the water resources but also helps to recharge and improve ground water table.