

Evaluation of Some Innovative Primary Processing Practices Observed in the North Rift Valley Region of Kenya

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SUMMARY

Over the last 10 years North Rift Valley has increasingly become important as far as the future of coffee production in Kenya is concerned. A survey conducted during 2004/2005 revealed processing practices and arrangements that appeared unique and divergent from practices elsewhere in Kenya. Fermentation stage is one area that farmers have attempted to overcome constraints by improvising and at times coming up with what would be described as innovative ideas. This research focused on the cup quality and presence of infective fungi in the coffee fermented using the improvised fermentation receptors alongside the conventional fermentation tank. Various fungi were isolated in the coffee under the study. Yeasts were the highest occurring fungi. No significant difference (at $p \leq 0.05$) was found in the aroma, body, acidity and the overall acceptance between the coffees fermented using the various improvised fermentation tanks and the conventional fermentation tank under the conditions of this study.