

Determination of a Coffee Factory Capacity

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SUMMARY

Coffee factories, which commonly deliver high grade coffee, can occasionally experience a sudden drop in quality of the processed coffee. In most cases, the cause of such a constraint can be traced back to a sudden peak cherry input (due to sudden ripening of the coffee cherry in the farms), which the factory could not cope with. There being no doubt that much earnings can be lost in this way, the health and safety of the consumers can also be seriously compromised.

There is a strong tendency to construct more factories in order to “release” the existing ones from congestion in order to surmount any likely constraints from these and other unforeseen factors. However, since coffee is a seasonal crop, the coffee factory will be in use for only a short time of the year. Further more, the factory nevertheless consumes capital in the form of for instance depreciations even during the time it is not in use. As such, the more factories there will be the higher the total costs thus leaving the farmer with a lower payout. Therefore, although in some cases the construction of new factories can be considered, in general the existing processing capacity in all coffee growing areas suffices greatly. For this purpose, ways and means on how to handle sudden peak crops in an economic way without loss of coffee quality and quantity are demonstrated.