

INTRODUCTION

The Chikmagalur region has got the distinction of having diverse agro-climatic zones varying from high elevation and high rainfall areas to low elevation and low rainfall areas. The entire coffee growing area of Chikmagalur can be classified into six agro-climatic zones based on elevation and rainfall. The profiles of each of the agro-climatic zones are given in Annexure 1.

Arabica is predominantly cultivated in Chikmagalur, Giris, Mudigere, Mallandur, Gonibeedu and Aldur zones. Robusta is predominant in Balehonnur, Koppa and N.R.Pura zones. In zones like Kalasa, Basrikatte, Banakal, Kottegehar and Devarunda, both arabica and robusta are cultivated in equal proportions. As on 2000-01, the region has a total planted area of 85,465 ha. comprising 58,330 ha. of arabica and 27,135 ha. of robusta. The annual production is about 78,900 MT with arabica contributing 41,500 MT and the remaining 37,400 MT by robusta. The productivity of arabica is around 700 kg/ha and that of robusta 1400 kg/ha.

The following factors have been found to mainly influence the performance of coffee in Chikmagalur region.

- ❖ Irregular blossom and backing showers.
- ❖ Wet feet condition during monsoon in high rainfall areas.
- ❖ Prolonged drought in marginal areas.
- ❖ Lack of irrigation facilities in certain robusta areas.
- ❖ High incidence of leaf rust and white stem borer in arabica.
- ❖ Black rot incidence in endemic areas.

- ❖ Poor bush management
- ❖ Poor organic matter status of the soils
- ❖ Shortage of skilled labour

Apart from the above, differential adoption of technology by growers based on their economic and entrepreneurial abilities is the other reason, which affect the performance of plantations.

All the above factors may not be found in any given location, but at least one or few of them may assume significance in a given location. In view of this, it may not be possible to provide a definite package for each one of the aforesaid situations, as some of them can be answered by technology, while others are entirely dependent on the economic and entrepreneurial level of the growers. Thus, it is prudent to suggest two main kinds of packages one each for sustainable production and intensive cultivation, for both arabica and robusta.

