

INTRODUCTION

The coffee areas in Hassan district are spread over in Sakleshpur, Belur and Alur taluks, which have been divided into five-liaison zones viz.; Sakleshpur, Hanbal, Yeslur, Belur and Rayarakoppa. As on 2000-01, a total area of 31,935 ha of land has been planted to coffee out of which 25,715 ha is under arabica and the remaining 6,220 ha under robusta. The Hassan district produces about 24,000 tonnes of coffee, of which 18,000 tonnes is arabica and the rest robusta. The productivity of arabica in the district is about 875 kg/ha and that of robusta around one tonne per hectare.

The elevation in the district ranges from 2800 to 3200 feet while the rainfall from 60 to 120 inches, except in few areas. The region normally experiences rains from South-West monsoon during June to September recording about 77% of the yearly precipitation. The North-East monsoon rains during October to December bring in about 12% of the total rain. Summer showers account for the remaining rainfall. In general, the coffee belts in Hassan experience a dry period of 3-5 months from January to May with few summer showers. Based on the elevation and rainfall pattern, the coffee growing areas in Hassan region can be classified into the following three major agro-climatic zones as given below.

Zone	Elevation (ft)	Rainfall (mm)	Areas
Zone A	2800-3200	>2000	Hanbal, Heggadde, Hethur, Igoor and Yeslur.
Zone B	2800-3200	1500-2000	Sakleshpur, Bage, Ballupet, Belagodu, Alur, K.Hosakotte and Rayarakoppal.
Zone C	2800 & below	1000 mm & less	Biccodu, Kesagodu, Totalu and Gendehalli

The following factors and constraints are known to influence coffee production in the region.

- Medium to heavy pruning is done in the region especially after a heavy cropping year. Moreover, pruning is done before the receipt of summer showers.
- Renovation of trenches and pits is not a regular practice.
- Liming and fertilizer application are not done based on soil test.
- Use of growth regulators is not popular.
- Leaf rust is the major disease and new stem disease is reported in some estates.
- White stem borer is the major pest. The white stem borer attack is on the increase on account of not taking proper prevention measures in time.
- In Hanbal region, there is a tendency to switch over from arabica to robusta, due to management problems.

In view of the diverse agro-climatic zones and popularity of both arabica and robusta in the region, package of practices for intensive cultivation as well as sustainable production of both the varieties of coffee are suggested.

