

PREFACE

Adoption of improved technology comprising high yielding planting material, use of fertilizers, irrigation, effective pest and disease management has enabled the Indian coffee industry to achieve many fold improvement in production and productivity. The national average productivity of arabica has increased from a low level of 230 kg/ha in the 1950's to the present level of 815 kg/ha and that of robusta from a mere 136 kg/ha to 1065 kg/ha during the corresponding period. However, wide disparity exists in the productivity levels among the different categories of estates and also between the regions. Many of the medium and large growers and corporate sectors in different zones have achieved high productivity levels, both in case of arabica and robusta, some times double than that of the national average. At the same time, the productivity levels in small and marginal holdings, which constitute about 65% area, are far below the national average. Hence there is a potential to improve the over all productivity levels of plantations.

The Coffee Board Research Department over a period of time, has evolved a set of package of practices for scientific cultivation of coffee, based on the research carried out at the Central Coffee Research Institute and it's Regional Stations. Though these technologies could be adopted in all the major coffee growing regions, it is felt that there is a need to fine-tune them taking into account the specific conditions prevailing in different regions.

In this direction, a collective effort has been made by the Research and Extension Departments of the Coffee Board to arrive

at package of practices suitable for diverse conditions, by deliberating at length the zonal constraints, merits and growers experiences and practices. Based on the agro-climatic conditions and demographic composition of coffee growers, the traditional coffee areas have been divided into five regions viz., Chikmagalur, Hassan, Coorg, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Further, in each region, separate packages are prescribed for intensive and sustainable cultivation of both arabica and robusta.

The packages of practices now suggested are based on situation specific conditions prevailing in different regions. They do not contain much of the general information on coffee cultivation, which can be obtained from the 'Coffee Guide' and other technical publications brought out by the Board.

It is hoped that these documents will be highly useful to the extension personnel in dissemination of appropriate technologies to the growers. Any suggestions for further improvement of these documents are highly appreciated.