

The future of coffee and climate change

Climate change is going to be very tough for the coffee business in the future. But this future is still conceivable if the correct plans and funds are made. Therefore, all concerned stakeholders need to be proactive in addressing climate change by encouraging sustainable cultivation methods, and assisting coffee growers in developing adaptability to shifting circumstances and boost the climate resilience of entire coffee landscapes.

In the mean time, coffee growers can implement a wide range of coping or adaptation strategies that are practiced locally or developed elsewhere. Among others, key adaptation measures or option are listed below.

Practices:

- ♦ Selecting best cover crops,
- ♦ Managing tree shades,
- ♦ Irrigation.

Strategies

- ♦ Choosing climate and disease resistant varieties,
- ♦ Mixed farming,
- ♦ Adjustment of planting dates,
- ♦ Diversification of livelihood.

Partners



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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
ኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራል ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ
Ethiopian Forest Development



Coffee and Climate Change in YCFBR



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Coffee and Climate change

Coffee is the world's second-most consumed beverage. Ethiopia is leading Arabica coffee producer and exporter in Africa. Coffee makes up the majority of Ethiopia's export revenue. Despite being a strategic commodity with a historic and robust supply chain, coffee production is a fragile sector tormented by enormous challenges. Climate change is the most pressing issue, expected to reduce worldwide yield and decrease coffee-suitable land by 2050.



The growing environment for coffee plants is changing due to rising temperatures and erratic rainfall. This is resulting in lower yields and a greater susceptibility to pests and diseases. Moreover, the impact decrease the amount of land that could be used for coffee production and farming, The well-being and income of farmers has direct impacts on coffee-based livelihoods.

In the face of climate change, not only are the lives of coffee growers at risk, but also the supply and quality of coffee for consumers are being jeopardized by these changes.



Coffee growers & Climate Change in Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve

Coffee grows in Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve (YCFBR) areas in a wild, semi-forested areas or directly at the farm buildings in the so-called "Garden Coffee" cultivation holds great potential. Coffee grown in the wild are slow and produce fruits just enough for the species to continue. Coffee growers living in YCFBR areas perceived that there has been a change in climate patterns due to increased temperatures and unpredictable rainfalls for the last 10-20 years ago.

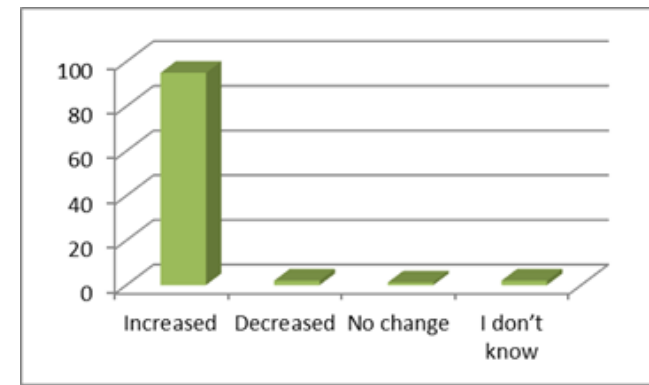


Figure 1: Perceptions of coffee growers on changes in temperature around YCFBR.

As a result of climate change and the changing weather patterns that come with it, the conditions that were once suitable for coffee plants are deteriorating in YCFBR areas. In addition, the devastating fungus known as leaf rust is also causing significant impact on the yield and quality of coffee fruits.

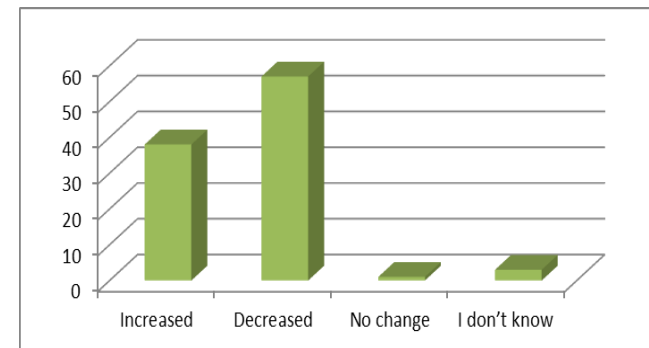


Figure 2: Perceptions of coffee growers on changes in rainfall pattern around YCFBR.

Climate change impact is not only a threat for coffee growers in YCFBR but also for the coffee industry. For example, lower yields may result in higher consumer pricing, which may impact the demand for coffee.