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केंद्रीय कॉफ़ी अनुसंधान संस्थान

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CULTURAL PRACTICES - MAY 2026

Summary

Established Blocks

- ✓ Renovate cradle pits / trenches / drainages
- ✓ Carry out pre-monsoon manuring
- ✓ Install cross vane pheromone traps (10 no's. per acre) to trap Coffee White Stem Borer (CWSB) adults if not installed in the last month
- ✓ Install Broca traps in the field (10 no's. per acre) to manage Berry Borer incidence where gleanings were not collected
- ✓ Spray 0.5% Bordeaux mixture to manage coffee leaf rust disease
- ✓ In endemic blocks, spray 1% alkaline Bordeaux mixture with adequate coverage on both the surface of the leaves and developing berries just before the onset of monsoon, to prevent monsoon rot disease incidence
- ✓ For organic coffee block, apply compost/organic manure at the rate of 2 – 3 kg /plant (young plants)

Nursery

- ✓ Apply/drench cow dung supernatant slurry for coffee seedlings in the polybag nursery
- ✓ Spray fungicide propiconazole 25 EC @ 0.8 ml/litre followed by mancozeb 75 WP @ 2 g/litre alternatively at 20-25 days interval for Myrothecium leaf spot



New clearings

- ✓ Complete opening and closing of pits for planting of coffee seedlings



AGRONOMICAL PRACTICES

In established plantations

- ✓ Complete pruning in Arabica coffee
- ✓ Complete weeding before pre-monsoon manuring so as to avoid absorption of nutrients by the weeds
- ✓ Renovate cradle pits / trenches and clear drainage channels



Cradle pit

For Nursery

- ✓ Apply/drench cow dung supernatant slurry for coffee seedlings in the polybag nursery (apply once in a month)

For Young plants

- ✓ Continue watering for young plants
- ✓ Apply water at the rate 4-5 litres per plant per week
- ✓ Young coffee plants must be supplemented with Ammophos fertilizer (20:20:0:13) at the rate 20-30 g per plant
- ✓ Apply FYM/compost at the rate of 2 kg per plant for young coffee plants

For replanting or new planting

- ✓ After exposing the pit for sufficient number of days (15 days), it should be closed by filling with FYM/compost (2 kg), Rock Phosphate (20-30 g) along with top soil



Exposing of pits for at least 15 days



Compost application



Closed pits



Shade lopping - Shade regulation should not be undertaken, if dry weather and lack of moisture in the soil prevails in the field

Diversification: Identification of suitable vacant space to plant the other tree species / fruits to serve as a dual role of shade & income and preparations for raising / procurement of seedling and opening of the planting pit for the same

Vermicomposting by using the pulp waste, pruning twigs & other residues available at the estate



Filling of coffee pulp waste in the compost pit

Sprinkler irrigation



Irrigation: Advised to irrigate @ 12 to 15 mm where sufficient rain is not received



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT IN COFFEE

Pre-monsoon Fertilizer Recommendation for coffee

(last week of May / first week of June, depending on the weather conditions)

Crop	Yield (cc/acre)	What to apply	Per plant	Spacing
Arabica	400 kg	☝ Soil pH above 5.1 (Use ANYONE combination): ☐ Urea 65 kg + SSP 150 kg + MOP 50 kg ☐ 19:19:19 (125 kg) + Urea 13 kg + MOP 10 kg ☐ 17:17:17 (141 kg) + Urea 13 kg + MOP 10 kg ☐ 16:16:16 (150 kg) + Urea 13 kg + MOP 10 kg ☐ 15:15:15 (160 kg) + Urea 13 kg + MOP 10 kg ☐ Urea 45 kg + DAP 52 kg + MOP 50 kg ☐ Urea 45 kg + 10:26:26 (92 kg) + MOP 10 kg ☝ Soil pH below 5.0: ☐ Urea 65 kg + Rock Phosphate 133 kg + MOP 50 kg	150 g	5 x 5 ft
Robusta 1 st round manuring	500 kg	☝ Soil pH above 5.1 (Use ANYONE combination): ☐ Urea 76 kg + SSP 172 kg + MOP 58 kg ☐ 19:19:19 (145 kg) + Urea 16 kg + MOP 13 kg ☐ 17:17:17 (162 kg) + Urea 16 kg + MOP 13 kg ☐ 16:16:16 (172 kg) + Urea 16 kg + MOP 13 kg ☐ 15:15:15 (183 kg) + Urea 16 kg + MOP 13 kg ☐ Urea 53 kg + DAP 60 kg + MOP 58 kg ☐ Urea 54 kg + 10:26:26 (106 kg) + MOP 15 kg ☝ Soil pH below 5.0: ☐ Urea 77 kg + Rock Phosphate 153 kg + MOP 59 kg	400 g	8 x 8 ft
Robusta 2 nd round manuring	700 kg	☝ Soil pH above 5.1 (Use ANYONE combination): ☐ Urea 98 kg + SSP 216 kg + MOP 75 kg ☐ 19:19:19 (182 kg) + Urea 23 kg + MOP 18 kg ☐ 17:17:17 (203 kg) + Urea 23 kg + MOP 18 kg ☐ 16:16:16 (216 kg) + Urea 23 kg + MOP 18 kg ☐ 15:15:15 (230 kg) + Urea 23 kg + MOP 18 kg ☐ Urea 69 kg + DAP 75 kg + MOP 75 kg ☐ Urea 69 kg + 10:26:26 (133 kg) + MOP 32 kg ☝ Soil pH below 5.0: ☐ Urea 65 kg + Rock Phosphate 128 kg + MOP 50 kg	350 g	8 x 8 ft



✓ **Planter Tips:**

- ✓ Use only one fertilizer combination
- ✓ Follow soil test report (nutrient status)
- ✓ Apply before rain begins
- ✓ Apply correct dose per plant

Foliar Spray Recommendation (May - 2nd / 3rd Week)

Component	Quantity (for 200 L water)
19:19:19 foliar fertilizer (or)	1 kg (or)
Urea + SSP + MOP	1 kg + 1 kg + 750 g
Zinc sulphate	0.5 kg
Boric acid (or)	100 g (or)
Borax	250 g
Magnesium sulphate	250 g
Ammonium molybdate	50 g
Planofix	50 ml
Wetting agent	70 ml APSA (or 200 ml local agent)

This foliar spray will help the crop grow better and reduces berry drop during the rainy season because the nutrients sprayed on leaves are quickly absorbed, strengthening the plant and improving fruit holding even under heavy rain stress.

Fertilizer for Young (Pre-bearing) Plants

Crop Type	Fertilizer Type	Dose per Plant	Application Time
Arabica	NPK (20:20:0:13 / 19:19:19 / 17:17:17)	50 - 75 g	Pre-monsoon (late May - early June)
Robusta	NPK (20:20:0:13 / 19:19:19 / 17:17:17)	100 - 125 g	Pre-monsoon (late May - early June)

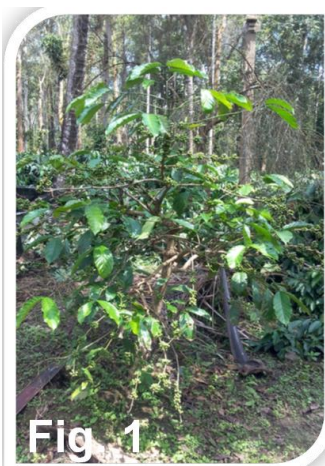


Top grafting / Top working / Field grafting in Robusta Coffee

Top grafting or field grafting is an ideal method to convert old unproductive, off type plants into productive ones by grafting using a desirable scion. Since the root system is already well established, the top grafted plant grows vigorously and starts yielding within two years of grafting. It is one of the most important cost-effective techniques to consolidate old blocks of robusta resulting in an increase in the yield. Every robusta planter should adopt top working for consolidation of robusta plots. The season for initiation of top working and important steps to be followed are as follows:

Steps of top grafting	Time to perform
1. Selection of elite mother plants	November to February
2. Collar pruning of off type plants	April to May (On receipt of 2 & more inches of rainfall)
3. Grafting	July to August
4. Graft maintenance & after care	September to October

- ✓ Presently, collar pruning of old unproductive plants (Fig. 1) should be preferably taken up and completed during **April to May** by stumping the unproductive plant at an angle of 45 degree at $\frac{3}{4}$ ft height from the ground level after receiving at least 2-3 inches of blossom showers. The cut ends should preferably face North-East direction to avoid afternoon sun scorch (Fig 2).



- ✓ Bordeaux paste 10% (100g CuSO_4 + 100g Lime in one liter of water) should be applied on the cut surface to avoid fungal infection.
- ✓ Two to three suckers (Fig. 3) should be allowed to grow for three to four months on the collar-pruned stump till they reach desired thickness (pencil thickness).
- ✓ Simultaneously suckers should also be allowed on the elite mother plants identified for scion collection.



Shade management and soil conservation measures

- ✓ Regulation of permanent shade, at least 30 to 40 feet height so as to facilitate the filtered shade on the canopy of the standing coffee plant population
- ✓ Based on the local weather condition initiate the lopping of temporary shade after 2nd fortnight of May
- ✓ Renovate the cradle pits and apply all the collected material from the pits to the field, especially to the young coffee plants
- ✓ Clean and re-earth work (wherever necessary) may be taken up for the proper flow of rain water in field channels, drains and canals towards the water harvesting structures (Farm ponds)
- ✓ Planting of vegetative grass (Vetiver or Rye grass) as live bunds at sloppy areas, bunds and curved channels may be taken up

PEST MANAGEMENT

Management of Coffee White Stem Borer (CWSB) in Arabica plantations



- ✓ Install cross vane pheromone trap @10 per acre in severely infested areas to trap CWSB adults if not done during last month
- ✓ Spray or swab Phenthoate 50 EC @ 400 ml or Fipronil 5 SC @ 400ml per 200 litre of water with 200 ml any wetting agent on the main stem and thick primaries, if not done in the previous month.

Coffee White Stem borer

Management of Coffee Berry Borer

- ✓ Retain Broca traps in the field (10 no's. per acre), where gleanings are not removed
- ✓ Refill Broca lure & water, if necessary



Coffee Berry Borer



Management of mealybugs in Robusta plantation

- ✓ Release of parasitoid, *Leptomastix dactylopii* in low infested blocks (5000 to 10000 parasitoids /acre in two or three splits)
- ✓ If severe infestation noticed, spray Imidacloprid 17.8 SL @ 50 ml in 200 litres of water with 200 ml wetting agent
- ✓ If root mealybugs are noticed, drench Imidacloprid 17.8 SL @ 120 ml in 200 litres of water around root region of infested plant
- ✓ Remove ant nest from the field to reduce spreading of mealybug infestation



Bean Weevil

Management of Coffee bean weevil

- ✓ Dry and store coffee in well-ventilated godowns to prevent absorption of moisture. High moisture content in coffee favours coffee bean weevil infestation

Caution:

As the Chlorpyrifos residues are noticed in the exported coffee, it is advised not to use Chlorpyrifos for coffee pest management at any stage.



- Cost of Pheromone traps 25 no's. - Rs. 3875
- Cost of Broca traps 25 no's. - Rs. 600
- Broca lure per litre - Rs. 150
- Xycom traps 25 no's. - Rs. 750
- Xycom lure per litre - Rs. 400
- *Leptomastix dactylopii* (1000 no's.) - Rs. 200

Beekeeping

- ❑ If the frames of the super chambers are filled with honey and cells are capped /sealed it indicates the honey is ready to harvest. Take out the frames with sealed combs, uncap using uncapping knife and extract honey using honey extractor
- ❑ Clean bottom boards of the boxes to remove debris and wax moth life stages using hive tools and brush (once in ten days)



DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Coffee Leaf Rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*)

Preventive Measures:

- ✓ In Arabica coffee plantations, apply 0.5% freshly prepared alkaline Bordeaux mixture (pH 9 –10) before the onset of the South-West monsoon (last week May to first week of June). Ensure thorough coverage, especially on the lower surface of the leaves



Coffee Leaf Rust

Curative Measures:

- ✓ If rust symptoms are noticed during the pre-monsoon period, application of any effective systemic fungicide viz., Hexaconazole 5 EC @ 2 ml/L/ hexaconazole 75 WG @ 30 g/200 L/ tebuconazole 38.39% SC @ 200 ml/200 L of water is advisable

Monsoon Rot Diseases (Black Rot, Stalk Rot)

Cultural management:

- ✓ Take up centring and handling operations to remove, suckers, criss-cross branches, dead and dry wood
- ✓ Remove dried shade tree leaves from the canopy before spraying
- ✓ Ensure proper drainage around the root zone to prevent water stagnation
- ✓ Clean cradle pits thoroughly before the onset of the monsoon season

Chemical Management:

- ✓ In susceptible or endemic blocks, spray 1% alkaline Bordeaux mixture with full coverage on both leaf surfaces and developing berries before the onset of monsoon



Black rot disease



Note: In plantations where both leaf rust and monsoon rot diseases are noticed in the previous years it is recommended to spray 1% Bordeaux mixture as a prophylactic measure before the onset of monsoon to effectively manage both the diseases.

Nursery Disease management

- ✓ If Myrothecium leaf spot incidence is noticed, spray fungicide propiconazole 25 EC @ 0.8 ml/liter followed by mancozeb 75 WP @ 2 g/liter alternatively at 20-25 days interval.



Myrothecium Leaf spot

Coffee Stem Canker Management

- ✓ If the severely affected bushes are observed in the plantation, uproot and destroy the bushes to prevent the further spread of the disease



Faded appearance and pale green coloured appearance of Coffee trunk canker infected plants



POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT

In recent times, some of the coffee growing areas are experiencing strong summer showers in the evening hours. As per the CCRI's weather station data, the summer showers recorded at the research farm in CCRI amounted to 291.2 mm since 1st January 2026 till 23rd April 2026 (January – 48 mm in 2 rainy days; February – 42 mm in one rainy day; March – 65.6 mm in seven rainy days; April – 135.6 mm in seven rainy days).

The following are some of the “do and don'ts” for preserving/maintaining the quality of uncured coffees (parchment and cherry) while storing at on-farm/estates:

- ✓ Store the raw/uncured coffees in clean gunny bags and keep them in well-ventilated godown over the wooden dunnage.
- ✓ Arrange the coffee bags at least one foot away from godown walls to avoid moisture migration to the coffees from the wall. Rewetting of optimally dried coffee samples may lead to development of mould/fungal contamination in the samples.
- ✓ Do not arrange/store coffee bags up to the roof top of the godown. There should be enough air space between the top most layer of the coffee stack and roof of the godown (ideally not less than 1/3rd of the total stack height).
- ✓ Do not store the coffee samples at the estate level for long duration (beyond May), as the wet monsoon condition prevailing in plantation area from June to October are not ideal for storage.

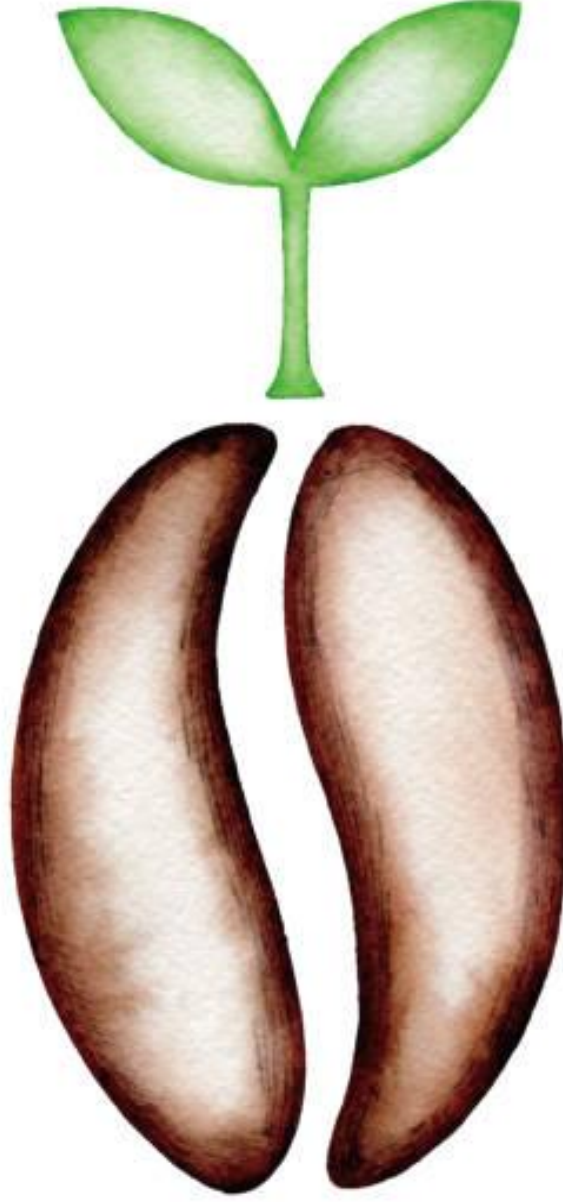
Regarding **management of coffee effluent** resulted from wet processing, those estates who treat coffee effluent using various lagoons (equalization/neutralization tank, anaerobic lagoon, aerobic lagoon and settling tank), effluent sample may be drawn from the settling tank and test for the BOD level before use them for irrigation purpose. Ideally, the BOD level should be around 100 ppm for irrigation purpose within the plantation.



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