

A Study on the Problems Faced by Coffee Planters in Chikmagalur District

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ABSTRACT--It is of common knowledge that coffee is grown in several parts of the State of Karnataka in India against various geological and climatic conditions. Chikmagalur, a district in Karnataka state, India is the birth place of coffee in the country. It is where the coffee is grown in shade, by preserving native vegetations. Chikmagalur is situated in the western region of Karnataka state. This district attracts many tourists due to scenic locations and nearby hill stations such as Baba Buda Giri, Kudremukha, Mullayangiri and many places. In the recent years, extremely unpredictable and adverse climatic changes happening in the country have contributed to frequent flare up of diseases, labour and other problems in Chikmagalur district. A deep understanding of plant ecology, physiology and pathology among the coffee growers was never as indispensable as it is today. The cultural operations which hitherto have been linked to months and weeks during a year are increasingly getting linked to the prevalence to the specific climatic conditions and various aspects of coffee plants. This study makes an attempt to analyse the problems of coffee planters in Chikmagalur district due to lack of labour, finance, natural calamities and the effects of government policies in coffee production.

Key words--Coffee, Chikmagalur, Problems of Coffee Planters, Adverse Climatic Conditions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Chikmagalur is basically known as "The land of coffee" in Karnataka. It is placed around the Western Ghats which is one of the six biodiversity hotspot of our country. Chikmagalur literally means "small daughters town". Chikmagalur was the centre of attention in the year 1978 when former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi stood for elections in Chikmagalur district and got elected to Lok Sabha, in the Indian parliament. Baba Buda, a Sufi saint smuggled the coffee seeds from Mecca and planted the seeds.

Chikmagalur produces 2 varieties of coffee, Arabica and Robusta. Coffee is the main commercial crop of the district. Approximately 70% coffee in India is produced by Karnataka, out of which Chikmagalur produces 25 % (50% Arabica and 50% Robusta).

Because of global warming adverse climatic conditions are happening in Chikmagalur district. This has affected the coffee plantation problems like diseases of plants, increase in the cost of the fertilizers, labour problem all these have posed a great challenge for the coffee growers of the district. This paper intends to understand the problems faced by coffee planters due to global warming and the remedies for those problems. Government needs to lend hands in all the ways and should help the coffee planters to overcome the above problems

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. The Fair Trade Foundation focuses on the major obstacles of planters related to price, weather, quality and quantity, trades and practices, pesticides problems and lacks in the governmental support.

2. Jimmy Aitkin, Zimbabwe coffee grower's associations reported about the problems in prices, lack of rainfall has made a negative impact in the minds of the coffee growers. The poor rainfall was unparalleled in the Zimbabwe coffee industry.

3. Tiwari, in his study, coffee being a high value crop requires minimum use of technologies to improve. Some organisations have not taken proper initiatives for promoting. Therefore there is a gap between what procedures are taken and what are implemented in the promotion of coffee.

4. Mugo et al it entitles about the insect pesticides and how it is affecting the coffee plants and it is constrained on the coffee yield and what quality of coffee is produced to the market.

5. Smith in his study of "The Evolution of Coffee Markets for Sustainable Development", it talks about the economic relationship between coffee planters and environment and what strategy confronts between production and consumption.

6. D'souza, has studied on the factors affecting in coffee crop due to less rainfall, labour problem, diseases arising during coffee blossom, low crisis management, lack of market information.

7. Ramaiah, in his study he mainly focused on the small coffee growers regarding cost, large family members, lacking in getting fertilizers (poor quality), unavailability of other services.

8. Kantharaju, focused on the pests and diseases, less rainfall, and the main problem is related to inadequate money, repayment of loans and high taxes were approved from the government.

9. Bhandari found that high producers in coffee has not given advantage to the growers because of the sudden or severe fall in price and becomes uncertainty in trading coffee.

10. Shivkumar reported that sudden failure in the coffee plantations because of less rainfall (annually) in Chikmagalur district and Sakleshpur district.

11. Ramegowda, studied on the threats of low and high coffee growers, low coffee growers were dealing with low crisis management and high growers with high crisis management and their preventions.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study depicts the problems overwhelmed by the coffee planters in Chikmagalur district. It is seen from many years' weather fluctuations, rise in labour wages and increase of diseases in plants which led to a number of failures. In order to study all these problems of coffee planters to gather a data structured questionnaire was distributed among the respondents.

Objectives:

- To study the various problems faced by coffee planters in Chikmagalur district.
- To analyse the measures to be taken to solve those problems.

IV. METHODOLOGY

In order to study above problems of coffee planters a structured close ended questionnaire was made with the help of the experts of this field. This questionnaire was distributed to 50 coffee growers of Chikmagalur district. The data so collected was analysed using SPSS tools.

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between unscheduled rains and yield.

H1: There is a significant relationship between unscheduled rains and yield.

V. ANALYSIS

1. Yield of coffee affected by unscheduled rains

Table 1: Yield of coffee affected by unscheduled rains

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	32	64.0	64.0	64.0
No	6	12.0	12.0	76.0
not always	12	24.0	24.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

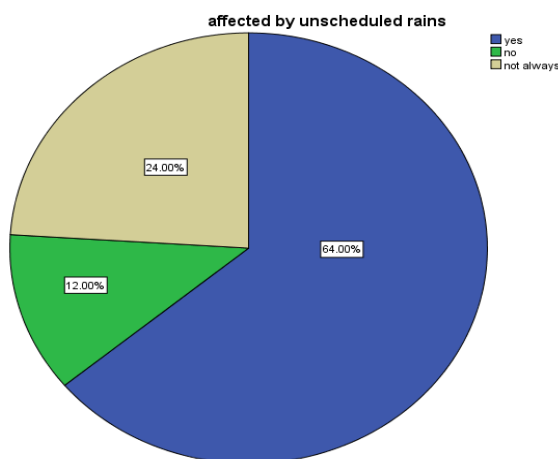


Figure 1: Affected dy unscheduled rains

Inference: The above chart depicts the effects of unscheduled rains. From the above graph it is found that 64% of the respondents stated that they are affected by the unscheduled rains, 24% of the respondents say that not always and 12% of the respondents says that they are not affected by unscheduled by rains. It is inferred that more number of respondents are affected by the unscheduled rainfall.

2. Fluctuations in the price of coffee in the market

Table 2: Fluctuations in the price of coffee in the market

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	31	62.0	62.0	62.0
No	5	10.0	10.0	72.0
not always	14	28.0	28.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

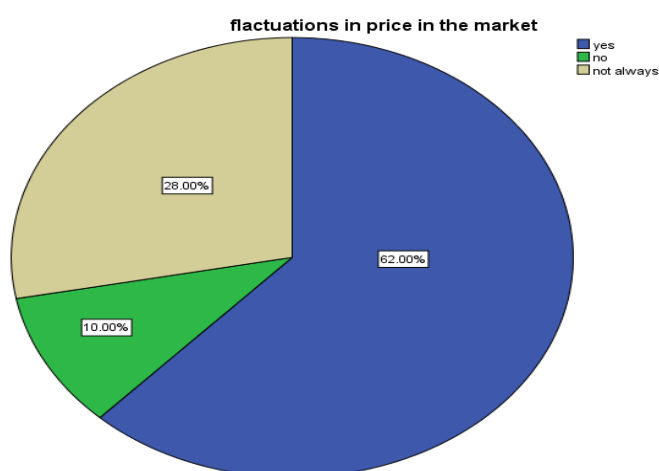


Figure 2: Fluctuations in the price of coffee in the market

Inference: The above chart depicts the fluctuations in pricing in the market. From the above graph it is found that 62% of the respondents are facing fluctuations in price in the market, 28% of the respondents said not everytime they are facing fluctuations in price, 10% of the respondents opinion is that they are not facing fluctuations in the prices in the market.

3. Getting credit facilities from the government

Table 3: Getting credit facilities from the government

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	7	14.0	14.0	14.0
No	21	42.0	42.0	56.0
not everytime	22	44.0	44.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

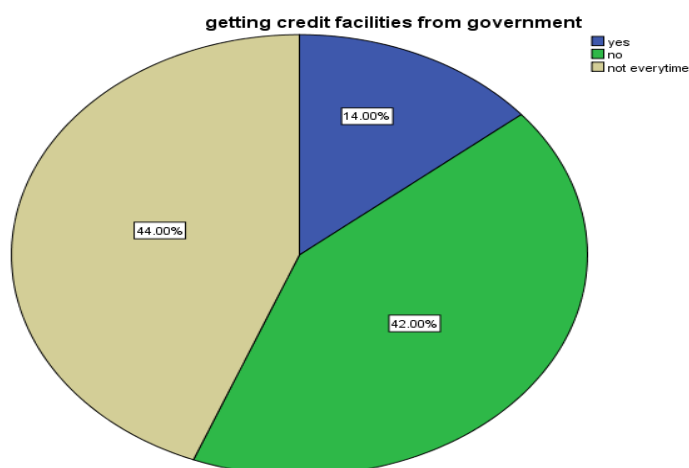


Figure 3: Getting credit facilities from the government

Inference: The above chart depicts the credit facilities from the government. 44% of the respondents said not every time the facilities are given by government, 14% of the respondents agree with this statement and 42% of the respondents said they are not getting any kind of facilities from the government.

4. Problems of maintaining coffee estate

Table 4: Problems of maintaining coffee estate

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid ware house problems	14	28.0	28.0	28.0
financial crisis	12	24.0	24.0	52.0
shortage of workers	16	32.0	32.0	84.0
Others	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

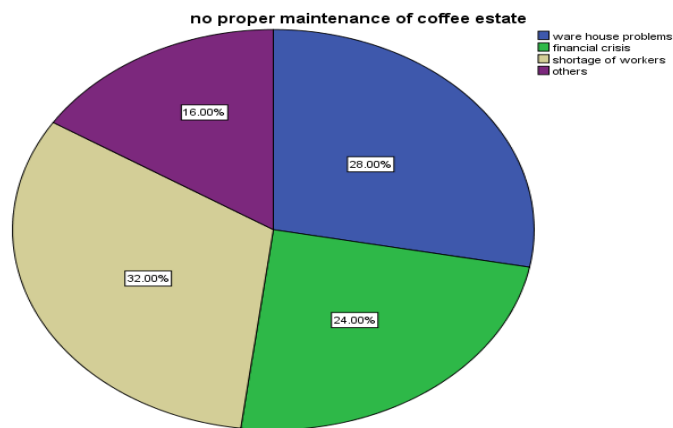


Figure 4: No proper maintenance of coffee estate

Inference: The above chart shows the reasons for not maintaining the coffee estates. 32% of the respondents stated that there is no proper maintenance of coffee estate because of shortage of workers, 28% said because of warehouse problems, 24% of the respondents are facing problem because of financial crisis and rest 16% stated others.

5. Government must help in marketing of coffee

Table 5: Government must help in marketing of coffee

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

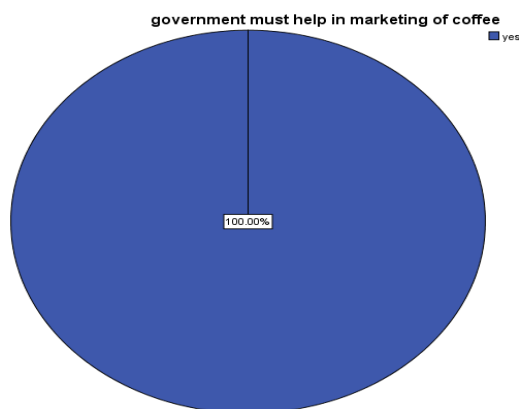


Figure 5: Government must help in marketing of coffee

Inference: The above chart shows the opinion of coffee planters in marketing of coffee with the help from government, 100% of the respondents agree with this statement. From the study it can be inferred that government must help the coffee planters in marketing of coffee.

6. Government measures to help coffee growers

Table 6: Government measures to help coffee growers

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Fertilizers	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
quality up gradation of coffee	5	10.0	10.0	46.0
water augmentation	4	8.0	8.0	54.0
Loans	23	46.0	46.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

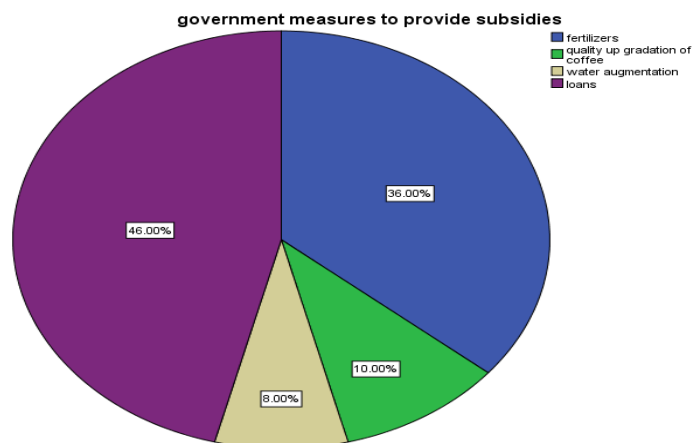


Figure 6: Government measures to help coffee growers

Inference:The above chart showing the government measures to provide subsidies for the coffee planters, 46% of the respondents said loans should be provided, 36% of the respondents said fertilizers should be given, 10% stated that quality of coffee should be upgraded and rest 8% said water augmentation should be given.

VI. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

H₀: There is no significant relationship between unscheduled rains and yield

H₁:There is a significant relationship between unscheduled rains and yield.

Test Statistics

	affected by unscheduled rains
Chi-Square	22.240 ^a
Df	2

Asymp	.000
. Sig.	

Calculated value of chi square is 22.240

Table value of chi square at alpha value= 0.05 degree of freedom is 5.991. since the calculated value is greater than the table value the null hypothesis H_0 is rejected and the alternative hypothesis H_1 is accepted.

Therefore, there is a significant relationship between unscheduled rains and yield.

VII. FINDINGS

1. Nearly 64% of the respondents has said that they are mainly affected by the unscheduled rains
2. 62% of the respondents said that they are not satisfied with the prices in the market.
3. 42% of the respondents said that they are not getting credit facilities from the government.
4. 32% of the respondents said that because of shortage of workers they are not able to maintain the coffee estates.
5. There are 100% of respondents said that government must help in marketing of coffee.
6. Nearly 46% of respondents said that government should take appropriate measures to provide incentives.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

1. Coffee occupies a place of pride among plantation crops grown in Karnataka. It has to be seen that government of Karnataka should help the coffee growers to overcome these problems
2. Government and coffee boards should implement comprehensive plans for the shortage in labourers in coffee estate.
3. Loans and incentives should be provided to the coffee planters.
4. Fertilizers rate should be reduced.
5. Coffee boards should introduce mechanical devices instead of the manual work.
6. Subsidies should be given that would reduce the burden of the coffee planters.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

Coffee plantations are one of the major sectors in India. This sector gives a huge income for the lives of the coffee planters. Presently, India is the 7th largest coffee producing country. 70% of coffee produced in India is exported. Coffee is 2nd most traded global commodity. Most of the Problems faced by coffee planters by unscheduled rains which is affecting the yield of coffee. Over 25 million of coffee growers are dependent on coffee for their well being with the population over 125 million Governments should provide incentives for fertilizers, marketing of coffee and provide all kind of insurances and proper measures. If all these services are given for coffee planters, they will be more contributed towards coffee production and helps in economic development of the country.

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