CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION
Coffee has come to be associated as the supreme beverage for all ages. Even though it is recently found, it has become a habit with 1/3 to 2/3 population of the world. For several persons, it is a must to put them in the mood for work in the morning. Its capacity to revive persons who have swooned, is unmistakable. Historically, it is said that the coffee bean found by pilgrims of Yemen as a great reviver while praying in Mecca.

It was introduced to India in the middle of the 19th century and has taken a big strong-hold in Karnataka particularly in Coorg, Chickmagalur and Hassan districts. Infact, Karnataka Karnataka’s contribution as Coorg’s contribution in the State is the highest.

The association of coffee in relation to Coorg has been analysed in terms of specific tracts which have been delineated mainly on the basis of rainfall. Even though there are differences in the soil from West to East, rainfall seems to be a major factor in terms of production. Coorg has been divided into four main tracts in terms of rainfall. Seven estates have been chosen proximately two in each and three in the ideal tracts. The coffee environment has been described in terms of the...
estates in which they are situated. It is found that coffee
produces best under certain ideal conditions even though it can be
carried successfully in all the tracts discussed in this work.
It is found that 1875 mm of rain, loamy a soil drained soil with
50% shade or at an altitude of 700-900 metres give the best yield.
This is exemplified by Cooverkolly estate which seems to match
the ideal conditions for coffee production. Cases are not
wanting in that even estates with little lower ideal conditions
can produce good yield provided there is managerial efficiency.
It is found from the study that silver oak is the best type of
shade for coffee estates. There is a close relationship between
production and rainfall as well as production and altitude. This
is well brought out in the study. (Chapter V)

In the present day world it is not realistic to depend upon
a mono crop economy. Further, it is found that fluctuation in
price or variation in climatic conditions are likely to bring
about a setback as well as loss to the plantation owners. In
order to be free from economic loss and strain plantation owners
resort to intercropping. It is found in Coorg that in almost
all the estates, orange, pepper, cardamom, banana etc., are
interplanted to offset heavy loss as well as utilize the
available space for maximization of production.

The labour employed in plantations are generally from outside.
They are migrants either from surrounding districts of Coorg or from across the state from Tamilnadu and Kerala. Majority of the migrants travel alone in the initial period and later they recall their families. However, in a few cases, it is found that the entire family is recruited since labour of both kind (male & female) are required for plantation work. At the moment, it can not be said the workers are treated very well by the estate owners. These workers have to undergo privation and isolation from civilization. The environment is cool to cold without much of facilities or recreation centres. The Government is alive to this problem and has recently enacted legislation and ordinances fixing the minimum wages and facilities to be provided to the plantation workers. Unless these measures are pursued vigorously, the workers will not get redressal of their grievances. Of course, some enlightened estate owners do provide minimal facilities to the workers yet there is lot to be done in this direction.

Coming to the analysis of future areas of expansion of coffee, it is found that the Indian Coffee Board is trying experiments of growing coffee in Andhra-Pradesh, Orissa and Assam. However, it is found that this experiment is not encouraging. Coorg has the ideal climatic, social and economic environment for production of coffee. Even within Coorg, all the areas where
coffee can be grown has not been utilized yet. For the production of coffee, there are still 'Pysaari' and 'Jama' lands which can be brought under coffee successfully. However, it should be seen that these lands are not usurped by big estate owners. These lands should be reserved for medium and small holders either as new areas or as adjunct to existing estates. If the expansion takes place in Coorg, it will be possible to have the maximum yield with the minimum acreage, since Coorg has proved that its average yields are the highest in the state.

It is hoped that this small in depth study about the cultivation of coffee in Coorg will be utilized in the spirit in which it is written and measures would be taken to maximize the production from each and every hectare of coffee.

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