

Abstract

Information on the agronomy, trade, and future outlook of coffee is presented. Other subjects include: (1) historical background; (2) genetic resources; (3) breeding and selection; (4) breeding programmes; (5) field management; (6) diseases; (7) pests; (8) effects of consumer needs on adaptation; and (9) research and development organizations. The genus *Coffea* consists of more than 80 species. *Coffea arabica* is a native of Central Africa (Congo and Zaire). *Coffea canephora* (Robusta coffee) was introduced to India from Indonesia and Sri Lanka in the late 19th century when *C. arabica* started showing severe incidence of leaf rust. *Coffea congensis*, which has a compact bush habit and seeds of better quality, was introduced in India in the 1930s. At present, the Central Coffee Research Institute in Karnataka, India, has a collection of 18 species that belong to *Coffea* and the closely related genus *Psilanthus*. With an annual turnover of US\$ 10 billion, coffee is the second most traded commodity after petroleum. Currently, world prices are under pressure by large quantities of poor quality coffees from countries such as Vietnam.