

Coffee from Yemen

*Assessment of current practices of coffee farmers
in Bani Mater*

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1

Objectives and approach

Objectives:

- Understand current practices and challenges of coffee farmers
- Identify strategies to support the development of the coffee sector
- Including crop variation as another source of income besides qat

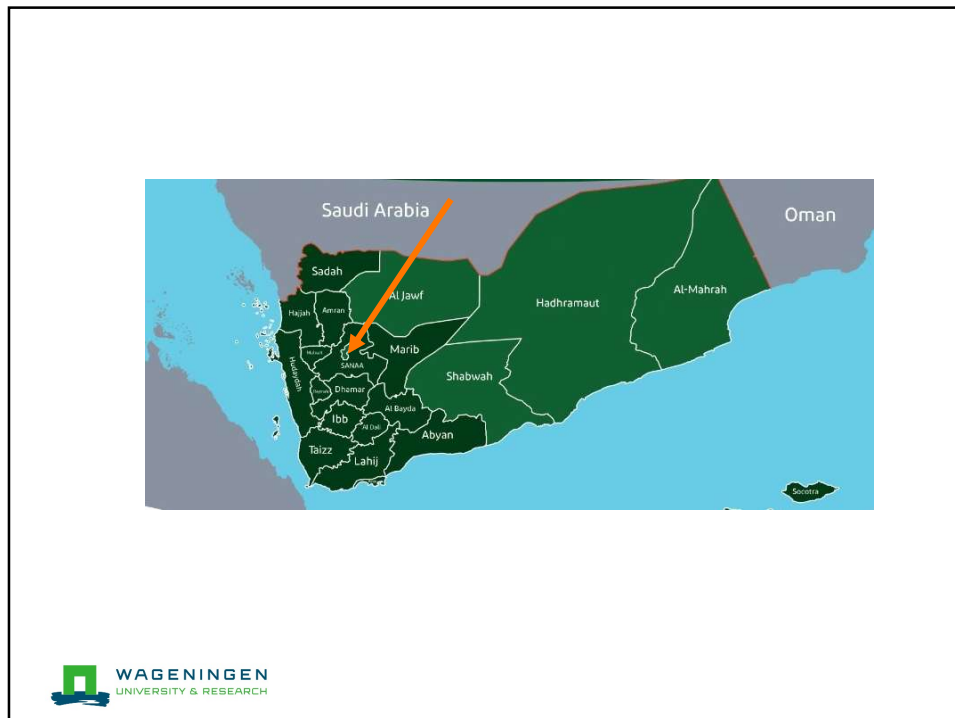
Approach:

- Interviews among 100 smallholders in Bani Mater. Plus interviews with coffee traders (Sanaa' based and international)
- Data collected in June and July 2022



2

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Coffee as part of the farming system

- Coffee is present in all interviewed households
- Coffee used to be an important source of income
- Qat increases to be a very important crop for recurrent and fixed income
- Other crops are cereals and vegetables (minor)
- 20% female farmers. High female illiteracy (85%)

4

2

Trees and yields

- Average farm size: 500-1,000 trees
- Farmers have trees at various ages (some > 25 years)
- Low planting distances: 2–4m between trees
- Average yields: 1.9–2.7 kg/tree
- Varieties: Odaini, Dawiri, Toffahi and others



	SMALL (N=64)	MEDIU M (N=24)	TOTA L
AVERAGE OF TREES PER HA	130.0	76.3	115.6
AVERAGE OF YIELD (KG) PER HA	186.8	180.2	185.0
AVERAGE OF YIELD (KG) PER TREE	1.9	2.7	2.1

5

Coffee farming practices

- Seedlings: poor quality of seedlings
- Pruning: lack of pruning



6

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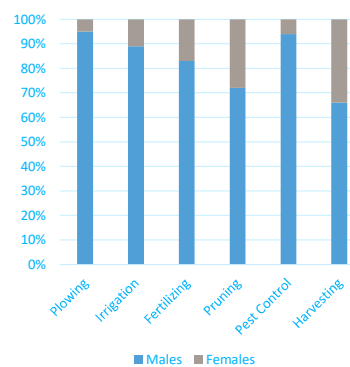
Coffee farming practices

- Irrigation: 20-40 times irrigation per year (from public & private water wells and springs) with energy from diesel & solar power
- Fertilization: limited use of chemical & organic nutrients
- Pest control: high infestation (coffee crust, insects, worms)
- Extension: absence of training and extension services

7

Labour

- Coffee harvesting frequency: 2-5 times harvest activities
- Women perform a third of all labour activities in terms of working hours
- Women have an important role in pruning and harvesting
- Hired labour for ploughing, pruning & harvesting
- Female workers are getting paid less (about 70%)



8

4

Post-harvest and marketing

- Drying on the ground or house roofs
- Home storage is typical for several weeks/months/years
- Low selling price: YR2,105 per kg (< 50% below farmers' expectations)



9

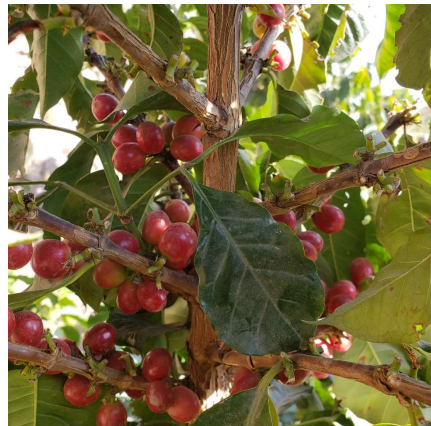
Challenges

Technical:

- Water shortages
- Limited crop variation, as another source of income
- Poor seedlings

Farm management:

- Poor practices
- Coffee quality/consistency



10

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Challenges

Organization:

- Farm cooperatives
- Women empowerment
- Extension is missing

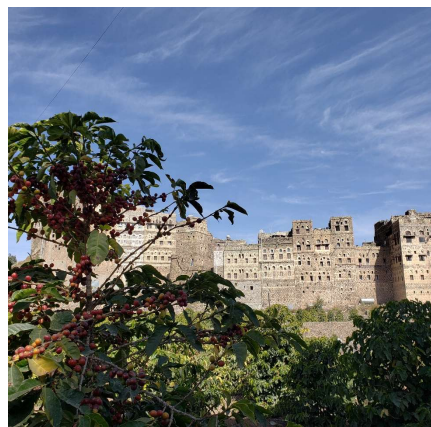
Market:

- High price of production
- Post-harvest practices
- Consistency of quality + import



Opportunities

- Rich tradition in coffee production
- Ability to produce high-quality coffee, by improving the current production practices
- Increase in speciality coffee interest



Strategies to support Yemen coffee sector development

Short-term	Medium-term	Long term
Farm management (water, fertilizers, water harvesting)	Research, training & extension (pruning, disease management)	Tree renovation (varieties)
Quality upgrading	Seedlings & tree density optimization	Post-harvest management (selection & drying)
Crop variation	Cooperative associations and women's village savings associations	Local origin branding

Thank you

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