



Slowdown in Coffee Production

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According to Coffee board estimates, **Uneven blossom showers** will bring down this years coffee bean output to **almost half of a normal year's yield**.

- This is for the **second successive year** after last years cyclone that domestic coffee planters are facing low yield of coffee crop.
- Coffee Board usually gives out **two crop estimates in a year**: one based on blossoms and the other, after the monsoons.

Blossom Showers – Pre-Monsoon Rains

- **Blossom Showers**, occur mainly during the March- May months, i.e., before the arrival of monsoon into India. Therefore, they are also called as the **April Rains**.
- **Blossom** Showers in Kerala, help in the **flowering** of plantation crops like Coffee and Tea.

Fact

- As per Upasi's statistics, India **produced 3.16 lakh tonnes** of coffee during 2017-18.
- Country's **exports were 3.92 lakh tonnes**.
- **Karnataka alone accounts for around 80% of the country's** total coffee production.
- India currently has over **three lakh small and medium coffee farmers**.

Coffee Cultivation in India

- **India** ranks **6th** among the world's **80 coffee producing countries**, with some of the finest **robusta and some top-notch arabica** cultivated.
- Nearly **70% of India's coffee is exported**, largely to European and Asian markets.

- Coffee in India is traditionally grown in the rainforests of the **Western Ghats in South India, covering Chikmagalur, Kodagu (Coorg), Wayanad, the Shevaroy Hills and the Nilgiris.**

Climatic Conditions

- Coffee plant requires **hot and humid climate** with temperatures ranging between **15°C and 28 °C and rainfall from 150 to 250 cm.**
- Frost, snowfall, high temperature above 30°C and strong sun shine is not good for coffee crop and is generally grown under **shady trees.**
- **Dry weather** is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is **grown on hill slopes at elevations** from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- **Well drained, loams** containing good deal of humus and minerals like iron and calcium are ideal for coffee cultivation.