

Affairs. The main recommendations made by the team of experts are as under:—

(a) Before launching on large scale planting it would be advisable to conduct exploratory trials with selected arabica and robusta materials of proved merit at elevations suited for them. In the case of arabica leaf-disease resistant high yielding strains may only be tried. The trials may be carried out at least, at the six representative centres listed below. The trials may be conducted on quarter acre blocks for each selection. The following selections of coffee bred at the Coffee Research Station, Balohonnur, are recommended for trial:—

(a) Arabica S. 795, S. 288, S. 645, S. 333.

(b) Robusta S. 274, and inter-plant high yield Strains from South Coorg, Mysore and Wynnad to serve as Pollinators.

(b) The area required for these trial would be two acres for arabica at elevations above 800 ft. and 2 acres for robusta at an elevation between 500 and 800 ft. in each of the six ranges. Space is provided for the inclusion of economic and promising types from other coffee zones if available.

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| (i) Saddle hill range, Kalara range settlement. | } Both Arabica and Robusta. |
| (ii) Betapur range either behind camp 3 or camp 5. | |
| (iii) Claudius range—Happy Valley. | } Both Arabica and Robusta. |
| (iv) Khalsi hill range Urmilapur. | } Robusta only. |
| (v) Harriette hill range, adjoining Mannar-ghat village. | } Both Arabica and Robusta. |
| (vi) Mount Port—Rutland island. | } Ditto |

(c) The six blocks selected represent the six zones with rainfall varying from 80 to 120 inches and the soil from clay-loams to rubbly-loam. From these six scattered block trials, it is intended to study the response of the two varieties of coffee, arabica and robusta, to the varying environments. If, due to some administrative difficulty or any other cause, simultaneous trials cannot be undertaken in all the six proposed places, then priority may be given in the order No. (v), (iii) and (i).

The total area required for the six trials would be 22 acres and the budget estimate for a period of 5 years in the first instance both recurring and non-recurring is about Rs. 2,30,000.

(d) Of the several departments under the administration, the Forest Department can command facilities with respect to men and materials needed for coffee trials. It would be very necessary to employ at least for a period of five years one person from the mainland with large experience of coffee culture. Recruitment of a senior officer with experience would prove advantageous for the work. He would have to be provided with one Research Assistant, three fieldmen, a clerk and necessary class IV staff. This set up could with advantage be attached to the Forest Department and work under the administrative control of the Chief Conservator of Forests.

(e) During the period of the first five years besides studying the performance of the selections and choosing the most suitable one for further propagation on the islands, he should also study the modifications in the cultural operations required and prepare a calendar of operations suited for the Andamans. Large scale planting may then be taken up. The officer and the establishment should be available when extensive planting is taken up and a plantation department has to be set up to advise and to enforce the laws in respect of