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## Production, productivity, quality and chemical composition of ethiopian coffee

MOHAMMED WORKU ADEM

*Jimma University, Mohammed Worku Adem, Ethiopia*

### Abstract

Ethiopia is the largest coffee producer in Africa and the fifth in the world. The country has made continuous efforts that can enhance production, productivity and quality of coffee. Yet, comprehensive data are scant. This paper aims at to document available information on economic importance, production, productivity, quality and chemical contents of Ethiopian coffee, and to identify developmental and/or research gaps on its productivity and quality. Currently, coffee accounts for ca. 25–30 % of the total foreign currency earnings of Ethiopia, and the country’s foreign currency earnings from coffee is increased over the years with a varying rate. Production and cultivation area of Ethiopian coffee also increased over the past sixty years, but the changes in its productivity and quality are minor. Moreover, the share of top quality (Grade 1 and 2) coffees in Ethiopia has been remained lower over time, and the quality and chemical composition of Ethiopian coffee vary with growing region and locality. Compared to others, coffees from Eastern (Harar) and Southern regions are better in overall quality, and coffee from Northwestern region is higher in chlorogenic acids and sucrose contents whereas that from Harar and Southwestern regions are lower in caffeine and chlorogenic acids contents, respectively. But, Harar coffee is higher in fatty acids than other region coffees. Overall, the paper shows (1) the economic importance, production, productivity, quality and chemical contents, (2) information gaps on productivity, and quality and chemical profiles, and (3) the existence of a large room for productivity and quality improvements of Ethiopian coffee.

**Keywords:** Caffeine, Chlorogenic acids, Cultivation area, economic importance, Ethiopia , Fatty acids, Mineral contents, Quality precursors