Report 1 from Chisoba Farms Ltd., ZAMBIA

E-Mail of April 17, 2007 written by:

Charles D. Siddle Managing Director
Member of the Union Coffee Roasters
and the Zambia Coffee Growers Association

----- Original Message -----

From: Chisoba Farms Ltd
To: 'Ein-Tal Export Dept'
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2007 5:52 PM
Subject: RE: Shipment

We are using the mini sprinklers (micros) in our coffee plantation. We plant 2,300 plants per ha and use a micro for 2 plants, spacing of 2.4 m between sprinklers and 3.6 m between rows. We have 27 ha of micros and 33 ha of drip. We average 3 mt of coffee per ha overall, we peak at 5 - 6 mt per ha for mature coffee. Micros are more expensive to maintain but give us a better wetted area. This is far better for us as we use organic cattle manure as fertilizer (50 mt per ha), the micros wet this and break it down better than the drip. Our evaporation peaks at 9 mm per day in summer, micros can apply water quicker than drippers so this helps in the heat. Critical period for us is September and October, this is the hottest period and when our coffee flowers. As soon as the humidity goes up the coffee flowers and it is critical that we apply sufficient water over this period to avoid spike burn and loss of flowers.

We also apply fertilizer thru the micros and this works well for us. Overall we are pleased with our micros and that we made contact with your company and we will keep in touch.

Best regards

TIG SIDDLE

Report 2 from Chisoba Farms Ltd., ZAMBIA

E-Mail of May 16, 2007 written by:

Charles D. Siddle Managing Director
Member of the Union Coffee Roasters
and the Zambia Coffee Growers Association

----- Original Message -----
From: Chisoba Farms Ltd
To: 'Ein-Tal Export Dept'
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 8:23 AM
Subject: RE: Shipment

Few comments:
Point #1. Even distribution of droplets creates a large wetted area which supports healthy roots. Coffee farmers like all crop farmers are farming root development, with a perrenial crop it is critical to have healthy roots for sustainable production. With drippers and restricted wetted area there is inevitable root die back which stresses the coffee tree.
Point #2. The small droplets are very effective for slow curmble of organic matter. This is very useful in the subtropics where it only rains 4 out of 12 months.
Another point. Vibro-Spreaders can apply water quicker than drippers, this is useful during the hottest months where evaporation is high. Irrigation can be applied during the heat of the day to assist with cooling of the plant. It is advisable to apply a little water more often, compared to a lot of water less frequently. Many parts of Africa have erratic electricity supply and irrigation has to be done when the power is on, Vibro-Spreaders are ideal for this. They are easy to repair and replace, not technical at all. When drippers are blocked it is very difficult to clean them. Vibro-Spreaders have capacity to induce flowering, by restricting water for 2 weeks and then applying irrigation, the stress followed by water and micro climate induces the coffee plant to flower. The control of flowering is a very useful coffee management tool, to reduce spike burn and also to even out the coffee picking season.

Just some points. Hope they are of use.

Regards TIG SIDDLE