



Locality: Illicínea MG

Data: 05/04/2024

Coffee Farmer: Joaquim Ribeiro de Almeida

SANTA CRUZ PETITE ESTATE

VISIT REPORT

Illicínea is a Brazilian municipality in the interior of the state of Minas Gerais. It is located in the southern region of Minas Gerais, about 300 kilometers from Belo Horizonte. The municipality is situated in an area heavily influenced by the Furnas hydrographic complex. Its strategic position allows for easy access to the main points of the reservoir. The total area of Illicínea is 376 square kilometers, with an average altitude of 1,042 meters. The terrain is predominantly mountainous, with mild weather almost all year round. Its coffee park covers 6,682 hectares, noted for the production of specialty coffees. The average annual production of the municipality is 132,000 sacks, highlighting the region with an average productivity of 24 sacks per hectare.

Mr. Joaquim's property has 40 hectares, with 6.5 of them dedicated to coffee. The plantation is located above 1,050 meters in altitude. Normally, the producer works alone, bringing in external





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labor only during the coffee harvest season. The producer utilizes the space between coffee rows to cultivate beans.

Here are the points to be observed and actions to be taken:

ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR

Use of Windbreaks: Although there are nearby trees, it is recommended to include the planting of windbreaks during the renewal of coffee plantations. This measure reduces the impact of wind on the coffee plant leaves, minimizes the damage from hail, decreases fungal diseases (which proliferate due to leaf injuries), and increases the producer's income by intercropping coffee with crops like avocados and bananas, which are excellent windbreaks.

Use of Organomineral Fertilizers: While returning coffee husks to the plantation, we recommend adopting the use of organomineral fertilizers. These promote greater agricultural sustainability by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers by up to 30%. Additionally, they help replenish soil carbon, with a cumulative effect over the years, enhancing soil fertility and the presence of beneficial microorganisms.

Use of Biological Products: Utilize biological products, incorporating various products such as bioinsecticides, bionematicides, and phosphorus solubilizers. The use of biological products in agriculture contributes to the balance of agricultural systems and helps preserve beneficial insects, like natural pest enemies and bees, which are threatened in many regions.

Pesticide Storage: Expand or construct a new storage area, ensuring it is compatible with the maximum volume of products to be stored and allows for the circulation of people. Implement a ventilation system to ensure air renewal, either naturally, mechanically, forcibly, or in a mixed manner, according to legal requirements. Ensure good lighting for easy reading of labels and product identification. Install an emergency shower and eye wash station near the pesticide storage area, ensuring easy access for operators without contaminating the stock. Store pesticide containers at least 50 cm away from walls, with solid products positioned above liquid/paste ones. Maintain equipment and materials in sufficient quantity to handle product spills (absorbent materials like sawdust, etc.). Improper products (expired, banned by inspection, damaged packaging, etc.) should



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be stored separately and returned to the respective manufacturers, with proper notification to the competent authority.

Waste Separation: Proper waste separation is crucial for environmental preservation, preventing recyclable materials from ending up in landfills. Some household waste is considered hazardous and should not be mixed with other waste. It is recommended to start by separating organic waste from dry (recyclable) waste, then further separate by material type.

Photovoltaic Energy: Study the implementation of a solar energy production plant. Solar energy has several advantages: it is renewable, non-polluting, and has a lifespan of approximately 25 years. Economically, it can reduce electricity bills by 90%, offering a return on investment in about 5 years with minimal maintenance requirements.

SOCIAL PILLAR

Sanitary and Comfort Conditions in Rural Work: Despite the proximity of the plantations to the headquarters, it is essential to provide accessible structures for workers, including potable water, meal areas, rest spaces, and personal hygiene facilities (bathrooms). These areas are crucial for the well-being and comfort of the workers.

Training: Continuously train employees, enabling them to master updated technology and manage their work effectively, achieving desired productivity and job retention. Training contributes to the personal and professional fulfillment of workers, improving their quality of life and enhancing their ability to perform daily tasks with economic and social benefits.

In conclusion, considering the various attributes required in the sustainability report, we can regard the situation as very satisfactory. However, it is always necessary to pay attention to and adapt



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to the constant changes in the technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture in our country.

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