



COFFEE FARMING TOPIC 01: PREPARATION OF COFFEE SEEDLINGS

Objective: The growth of coffee trees and the increase in coffee production have become important sources of income at both the farmer and national levels. Proper preparation of the coffee germination bed is essential because it is expected to produce for at least 30 years. Good management of air (oxygen), moisture, and sunlight helps the plant grow faster and increase yields. This is why proper preparation of the germination bed is very important.

- Coffee seeds are germinated in **October and November**.
- Quality seeds are obtained from a **reliable institution** that supplies certified seeds.
- **One kilogram of seeds** produces approximately **2,500 to 3,000 seedlings**.
- It is recommended to sow coffee seeds in **well-drained sand** so that seedlings grow well, develop strong shoots, and have straight roots. **River sand** is often the most suitable. Fertilizer is not very necessary at this stage because the seedlings already have sufficient nutrients.
- Sand collected from rivers often contains **many microorganisms** that can damage seedlings. Therefore, it must first be **exposed to sunlight** to kill these organisms before use.
- Seedlings remain in the **germination bed for 3–4 months**, then they are transferred to the **nursery**, where they are planted in pots containing good soil mixed with manure.
- In the nursery, seedlings stay for **5–8 months**, during which they are watered, weeded, and protected from diseases and pests.
- The germination bed is established under a **shade structure** that protects seedlings from strong sunlight and heavy rainfall, from the time the coffee seeds are sown until the seedlings are ready to be transplanted to the field.



Note:

Coffee seeds are prepared by the **National Agricultural and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)** and distributed to farmers through **coffee washing stations**.

Suitable areas for coffee cultivation are selected based on climate conditions, altitude, and soil quality. Farmers should choose planting sites according to the type of coffee variety to be cultivated. They are also advised to seek guidance from **RAB** regarding the appropriate coffee variety for their respective region.