

SHADE MANAGEMENT



Full sun exposes coffee to:

- High leaf and soil temperatures
- Moisture loss from soil and leaves through transpiration
- Wind



Arabica coffee has natural adaptation to shade where it produces more cherries of high quality



- The optimum level of shade is 20-40%.
- Properties of a good shade tree Fast growing
- Spreading tree, height above coffee canopy
- Deep rooted, no competition for water and nutrients
- Nitrogen fixing
- Provides leaves that will rot down

The Benefits of Shade Systems



- Greater levels of biodiversity and potential conservation of natural resources, Important for certification, Benefit to pest control



- Suppression of weed species



- Retention of soil moisture, Prevention of soil erosion.



- Maintenance of soil fertility through high organic material inputs mainly through leaf fall



- Act as a wind break
- Deep rooted trees act to recycle lower-level nutrients bringing them into the top-soil. Leguminous shade trees generate accessible nitrogen.