



Luis F. Aristizábal
Coffee Consultant
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“Frequent and Efficient Harvest”

Summary

Frequent and efficient harvesting practices can reduce the populations of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). Frequent harvest is picking all coffee cherries and raisins at two to three week intervals before and during the regular harvest. The CBB population in these cherries and raisins are removed from the field before new generations of CBB emerge. Efficient harvest is limiting the number of cherries and raisins left on the trees or dropped on the ground during a harvest. “Good” efficiency means an average of 5 to 10 berries per tree remain after a harvest round. Raisins left on trees and berries dropped on the ground under trees are reservoirs for populations of CBB. Therefore, both collecting berries with CBB as efficiently as possible, and preventing those berries from falling on the ground, are key aspects to keep the CBB population low.

Three farms were assessed for timing and amount of coffee cherry harvest. One farm used five sanitation rounds, seven harvest rounds, one strip-pick, and one application of *Beauveria bassiana* only at the borders during the 2019 season. A second farm used six sanitation rounds and 11 harvest rounds, with no applications of *B. bassiana*. A third farm used one sanitation round, six harvest rounds, and seven applications of *B. bassiana*. The numbers for each farm were presented in graphs and charts. The coffee from sanitation practices was around 10% of the amount from a harvest round and was sold. The Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR) compared the cost of labor for picking and processing (\$0.30/pound of cherry) to the income from the sale of coffee from that harvest round (\$12-13/pound of parchment coffee). In these harvests, the CBR was positive (>2) for both the sanitation rounds and harvest rounds.

The sanitation rounds use additional labor and need attention to detail to be efficient. However, frequent and efficient sanitation rounds can reduce or eliminate the use of spray applications of *B. bassiana*. The goal of keeping CBB infestation below 5% can be achieved with cultural control in some locations.

More details are found in CBB Note Number 5, which can be requested at this email: cbbnoteshawaii@gmail.com.

Keywords: efficient harvest, sanitation round, Cost Benefit Ratio

References

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