

Determination of Crop Water Requirement and Irrigation Water Requirement for Coffee Arabica (*Coffea Arabica* L.): Case Study of Somodo Watershed

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Abstract: Seasonal water deficit and climate change are among the major problems affecting the production and productivity of coffee arabica (*coffee arabica* L.). For its cultivation, farmers use irrigation but, they never realize how much water to apply. Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the crop water requirement, irrigation water requirement and schedule for the cultivation of coffee Arabica in Somodo watershed. It was determined by using CROPWAT8.0 by dividing the development stage of the crop in to four season; initial, development, mid and late season and carried out with inputs of climatic, crop and soil data. Soil samples were collected at five different depths to determine irrigation schedule. The result reveals that CWR of the crop was 217mm, 430mm, 497mm and 424mm; and IWR was 205mm, 334mm, 67mm and 87mm depth of water per tree for the initial, development, mid and late season, respectively. Irrigation schedule starts on January first, 25th day, 45th day, 68th day, 101st day, and 305th day with a gross quantity of 173.7mm, 136.8mm, 140.5mm, 148.8mm, and 159.4mm depth of water per tree, respectively. However, Investigation should continue from seedling stage to relate the yield and growth parameter of the crop.

Keywords: coffee arabica, Crop water requirement, Irrigation water requirement, Somodo watershed

1. INTRODUCTION

Coffee belongs to the genus *Coffea*, in the Rubiaceae family. It is produced in most African countries and plays a central role in the national economies of Ethiopia (ICO, 2009). It contributes over 60% of the foreign exchange earnings and 30% of the government's direct revenue. Furthermore, the livelihood of 25% of the population depends on the coffee industry (Tesfaye and Ismail, 2008). However, the average national yield of the crop is very low primarily because of lack of improved varieties for different areas, diseases and pests, seasonal water deficits and climate change (Kirda *et al.*, 2004; Belachew *et al.*, 2015).

Most evidence shows that climate change has appeared in recent years and immediately change common perception of many people in few years and makes looking forward the serious topics of all stake holders. Since early 1900s, climate variation has been perceived and the causes usually anthropogenic and natural drivers of climate (Masters *et al.*, 2009). The effect of climate variation on natural systems has begun as one of the most critical issues of human kind (Jaramillo *et al.*, 2011). Many finding proof that weather alteration is hastening at ample quicker stride than earlier that lead to irreversible changes in major earth systems and ecosystems (ITC, 2010).

In order to alleviate the problem of the climate change using irrigation is an ultimate option which can improve the soil moisture and helps for the growth and development of the crop root and increase the production and productivity of crops. It can be used for both annual as well as perennial crops. Coffee is one of the perennial crop used as cash crop in Ethiopia that helps the government to get foreign income and economic income for farmers. Even though it has high economic income, its production is limited because of poor level of soil moisture, lack of fertilizer and poor agronomic management (Tesfaye *et al.*, 2013).

The introduction of irrigation reduces the percentage of dried flowers (stars) from 57% to less than 5%, with some percentages practically negligible (Maestri, 1987 and Thomaziello, 1999) as cited by

Naan DanJain 2009. When the productivity results of non-irrigated, irrigated and fertigated coffee were compared, there were increases of 66% and 123% in the irrigated and fertigated crops, respectively (<http://www.naandanjain.com>).

When the seasonal water requirement of coffee Arabica (*coffee Arabica* L.) is studied, a minimum of 1200 to 1600 mm per annum, without too long a hot dry season is necessary for good growth and sustainable production of the crop (Wringley, 1988). Even though the minimum annual CWR of coffee is stated between 1200-1600mm, the irrigation water quantity needed is not determined in the agro ecology of Somodo watershed. Supplemental irrigation is required as the annual rainfall is less than the seasonal coffee crop water requirement and its distribution is usually erratic (Tesfaye *et al.*, 2008).

In Somodo watershed there was a five hectare of coffee Arabica cultivated by using irrigation. For the cultivation of coffee Arabica (*coffee Arabica* L.) in the watershed during the dry period, farmers use irrigation by applying water to make the irrigation fields' soil feel muddy, blacken-up the soil or continue irrigating until the water reaches the end of every furrow. However, quite often they never realize just how much water they have applied. They may apply too little or too much water to the field. When they do not take their systems efficiency into account, they may apply too little or too much water. Too little water causes unnecessary water stress and can result in yield reductions. Too much water can cause water logging, leaching, and may also result in loss of yield. Hence, there is an urgent need to identify and adopt effective irrigation water management by determining Crop Water Requirement, and Irrigation water requirement of coffee Arabica (*coffee arabica* L.). Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the quantity of crop water requirement, irrigation water requirement and irrigation schedule for the cultivation of coffee arabica (*coffee arabica* L.) in Somodo watershed.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Description of the Study Area

2.1.1. Location of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Somodo watershed which is one of the watersheds located in Didessa sub-basin. It is a coffee producing areas in Manna district of Jimma Zone, located at approximately 361km South-West of Addis Ababa and 12km west of Jimma town. Geographically the study area extends from 7°46'00"- 7°54'30"N latitude and 36°46'30"-36°56'30"E longitude. The total area of the watershed covers about 19860ha and the altitude ranges between 1647-2419 meter minimum and maximum elevation above sea level, respectively. It has a good agro ecologic zone which is suitable for many crop production including improved crop varieties, fruit crops, and cereal crops.

From the long term meteorological data, the minimum and maximum temperature of the watershed ranges between 13°C and 25°C, respectively. The average annual rainfall is 1500mm distributed unevenly throughout the year. The average relative humidity, solar radiation and wind speed of the watershed is 72%, 2.5m/s and 6.7 hr, respectively.

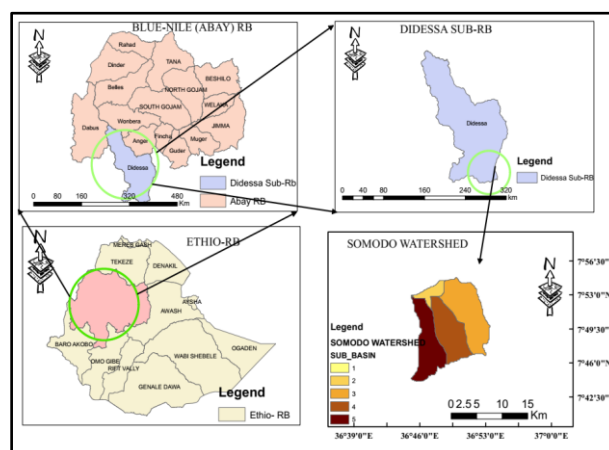


Figure1. Geographical location of the study area

2.2. Materials used for the study

2.2.1. Auger

Auger was used to collect the soil sample. It is a material which was used to hoe the soil and collect the soil sample for further analysis in the laboratory to study the soil properties which were used as an input data for CROPWAT8.0 model.

2.2.2. Global positioning system (GPS)

GPS was used to collect the geographic information of the study area.

2.2.3. Xlstat2017

The meteorological data mainly used as an input in this study were rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, wind speed, solar radiation and relative humidity taken from the Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency (ENMA). But the data collected have a missing value. In order to fill the missing data, the trial version of xlstat2017 software was used.

2.2.4. Geographical information system software (GIS)

ARCGIS version 10.4.1 was used for locating the study area and for delineating the watershed.

2.2.5. CROPWAT 8.0 model

It was used to calculate the Crop Water Requirement, Irrigation Water Requirement and irrigation schedule for coffee Arabica. The input data were prepared using Microsoft excel.

2.3. Methodology

2.3.1. Determination of crop water requirement

The crop water requirement was calculated using ET_o , K_c and P_{eff} by the following equation.

$$ET_c = K_c \times ET_o \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$IWR = ET_c - P_{eff} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where: ET_c - Crop evapotranspiration (mm/period),

P_{eff} - is effective rainfall (mm),

IWR - is irrigation water requirement in (mm/period),

K_c - is crop coefficient,

ET_o - reference evapotranspiration (mm/ day).

ET_o was calculated by FAO Penman-Monteith method using meteorological data (FAO, 1998). Crop coefficient (K_c), crop growth stages, rooting depths, critical depletion fraction, yield responses factor, maximum crop height and length of growth stage were fixed according to local conditions of study area and using literature (FAO, 1998; Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977; Allen *et al.*, 1998). Effective rainfalls used for CWR was calculated procedurally using a 20 years' rain fall data by empirical formula in mm depth (Appendix table 1-3). The Penman-Monteith form of the combination equation is given by;

$$ET_o = \frac{0.408 \Delta (R_n - G) + \gamma \frac{900}{T + 273} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma (1 + 0.34 u_2)} \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

Where; ET_o - reference evapotranspiration (mm day⁻¹), R_n - net radiation at the crop surface in (MJ m⁻² day⁻¹), G -soil heat flux density (MJ m⁻² day⁻¹), T -mean daily air temperature at 2 m height (°C), u_2 - wind speed at 2 m height (m s⁻¹), e_s - saturation vapor pressure (kPa), e_a -actual vapor pressure (kPa), $(e_s - e_a)$ - saturation vapor pressure deficit in (kPa), Δ -slope vapor pressure curve (kPa °C⁻¹), γ - psychometric constant (kPa °C⁻¹).

2.3.2. Determination of Irrigation water requirement of coffee Arabica

The CWR and irrigation requirement for coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) was determined by the vegetative development characteristics, soil moisture depletion fraction of 0.45 and application efficiency of 70%.

It was determined by using the CROPWAT 8.0 model. The Crop Water Requirement and Irrigation Water Requirement were carried out with inputs of climatic, crop and soil data. Essential information used includes crop type and crop variety, crop coefficient (Kc), rooting depth, allowable depletion levels, critical depletion fraction (p) and length of growth stages. Depth of Irrigation water requirement was calculated by deducting the effective rain fall in mm from the crop water requirement.

To determine irrigation schedule, representative soil samples were selected and collected from the watershed at five different depths; 0-30cm, 30-60cm, 60-90cm, 90-120cm and 120-150cm. The soil's fresh weights were measured using sensitive balance at each depth. After measuring the fresh weight, the soil was dried in the oven for 24 hours at 105°C and then its dry weight was measured. Finally, its permanent wilting point (PWP) and field capacity (FC) was determined using the following formula.

$$\theta_m = \frac{(W_w - W_d)}{W_d} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Where: θ_m is mass of soil moisture content at FC or PWP (%),

W_d is weight of oven dried soil (gm), and

W_w is weight of wet soil (gm).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Reference Evapotranspiration (ET_o)

The annual ET_o varies between 4.8 and 3.39 mmday⁻¹, it was maximum in March and minimum in July, respectively and the average was 4.27 mmday⁻¹. For June, September, August and July (the summer season) it was below 4.0 mm/day but for the rest of the months it was above 4.0 mmday⁻¹. The variation may be mainly because of warm air and low humidity. During dry season, high amount of energy was available since temperature is high. ET_o values during summer season (July to September) were very low and the summer season is a main rainy season in Somodo watershed. This low ET_o value during rainy season may be due to low air temperature and high humidity as the result of continuous rain fall.

3.2. Analysis of soil data

Crop performance and efficient use of the available water can be optimized by determining the water holding capacity of the soil, the water requirements and response of each crop grown, using an effective soil moisture monitoring system and irrigation scheduling. Physical soil analysis collected from the watershed showed that the texture of the soil was clay loam and average moisture content on volume base at Field Capacity (FC) and Permanent Wilting Point (PWP) were 35.04% and 25.41%, respectively. Volumetric Total Available Water (TAW) was 167.62 mm/m with bulk density of 1.74gcm⁻³ (table 1).

Table1. Result Soil data collected from the field

Soil depth (cm)	Bulk density (gcm ⁻³)	Field capacity (vol %)	Permanent wilting point (vol %)	Total available water (mm/m)
Soil texture	clay loam	clay loam	clay loam	clay loam
0-30	1.66	34.80	27.20	126.16
30-60	1.74	35.40	27.11	144.25
60-90	1.80	36.70	25.23	206.46
90-120	1.76	34.10	23.81	181.10
120-150	1.74	34.20	23.70	182.70
Average	1.74	35.04	25.41	167.62

3.3. Effective rainfall

From the total annual rain fall the effective precipitation was 571.88mm. Even though this quantity is high, the maximum effective rainfall occurs during high rainfall time (summer season) from May up to September, with 85.4mm, 96.32mm, 95.76mm, 102.96mm, and 94.48mm, respectively (Appendix table 3).

3.4. CWR and IWR for coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) crop

The vegetative development stage of the crop was divided into four seasons; initial, development, mid-season and late season. The initial stage of the crop includes time for buildup and initiation of flower buds, the development season includes time for flower bud formation and flowering, the mid-season includes time for fruit development and maturity and the late season was the time for harvesting the coffee bean. The duration it takes from initiation of flower buds up to harvesting was a total of 305 days with a length of 50, 65, 100 and 90 days for initial, development, mid-season and late season, respectively in the agro-ecology of the study area.

Accordingly, the CWR of coffee arabica (*Coffea arabica* L.) in Somodo watershed was 217mm, 430mm, 497mm and 424mm depth of water per tree for the initial, development, mid-season and late season, respectively. The IWR after deduction of effective rain fall was 205mm, 334mm, 67mm and 87mm depth of water per tree for the initial, development, mid-season and late season, respectively. Therefore, a total quantity of 1568 mm depth of water per tree was required for the crop and 693mm depth of water should be fulfilled by irrigation for the cultivation of coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) in Somodo watershed.

But, from the recommended agronomy practice, coffee is planted at a spacing of 2m×2m (Mekonen *et al.*, 2018) and a total of 4m² areas were occupied for planting one coffee tree; hence the total volume of water required per tree was 6.27m³ throughout the crop period. Therefore, the CWR of coffee (*Coffea arabica* L.) in Somodo watershed for one hectare of land was 15680 m³ of water throughout the crop period. The total volume of irrigation water required per tree was 2.772m³. From the agronomy practice for cultivation of coffee crop at a spacing of 2m×2m, a total volume of irrigation water required per hectare of land was 6930m³ throughout the vegetative development and harvesting time. Therefore, irrigation water requirement of coffee crop for an area of five hectares was 34650m³.

According to the CROPWAT8.0 model for a total of 305 days (from vegetative development up to harvesting) the irrigation should be given on January first day, 25th day, 45th day, 68th day, 101st day, and 305th day with a gross irrigation water amount of 173.7mm, 136.8mm, 140.5mm, 148.8mm, and 159.4mm depth per tree, respectively.

In general, the CWR was lowest during the initial stage and highest during mid-season stage. However, it is relatively moderate during mid-season stage. In the agro-ecology of Somodo watershed irrigation water requirement is maximum during the development stage and it does not require irrigation during the summer season (June to September) this is because during summer rainy season there was high amount of effective rainfall and it is sufficient for the crop.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

As coffee is a perennial crop, it requires many years' data to determine a specific problem on crop water requirement and irrigation water requirement of the crop. Additionally, there are urgent problems that cause the reduction of its production and productivity, one of them is water deficit because of non-uniform distribution of rainfall and hence irrigation can be taken as a solution. Therefore, this study can respond a basic question on the irrigation water requirement (how much water to apply) and irrigation schedule (when to apply) for the cultivation of coffee arabica (*coffea arabica* L.) in Somodo agro-ecology.

Therefore, Irrigation water requirement of coffee arabica (*coffea arabica* L.) for the cultivation of five hectare of land was 34650m³. It is possible to use 6930m³ of water for one hectare of land in Somodo watershed for cultivation of coffee Arabica.

RECOMMENDATION

- The crop water requirement and irrigation requirement for coffee was addressed by simply applying the CROPWAT 8.0 model by considering the vegetative characteristics. Therefore, it is highly recommended to do a further experimental research to determine the crop water requirement and irrigation schedule in the agro-ecology and cropping calendar from seedling up to the fly crop stage to relate to yield and yield components.

- Evapotranspiration mapping should be necessary for the effective management of irrigation for the cultivation of other crops in the watershed.

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APPENDIX

Procedures to determine the effective rainfall

Appendix table1. Precipitation data of Jimma metrological station (mm)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1997	66	0	68.7	178	274.6	236.9	122.4	256	148.1	336.7	243.2	36.1
1998	102.5	22.4	96.5	93.2	183.6	222.6	248.4	306.7	199.9	200.7	46.5	1.4
1999	29.8	0.7	82.4	71.8	213.7	175	136.1	102.3	130.9	197.8	1.3	2
2000	0	1	39.3	194.7	237.7	153.7	265.9	158.7	255.2	244	46.8	24.9
2001	16.2	12.9	85.9	116.8	341.2	299.4	312.3	160.8	183.4	162.9	75.8	3.8
2002	68.9	5	91.2	89.7	137.3	241.6	149.7	234.9	165.3	79.6	8.1	138.4
2003	28.7	61.3	86.9	111.3	12.2	272.2	186.7	150.9	238.9	91.7	29.9	14.6
2004	51	28.4	46.1	130.9	161.9	128.4	216.3	219.4	201	133.2	67.3	84.2

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2005	44.5	0.5	193.8	141.4	173.8	177.2	273.5	227.8	229.1	68.3	29.7	0
2006	15.8	77.1	181.8	110.3	211.5	207.4	327.2	240.2	169.9	91.1	127.6	100.2
2007	37.5	51	104.1	121.6	196.1	142.6	247.4	177	256.2	50.8	5.9	0
2008	34	12.3	39.4	112.7	249	238.2	209.8	236.8	133.4	186.1	92.9	6.3
2009	63	29.5	79.8	103.1	243.6	160.3	149.6	304.7	209.4	92.2	78.4	67.7
2010	27.3	88.4	67.4	101.4	192.9	394.7	181.3	203.5	186.5	37	96.2	10.5
2011	24.1	7.5	39.3	151.2	192.9	311.2	189.9	192.1	269.5	10.3	104.9	26
2012	2.1	1.8	55.8	154.5	118.7	335	223.9	132.7	250.5	32.8	77.4	57.7
2013	34.9	31.3	109.4	95.8	306	193.3	151.5	255.2	183.3	167.8	114.7	1
2014	17.8	16.8	115.3	0	0	117.4	271.3	265.6	142.3	155.5	134.9	25.9
2015	6.1	16.9	77.5	176.3	212.5	308.6	256.9	243.2	249.9	143.1	155.2	88.8
2016	39.4	70.7	81.4	238.3	286.8	150.4	240.2	344.3	174	171.9	54.5	17.4

(Source: ENMA; 1997-2016)

Appendix table2. Rank of precipitation from the highest to the lowest

Rank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	102.5	88.4	193.8	238.3	341.2	394.7	327.2	344.3	269.5	336.7	243.2	138.4
2	68.9	77.1	181.8	194.7	306	335	312.3	306.7	256.2	244	155.2	100.2
3	66	70.7	115.3	178	286.8	311.2	273.5	304.7	255.2	200.7	141.4	88.8
4	63	61.3	109.4	176.3	274.6	308.6	271.3	265.6	250.5	197.8	127.6	84.2
5	51	51	104.1	154.5	249	299.4	265.9	256	249.9	186.1	114.7	67.7
6	44.5	31.3	96.5	151.2	243.6	272.2	256.9	255.2	238.9	171.9	104.9	57.7
7	39.4	29.5	91.2	141.4	237.7	241.6	248.4	243.2	229.1	167.8	96.2	36.1
8	37.5	28.4	86.9	130.9	213.7	238.2	247.4	240.2	209.4	162.9	92.9	26
9	34.9	22.4	85.9	121.6	212.5	236.9	240.2	236.8	201	153	78.4	25.9
10	34	16.9	82.4	116.8	211.5	222.6	223.9	234.9	199.9	143.1	77.4	24.9
11	29.8	16.8	81.4	112.7	196.1	207.4	216.3	227.8	186.5	133.2	75.8	17.4
12	28.7	12.9	79.8	111.3	192.9	193.3	209.8	219.4	183.4	92.2	67.3	14.6
13	27.3	12.3	77.5	110.3	192.9	177.2	189.9	203.5	183.3	91.7	54.5	10.5
14	24.1	7.5	68.7	103.1	183.6	175	186.7	192.1	174	91.1	46.8	6.3
15	17.8	5	67.4	101.4	173.8	160.3	181.3	177	169.9	79.6	46.5	3.8
16	16.2	1.8	55.8	95.8	161.9	153.7	151.5	160.8	165.3	68.3	29.9	2
17	15.8	17	46.1	93.2	137.3	150.4	149.7	158.7	148.1	50.8	29.7	1.4
18	6.1	0.7	39.4	89.7	118.7	142.6	149.6	150.9	142.3	37	8.1	1
19	2.1	0.5	39.3	71.8	12.2	128.4	136.1	132.7	133.4	32.8	5.9	0
20	0	0	39.3	0	0	117.4	122.4	102.3	130.9	10.3	1.3	0

(Source: ENMA; 1997-2016)

Appendix table3. Effective rainfall (mm)

Month	Dependable rainfall	Effective rainfall
January	15.8	0
February	17	0
March	46.1	17.66
April	93.2	50.56
May	137.3	85.84
June	150.4	96.32
July	149.7	95.76
August	158.7	102.96
September	148.1	94.48
October	50.8	20.48
November	29.7	7.82
December	1.4	0

The procedures are summarized as follows.

1. The probability of exceedence (P) of 80% was used to calculate the return period (Tr)
 $P=1/Tr$; $Tr=1/p = 1/0.8 = 1.25$

2.The rank of rainfall with 80% probability of exceedence was calculated and the corresponding monthly values were taken as dependable rainfall.

$$Tr = (n+1)/m;$$

Where n= no of events (20 years)

$$m = (n+1)/Tr, m=\text{rank} \quad m=(n+1)/Tr$$

$$m = (20+1)/1.25 = 16.8.$$

Therefore, the 17 th order rainfall was taken to calculate the monthly effective rainfall

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