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Procedure of Planting and what you should consider.

1. Site Selection

Climate: Coffee thrives in regions with a tropical climate, ideally at altitudes between 1,200 to 2,200 meters. The temperature should range between 20°C to 25°C.

Soil Quality: Choose well-drained, fertile soils rich in organic matter. Ideal soil pH for coffee is between 6 and 6.5.

Sunlight and Shade: Coffee plants require ample sunlight but benefit from some shade to protect them from extreme heat. Consider planting shade trees alongside coffee.

2. Land Preparation

Clearing the Land: Clear the chosen site of weeds, rocks, and debris. Avoid using harmful chemicals that can affect soil fertility.

Tilling the Soil: Loosen the soil through ploughing or tilling to improve aeration and drainage. This can be done manually or with machinery.

Soil Testing: Conduct a soil test to determine nutrient levels and pH. Based on the results, amend the soil with organic fertilizers or lime as needed.

3. Seedling Selection

Choosing Quality Seedlings: Use fertile, disease-resistant seedlings from a reputable nursery. Arabica and Robusta varieties should be selected based on the specific growing conditions and market preferences.

Acclimatization: If seedlings are sourced from a nursery, allow them to acclimatize to outdoor conditions before full planting.

4. Planting

Spacing: Plant coffee seedlings at a spacing of about 7 to 10 feet apart to allow proper growth and airflow. This spacing can vary based on the variety and farming practices.

Planting Holes: Dig holes at least 2 months before planting that are about 2ft wide and deep. Ensure the holes are filled with a mixture of soil and organic matter before placing the seedlings.

Planting Depth: Place the seedlings in the holes, ensuring that the root collar is level with the soil surface. Cover the roots gently with soil and water thoroughly.

5. Watering

Initial Watering: Water the seedlings immediately after planting to help establish roots.

Regular Watering: Maintain consistent moisture, especially during dry spells, but avoid waterlogging. Drip irrigation or mulching can help retain soil moisture.

6. Fertilization

Nutrient Management: Apply organic fertilizers (such as compost or manure) and mineral fertilizers based on soil test recommendations. Regularly monitor plant fertility to adjust fertilization as needed.

Timing: Fertilize during the rainy season to enhance nutrient uptake by the plants.

7. Weed and Pest Management

Weed Control: Regularly remove weeds through manual weeding or mulching to reduce competition for nutrients and water.

Pest Management: Monitor for pests such as coffee borer beetles and leaf rust. Use integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, including biological controls and organic pesticides when necessary.

8. Pruning and Maintenance

Pruning: Prune coffee plants annually to promote healthy growth, improve air circulation, and enhance sunlight penetration. Remove dead or diseased branches.

Mulching: Apply organic mulch around the base of coffee plants to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil fertility.

9. Harvesting

Timing: Coffee cherries typically take about 6 months to 1 year to mature after planting, depending on the variety.

Harvesting Method: Harvest cherries selectively when they are ripe (usually red). This can be done by handpicking or using mechanical harvesters.

10. Post-Harvest Processing

After harvesting, process the cherries promptly to prevent spoilage. This includes drying and milling to produce green coffee beans.