



MSc thesis topic

Profitability and productivity of Arabusta coffee in French Guiana

Field locations: Western part of French Guiana

Introduction

The global coffee community is continuously developing new coffee varieties for improved quality, higher yields, improved pest resistance and better resilience towards climate changes. One of the more curious new varieties is a hybrid between Arabica coffee and Robusta coffee, called Arabusta. The hope is to find the quality of Arabica and the robustness of Robusta coffee. Arabusta is being cultivated by a small group of farmers in French Guiana, where the coffee is grown in agroforestry systems, i.e. under shade trees, in collaboration with researchers from CIRAD. The Arabusta production is targeted at a niche market, but the market potential – subject to quality, productivity and roasters' preferences – is still large unknown.

The thesis

The MSc thesis will take departure in the above context and investigate the productivity and profitability of the new Arabusta coffee hybrids in the local agro-ecological context of French Guiana. An existing questionnaire, developed for the BREEDCAFS project (www.breedcafs.eu), can be adjusted to the local context, but the student is expected to develop his/her own thesis proposal. The student should expect to take an interdisciplinary approach and make use of farmer and farm surveys as well as e.g. focus group discussions, interviews with key stakeholders etc. The student should not be afraid of analyses of quantitative data.

Field work of approx. 3 months in the Western part of French Guiana is expected. French is required. The student must secure funds for the fieldwork her/himself, but will receive guidance on fund raising. The local contacts at CIRAD and at the University of French Guiana will be of assistance before and during the fieldwork.

Supervision

The student will be supervised by Aske S. Bosselmann, assistant professor at IFRO, and select project partners in the BREEDCAFS project. As such, the MSc project is a great way to expand the student's international network. The student can identify a relevant co-supervisor if needed.

Contact

Interested students should contact Aske via email: ab@ifro.ku.dk

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