

# ECOHOPÉ CO LIMITED

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## Coffee Growing Guide – Eco Hope Co. Ltd

### 1. Introduction

- **Importance of Coffee:** Coffee is one of Uganda's major export crops, contributing significantly to the economy.
- **Eco Hope's Mission:** To promote sustainable coffee farming through improved farming techniques and access to high-quality seedlings.

### 2. Variety Selection

- **Recommended Varieties:** Arabica (best for high altitudes) and Robusta (ideal for lowland areas).
- **Climate:** Arabica coffee thrives at 1,100–2,100 meters above sea level, while Robusta grows best below 1,000 meters.

### 3. Land Preparation

- **Site Selection:** Choose a well-drained site with a slight slope to prevent waterlogging.
- **Clearing and Digging:** Clear the area of weeds and trees. Dig pits (30cm deep and wide) to plant seedlings.

### 4. Planting

- **Spacing:** For Arabica, plant at 2.5m x 2.5m; for Robusta, 3m x 3m.
- **Planting Technique:** Use healthy seedlings or grafted plants, place them at the center of the pit, and cover with soil.

### 5. Fertilization

- **Fertilizer Types:** Apply organic manure and NPK fertilizer (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) for enhanced growth.

- **Application:** Fertilize during the rainy season and follow a balanced schedule to promote healthy growth.

## 6. Pest & Disease Control

- **Common Pests:** Coffee berry borer, coffee root borer.
- **Diseases:** Coffee wilt and leaf rust.
- **Control Methods:** Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, including organic pesticides and biological control.

## 7. Pruning & Mulching

- **Pruning:** Prune branches to maintain a manageable shape, improve airflow, and reduce disease.
- **Mulching:** Apply mulch around the base of the plant to retain moisture and suppress weed growth.

## 8. Harvesting

- **When to Harvest:** Harvest when coffee cherries turn a deep red or purple color.
- **Post-Harvest Handling:** Dry cherries in the sun to reduce moisture content to about 12%.

## 9. Contact Information

- For personalized advice, contact Eco Hope agronomists or visit our support page.