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Situation

- CLF outbreaks caused enormous economic damage in last decade
- coffee grower workforce is in an increasingly precarious position
- further outbreaks are likely
- chemical controls and resistance breeding may be insufficient to control epidemics in the long term
- biocontrols like WHF show promise but development of commercial strains is so far unsuccessful.

CLF = coffee leaf rust
(*Hemileia vastatrix*)

WHF = white halo fungus
(*Lecanicillium lecanii*)

Inputs

- scientific tools applied:
- agroecological principals
- microbial ecological principles
- open source analytical tools
- technological skill share ('omics tools)
- outreach to communities
- skill sharing and education (mutually! we have a lot to learn from the growers)

Outputs

- Fungal ITS sequence library
- tools for plant metatranscriptome analysis
- fungal culture library of possible antagonists to CLF
- methods for direct PCR detection of WHF
- scientific publications
- relationships with growers and scientists
- students trained in mycological techniques
- practical understanding of forest stands in coffee agriculture
- additional knowledge for prevention of future CLF outbreaks

Activities

- train undergraduate researchers
- develop dialogue with growers
- search for disease patterns with point patterns
- develop new method for analyzing microbiome gene expression
- DNA, RNA, and culture surveys of the coffee mycobiome

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