

## "One camel does not make fun of the other camel's hump"



### COFFEE

**January:** Continue cut back programme on old, unthrifty, low producing coffee trees. Cut to a height of 15-20 inches above the ground. Cover cut surfaces with anti-fungal paint; control weeds, pests and diseases especially in young coffee; complete fertilizing coffee in production; complete Coffee Berry Borer control; if reaping is completed, strip trees of all remaining berries; collect fallen berries and bury or burn all that cannot be used.

**February:** Complete cutback programme on old, unthrifty, low producing coffee trees. Select land for spring planting; start preparation, i.e. clearing, lining, digging holes or furrows and add organic manure; check for slug damage then do shoot selection in cutback plants; control weeds mechanically or chemically; take care of young shoots and lateral branches when using weedicides; complete stripping and collection of fallen berries; bury or burn all that cannot be used; examine young berries and notify your extension officer if there are signs of Borer damage.

**March:** Refill holes with soil, sand, organic manure by mixing thoroughly, then add 8 ounces of coffee planting mixture (8:21:32) or triple superphosphate in the upper inches of the hole; complete shoot selection on cutback; do topping at 3'-6"-4'-6" on young coffee plants; control pests and diseases if necessary; continue to examine young berries for signs of Berry Borer damage.

**April:** Start spring planting if rainfall is

good. If there are 2 seedlings per pot, plant the 2 seedlings per hole in an upright position; seedlings 10 months old and over should be planted at a 45 degree angle in the direction in which the wind blows or across the contour; seedlings 9 months and under should be planted upright; where seedlings have been planted one per hole, bend plants in the fall of the previous year to a 45 degree angle so as to produce a multiple shoot system (averaging 3 shoots). Fertilize trees in production with 8-16 ozs. N.P.K. (15:5:35 or 23:10:20 or 16:9:18) depending on the age and condition of the trees and the soil type in which they are grown; prepare to assist the spray team when they come to spray your field. Reap all mature fruit before spraying is done.

**May:** Continue spring planting with good rainfall. Put in permanent shade trees (spacing 40 ft.x 40 ft.) in plot established in the fall of the previous year. Complete fertilizer programme. Control pests and diseases; select single shoot from topped plants; assist the spray team; provide water to mix chemicals; remove animals from your coffee field; keep windows, doors and all water containers closed during, and for 2 hours after spraying.

**June:** Fertilize seedlings planted in the spring with 4-6 oz sulphate of ammonia or 2-3 oz urea. Start inter-cropping programme with grains, yams and vegetables between coffee rows; establish temporary shade with plantains or bananas, spacing 20 ft x 7 ft.

**July:** Complete fertilizing of seedlings planted in May or June. Inspect trees for stress signs and add extra quantities of fertilizer if necessary; inspect lands for fall planting; control pests and diseases; continue to assist your spray team and observe all safety measures; examine your coffee for signs of ripening, and contact your coffee officer. *Continued on page 36*

## **“A good deed is something one returns”**

*Continued from page 35 - Coffee*

**August:** Start land preparation, i.e. clearing, digging holes, adding organic manure (chicken manure, coffee pulp, sludge or farmyard manure). Reap only cherry ripe berries to ensure good quality.

**NB:** *Do not destroy branches while reaping as a good crop is needed every year; control weeds, pests (rats included) and diseases; select shoots from bent plants; reap your coffee 14 days after spraying has been completed.*

**September:** Continue to reap cherry ripe coffee with care. Complete refilling holes by adding 8 ozs. coffee planting mixture (8:21:32) or triple superphosphate to mixture of soil and organic manure; start fall planting if rainfall is good.

**October:** Remember if there are 2 seedlings per pot, plant 2 seedlings per hole and in an upright position; continue fall planting by selecting and planting mature seedlings at 45 degree angle if there is one seedling per pot; establish permanent shade in open and exposed areas in plots established in the spring. Control pests and diseases; continue reaping.

**November:** Complete fall planting; fertilize seedlings planted in September and October with 4-6 oz. sulphate of ammonia or 2-3 oz urea; fertilize seedlings planted in the spring with 8 oz N.P.K 15:5:35. Inter-crop with vegetables, pulses etc. (No corn, sweet potato or pigeon peas). Plant bananas and/or plantains as temporary shade; or companion crop. Fertilize plants for cutback with 16 oz sulphate of ammonia or 8 oz urea. Control weeds, pests and diseases. After harvesting is completed, start removing dry berries from your coffee trees.

**December:** Start cutting back; remove foliage with cutlass, make final cut with saw 12-15 ins at 45 degree angle, cover with anti-fungal paint. Fertilize trees in production with 16 oz N.P.K. 15:5:35 or 23:10:20 or 16:9:18 and 8 oz of sulphate of ammonia if necessary depending on age and condition of the soil type in which they are grown; control weeds, pests and diseases. After harvesting is completed, strip trees of all remaining berries; collect fallen berries from the ground and burn all that cannot be used.