

## **COFFEE**

Kerala is India's second-largest coffee-producing state, accounting for about 20% of the country's total coffee production. A major percentage of coffee cultivation in Kerala is done in Wayanad with a production of around 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes of Robusta coffee annually. The average annual production of coffee in the state is 69230 million tonnes comprising of 67030 million tonnes of Robusta and 2200 million tonnes of Arabica. The average productivity of Robusta holdings is 850 kg per hectare and that of Arabica is 420 kg per hectare.

Coffee has been cultivated in the Wayanad region for over 250 years. The British introduced coffee plantations in the late 18th century. Coffee in Wayanad (67,426 ha.) shares 33.65 per cent of the total cropped area in the district and 90 percent of the coffee area in the state.

Wayanad district stands out for its distinctive geographical and climatic features, including the presence of evergreen forests. The specific terrain where coffee is cultivated imparts a unique aroma and flavour profile to the roasted coffee beans. Wayanad Robusta Coffee, cultivated at distinct elevations and shaded conditions, boasts a highly distinctive aroma and flavour, earning it a notable reputation.

The yield potential of Robusta Coffee in Wayanad ranges from 1400 to 2500 Kg/Ha under rain fed and irrigated conditions, respectively. Wayanad Robusta is characterized as softish to neutral in cup, full-bodied, with a remarkably intense aroma and a subtle hint of chocolate. These characteristics make Wayanad Robusta particularly suitable for blending with Arabica and are often used in preparing espresso coffee.