

COOMAP



NEWS



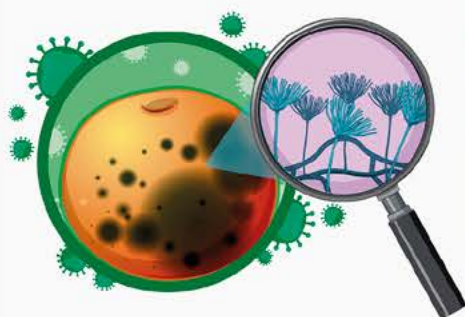
When we take a look at the Coffee Market nowadays, we know that pricing is neither on Coffee buyers' hands nor on producers'. Since this scenario doesn't seem to be changing soon, coffee growers really need to make everything possible to lower production cost so that their work always allows them to pay for their costs and have a decent living. Bearing this in mind COOMAP has started another project, which is the...

On Farm Multiplication Of Microorganisms

In a brief and simple explanation, this method consists in buying a small amount of **microorganisms**, putting it in a tank and multiplying it by providing "food" to it. Later, this substance will be **sprayed** on leaves or on soil and it will fight crops plagues and diseases, including the coffee ones.



But what do these microorganisms consist of? They are bacteria and fungi.



The idea here is to reproduce a certain organism that will fight a disease and eliminate it. Each organism must be reproduced in a separate tank. Thus, it will be necessary that farmers create a structure at their farms for conducting this process. Consequently, this will demand some investment, which will be paid back soon because of the savings with chemical pesticides, that won't be necessary anymore.

There are three main benefits of this project. The first one is sustainability, after all, crops won't be sprayed with hazardous chemical products, but with natural substances that are already available in the environment. The second reason is cost reduction. It is much cheaper multiplying microorganisms at a farm than buying pesticides. And since the process is relatively the same, growers can spray their farms with many different organisms, not only with a certain product that will fight only one disease. The result is an environmental improvement because of the abundant life that can be found on crops. Finally, growers won't be exposed to hazardous Chemical substances.



However, it is important to state that farmers can only operate this process for their own use. Brazilian legislation doesn't allow them to sell it to other farmers. Furthermore, it is necessary that the process be conducted following all proper procedures in order to avoid contamination, which could be harmful to crops.

In order to provide support for its members, COOMAP has hired a researcher/specialist consultant to provide training to field technicians and growers who feel like being part of this project. So far, 7 farmers have already implemented their bio factories and are really satisfied with the results on crops and cost reduction.

With projects like this COOMAP is helping its members have a **more sustainable production**, both in **environmental** and **financial** aspect, which is good for nature, for farmers and for all the other parts of the supply chain.



Grower of the Month!

This month we are proud to introduce you to Edilon Penha and his Family, which is a real role model when it comes to sustainable agriculture and soon you'll learn why.

Born in 1964 in the family's farm, where he still lives until nowadays, he grew up watching his dad take care of cattle and corn crops and when he got a bit older, he started doing this same work. Needless to say that this meant he didn't attend school for many years.

He's been married to Eliana for 24 years and they have two children, Mateus, who's 22 and Gabriel, who is 17.

Several years before he met his wife, he inherited along with his two brothers a farm that belonged to his uncle.

There were 7 thousand coffee trees planted on it. That was when he learned how to take care of coffee crops and since then, he never stopped doing it. After getting married, he decided to plant coffee also on the farm that he inherited from his father, which was also split with his two brothers.

Since family seems to be a word that is coming up too much in this story, it's time to explain why we said Mr. Penha is a role model. First of all, each member of the family has got his/her own crop and they help each other taking care of it. This makes the family really united and made the boys also interested on it. But different from their dad, Mateus and Gabriel, attend school. In fact, the former has already majored in agronomical engineering, and the latter is finishing up high school and is willing to follow his brother's footsteps. When we ask them why they're interested in having a college degree, they say that's because they want to take care of the family farm and expand it at the same time they increase yields per hectare. Good to read that, isn't it? And it seems that their efforts are really paying

off. They have recently planted a crop of arara Coffee. The family, encouraged by the house agronomical engineer, decided to invest on irrigation for this crop. He got that right, because if you compare it to another crop, which is beside the new one and not irrigated, you'll see that it has grown twice as much. And the production they'll have because of this extra growth will be enough for paying for the whole irrigation system. Great decision! And congratulations for the family succession!

Recently, the family was able to build a new house at their farm. Mr. Penha says that he's proud to offer opportunities to his children that he didn't have when he was a child. He finishes up the interview saying **that he was able to do everything in his life because of Coffee, hard work and his lovely Family... for sure!**



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