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History of Coffee Cultivation and Coffee Extinction in the Nilgiri's

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Abstract:

The Nilgiris plateau and the Wynaad can be compared as two massive steps leading to the West Coast. As previously stated, the upper plateau descends to the north to a small, forested flat that lies between the foothills and the sea. The Nilgiris are separated from the Mysore country and the District of Coimbatore by the Moyar River, which flows east and south through foothills to the plains of Coimbatore and Malabar. The Nilgiri-Wynaad, which includes the Ouchterlony Valley, forms the Gudalur Taluq of the Nilgiris District, with the remainder of the Wynaad belonging to Malabar. The Wynaad has an unpleasant reputation in terms of climate, having been described as a dense forest reeking of malaria, where the fever demon reigns supreme. There is no doubt that when the country was first opened by the pioneers of the coffee industry, this reputation was well-deserved; and there are still places that can only be described as fever traps, such as Tippakadu on the Mysore frontier, and the entire belt of light jungle that skirts the northern foot of the Nilgiri plateau (though this tract does not belong to Wynaad proper), as well as specific spots in the extreme west of the Nilgiri-Wynaad, The indigenous **Irula** and **Kurumba** populations grow coffee in the Nilgiris region of India, in the midst of the Nilgiri Bio-reserve. In Nilgiris coffee become planted in 1838 via Dawson property. the subsequent coffee manor changed into at Kotagiri at Kardathorai in 1840. **M.D.Cockburn** of the Madras Civil service additionally opened the Balahardah area on Kotagiri Ghat. In 1845, James Ouchterlony set up the espresso bequest in Wynaad, the Vallet was named after as Ouchterlony Valley referred to as O valley. In 1863 to 1864 there had been probable homes inside the Nilgiri District. Sadly coffee houses had been wrecked through leaf infection such large numbers of coffee domains were presented to Gold mining and some homes were changed over into tea cultivations.

Keywords: Wynaad, Kotagiri, Ouchterlony,

Introduction of the coffee plant:

Arab traders from the **Mocha** area are thought to have brought the plant to Southern India for the first time at the end of the 18th century. A letter from that magnificent man, the Abbe Dubois, to Colonel Miller, Resident of Mysore, dated September 1st, 1805, contains the earliest report of its cultivation. The Abbe said he "never understood that the plant grew in any section of the hills situated in the west of Mysore," in response to the Residents request for a man from the West Coast familiar with coffee farming.

Abbe Dubois was in the Baramahal, Colonel Read, Collector in that part of the country, shouldered to make a large colony at Tripatur by the means of an American he transferred for from the Coast. The colony was made, but the Director proving a man without conduct, Colonel Read was soon shocked with his services and dismissed him. And the Colonel perceiving besides that the yield of that kind of civilization would in no case equal the charges necessary in that part of the country, the colony was suffered to corrupt. From this correspondence it would appear that at the date of the Abbe's letter the factory was grown to some extent on the West Coast, but that the civilization had made no great strides in Mysore, although long before that date the factory had really been introduced into the Province. There's a tradition, presumably true, that the coffee factory was introduced into Mysore by a Mahometan pilgrim named Baba Buden, who came and took up his residence in the uninhabited hills in the Nugger Division, named after him, and where he established a council, which still exists, endowed by Government. It's said that he brought seven coffee berries from Mocha, which he planted near to his hermitage, about which there are now to be seen some veritably old coffee trees. The coffee industry has been known there from time old, but the foremost sanctioned account of it's in 1822 when the profit was under contract.

Dr. Buchanan mentions having seen thriving coffee trees near Tellicherry in 1801, and Colonel Wilks speaks of a theater in the Baba Buden hills attached to a synagogue, the seed having firstly come from Mocha. The first coffee estate in Ceylon was opened by Sir Edward Barnes in 1822, and in the ensuing time coffee planting was started in Bengal by **Dr. Wallich** and **Mr. Gordon**. The history of this civilization he cannot trace, but as coffee came an assiduity in Bengal, and is missing there now, it's clear that these early sweats to introduce it proved a failure. The preface of coffee into Wynaad was supposedly due to **Mr. Brown** of Anjarakandi, who started planting in North Wynaad in 1828. This was the nexus of the numerous fine estates which formerly flourished near Manantavadi. About the same time the first estates were opened by Europeans.

Baba Budens in Mysore, and a many times latterly planting was begun near Manjarabad. By 1839 the assiduity had made fair progress in Wynaad; and in or about that time the

foremost estates were opened on the eastern pitches of the Nilgiris. From this date onwards extension was rapid fire. About **1850 Mr. James Ouchterlony** started coffee planting in the magnificent vale which bears his name to the south of Gudalur a tract which presumably combines all the conditions essential to success in this branch of civilization to a lesser degree than any other tract of equal extent in southern India. At that period south-east Wynaad was a wild stretch of timber country, inhabited only by the jungle lines, and Mr. Ouchterlony plant introducing uphill work. In a letter to Government, written in 1860.

Mr. Ouchterlony describes his early struggles :

“I was inversely a colonist in the trial of coffee planting on the Nilgiri pitch near the Gudalur pass, where I first commenced the civilization. In a limited degree numerous of the features of a new colony were also presented there was no resident population within any accessible distance no papers of food to be had near the spot we had roads no police and no law save at courts too distant to be reached. Labour and food had in fact to be imported from a remote quarter, the first being only attained with difficulty, and also frequently spooked down by the solitude of the spot and an undermined dread of wrong in the minds of the coolies. Dubieties of success were indeed formed in the minds of utmost of those who had embarked with me in the enterprise, and who inescapably withdrew from it. But at length a bright issue attended the sweats, and I'll only say, let the changed aspect of the country around in respect of civilization tell what the effect has been on the general interests”

The Chief Natural enemies of Coffee Plant:

The fifties of the last century the principal bequests were opened in South-East Wynaad—a similar starting slip-up being made here as in other espresso locale, viz. the choice of land in the weighty backwoods on the peak of the Ghats, where, attributable to the gigantic precipitation during the south-west storm, and their uncovered position, numerous properties surrendered. In such circumstances the main adversaries of espresso, the **Dark Bug** (*Lecaniimi espresso*), the **Drill** (*Xylotrechusquadupes*) and **Leaf Illness** (*Hemeleia vastatrix*), can't be battled effectively. Further, the land being steep and the weeding having been finished with that execute of torment the mamotie, all the surface soil was in an exceptionally brief time frame washed down to the valleys beneath, so those Ghat homes which had endured the assaults of the adversaries named above were soon in a parlous condition, with yearly yields quickly moving toward the disappearing point. Ten years or so later, homes were opened in the belt of lighter deciduous wilderness between the Ghats and the foot of the Nilgiri level. Here the dirt is more extravagant, the land more shielded, and the precipitation definitely not exactly on the Ghats and right now, the main espresso bequests in South-East Wynaad are grouped round **Nellakota**.

“Gold Mining” The Enemy of Coffee Plant:

The main adversaries of espresso Plant: maybe a more strong adversary was the unfortunate gold blast that writhed South-East Wynaad in the mid 'eighties. In pre-mining days Devala, Pundalur, and Cherambadi were generally huge establishing focuses. Indeed, even before the appearance of the gold organizations, a portion of the bequests on the Ghats were very nearly annihilation, while others had seen their greatest days yet there were as yet many fine properties in presence, the majority of which were procured by the mining organizations. Beginning from Devala, the Harewood, Kintail, Strathearn and **Maryland Estates** were purchased by the Devala-Moyar Company, Richmond, Downham, and Elisabeth, by the South-East Wynaad Company, Kingston by an organization of that name which never got similar to real mining, Trevelyan, Limerick, and Dingley Dell by the **Trevelyan Company**, Needle rock by the **Needierock Company**. Toward the south. Diligence was purchased by the Company of comparable name ; Sheardale, Hamsluck, Hamslade, and Adelphi were procured by an organization of whose set of experiences Balcarres, Dunbar, Henrietta, Phoenix, Lytton, Rosedell, and St. Thome were purchased by the Indian Consolidated Company, Glenrock, Adeline, Caroline, and Yellaman by the Glenrock Company. At Cherambadi, the Wentworth Gold Mining Company procured the Llewellyn, Chanthanam, Kanambyle, Barbrick, Cherambadi, and Wentworth Estates. A large portion of these properties were basically deserted from the hour of their exchange to the different gold organizations, who beset with auri sacra notorieties took no regard of their fine espresso. On others, a misrepresentation of development was kept up with for some brief period, and afterward the espresso was racked. The Wentworth Company, likely perceiving the way that they were digging for gold in pegmatite jump started out into cinchona development for a huge scope, just to find, when the trees were experienced, that the cost of bark had dropped to a figure which made shipment unremunerative and the domain was then deserted.

Conclusion:

As a result of this wholesale neglect,, the weeds soon overtopped the espresso, and as these became dry as kindling in the sweltering climate, fire got in when the slopes were copied by the yearly custom, and the development was effectively annihilated that over a space of perhaps 10,000 sections of land, once covered with fields of shiny, all around kept espresso, not one single tree remains. For many miles, only a wearisome ocean of dkubbay grass denotes the site of what were grinning bequests the Ghat woodland from the Sulimallai edge to Henrietta and onwards to Phoenix and Glenrock pointedly characterizing the constraint of the old development on the south. To a great extent, on some directing ridge, a lichen-shrouded chimney stack transcends the knot of lantana sole relics of the lodges involved by the bright, affable grower in a long time ago, when espresso was the best. I significantly question whether elsewhere in India a scene of such utter devastation could be found as is introduced by this piece of South-East Wynaad—this wild made by the failed search later gold. Some place about the last part of the seventies came the cinchona blast.

Quinine was then selling in London at twelve shillings for every ounce, and grower surged head-first into the development of cinchona. Those couple of who had set aside time by the forelock and made enormous nurseries, procured little fortunes by the offer of plants. The assortment primarily filled in Wynaad was succirubra, and it thrived eminently. Ledgeriana, a far more extravagant animal varieties, was additionally taken a stab at an impressive scale, yet it never made a great tree. The ones who got in early saw their financial records go up huge amounts at a time. A companion of mine cleared 5,000 in one year from just a little real estate of succirubra. Be that as it may, the blast was of brief term. In Ceylon, the espresso had been cleared out by leaf sickness, and the grower had gone in for cinchona for a gigantic scope in the work to recover themselves. All Java was cinchona. With over-creation came the unavoidable drop in cost, and it accompanied alarming abruptness. Twelve shillings for each ounce in **1878**, ten shillings in **1882**, seven shillings in **1884**, two shillings in 1888, down tumbled costs head-first ; and before the seven years which a cinchona needs to develop had slipped by, for most men the development had stopped to be beneficial. Wynaad surrendered, Ceylon did as well ; yet Java, where the business was encouraged all around by the Government, and each work made, not exclusively to expand the yield, yet to limit development to trees wealthy in the alkaloids, has continued ; and to-day, with her fine estates giving bark with a thirteen or fourteen percent, examination she leads the market and makes a fine thing of cinchona development, however the current cost of the medication is just 7 per ounce. The huge cinchona domains in Wynaad had similar destiny as espresso when the gold mines were in the ascendant. They were permitted to get high in weeds, fire sneaked in, and finished their annihilation.

Much of the time, in the race to plant, fine espresso domains had been interplanted with cinchona. At the point when the trees grew up, it was observed that they made too thick a shade for espresso, and furthermore that the last option nauseated, as the ground couldn't uphold the two items. Cinchona being at this point useless, grower were currently as anxious to dispose of the trees as they had been before to set up them, and on blended homes the cinchona was savagely evacuated. In 1901 and 1902 came a little blast in succirubra bark, caused obviously by an interest for cinchonidine (the succirubra assortment, however similarly poor in quinine, being wealthy in different alkaloids), and this completed the historical backdrop of cinchona in Wynaad. Each fix that had been sufficiently fortunate to endure was uncovered for the root bark and to-day there are likely not 100 sections of land under cinchona in all South-East Wynaad.

Of the full domain, espresso is created in around **7456 hectares** and concerned the subsequent one position resulting just to tea inside the outright region advanced. Half of the coffee is developed in Gudalur rectangular. Espresso Board is the sole pooling mindfulness and promoting work environment for espresso. The biological system realm of the Gudalur area is in a very world fitting for espresso improvement. The coffee board is engaging replanting and new planting to override the steadfast old home. **NABARD** is correctly serious about creating coffee estates.

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