



PA 135

LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF "CONILON" COFFEE YIELD FROM PLANTS PROPAGATED BY CUTTINGS AND SEEDS

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World coffee production in recent years has been around 7.5 to 8 million Ton, mostly in developing countries, supplying the total national demand, providing local employment and promoting rural development, with Brazil as the largest world producer and exporter. In 2011, the Brazilian coffee production was 2.61 million Ton, on a cultivated area of 2.3 million ha, with a total of 6,400 millions coffee trees. The objective of this work was to evaluate in a long-term experiment of 11 years the yield of *C. canephora* cv. Conilon plants implanted both from seed or cuttings, in Vila Valério, Espírito Santo, Brazil, analyzing possible differences among them along that period.

The experiment was performed in randomized complete block design, with two treatments (seedlings originated from seeds and cuttings), and 12 replicates with five plants per plot, implanted by 2 x 1 m, in November 1999. The plant production was analyzed along a 11 year period, from 2001 (17 months) until 2011 (137 months).

The production from the plants obtained from cuttings was higher until the 10th harvest (although not significantly in the 3rd, 5th and 6th), except for the 7th and 9th, where plants propagated from seeds presented marginal (not significantly), as observed also in the 11th harvest.

Although in the last 7 harvests only two were significantly higher in cutting plants, the accumulated production over a 11 year yields in this plants was higher in ca. 6200 kg ha⁻¹, when compared with plants implanted from seed over the same period. That reflects a strong yield advantage in the first years of production of crop implanting using cuttings instead of seeds. Nevertheless, our results showed as well that for longer periods that effect on yield became negligible.