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Ecophysiological diversity of wild *Coffea arabica* populations in Ethiopia: Drought adaptation mechanisms

Drought is a limiting factor widespread in *Coffea arabica* production, and the development of adapted cultivars is hampered by the extremely narrow genetic base of the plant material used in breeding. This study provides an ecophysiological analysis of wild coffee populations in response to climatic gradients in Ethiopia that represents the center of genetic diversity of the species. The great variability in drought adaptation emphasizes the importance of the wild coffee populations as a unique and valuable genetic resource with a high potential for breeding. *In-situ* conservation within the species' evolutionary and dynamic natural habitats is recommended, which allows the preservation of stress tolerant genes as the species evolves in the changing environments.