

The pollination process in coffee is completed within 6 to 8 hours after the flower opening in bright light and warm windy conditions. Whereas the process of fertilization will be completed within 24 to 48 hours after pollination. Therefore, rain on blossom day is not good for fruit set in coffee and the extent of impact will depend on the time and duration of rain.



Robusta flowering normally occurs on 8th day. In Arabica flowering occurs in a phased manner on 8th, 9th and 10th day (20%, 50% and 30%).



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT COFFEE



Robusta coffee is a cross pollinating plant which uses pollen from another plant. **Arabica coffee** is a self-pollinating plant which uses the pollen of the flowers from the same plant.

Blossom irrigation at 25 to 40 mm is to be given during the second fortnight of February followed by **backing irrigation** of 25 mm water within a gap of 15 to 20 days after blossom.

Sprinkler irrigation results in a two fold increase in length of laterals due to increase in number of nodes and intermodal length, increase in leaf area by 45%, improved nutrient uptake and uniform ripening of berries. Providing blossom and backing irrigation alone improved yields by 48 to 57% and continuous irrigation thought out dry period gave a yield increase of 85 to 95% over un irrigated plots in Robusta coffee.

