

# Hill farmers turn to coffee for better earnings

MONG SING HAI MARMA,  
Bandarban

Farmers in the hilly areas under the Chimbuk range in Bandarban are gradually shifting from traditional jhum cultivation to coffee farming, driven by better market prospects and higher returns.

For decades, nearly 90 percent of people from the indigenous communities in the CHT depended on jhum. Declining soil fertility, shrinking land, scarcity of water, low yields, and increasing population pressure have now pushed many towards more profitable options.

Arabica, Robusta, and Chandragiri varieties are being cultivated, with growers saying coffee requires simple management, carries lower disease risk, and is easy to market without syndicate control.

Farmers say the Chandragiri variety offers higher yields and is gaining ground.

A recent visit to Chimbuk hill, about 26 kilometres from Bandarban town and 2,500 feet above sea level, found vast mixed orchards in Babuchhara Para under ward-9 of Taracha Union in Rowangchhari upazila.

Coffee plants were seen growing alongside mango, pomelo, dragon fruit, and litchi, with rows of red and green cherries colouring the



PHOTO: STAR

slopes. Local growers sell ripe cherries to companies in Dhaka at Tk 200 per kilogramme.

Farmers such as Chamlang Mro, Jongsom Mro, Langring Mro, Rumkhan Mro, Zangoi Mro,

Tumrao Mro, Kaing Oi Mro, Kolai Mro, and Chongkhan Mro -- once dependent on jhum -- said coffee has changed their fortunes.

"Last year, I made Tk 1.5 lakh

from coffee alone. This year, I have

hired three workers for harvesting

coffee from Ethiopia, Brazil, and

other countries.

"Local growers here get fair

prices because there is no market

from jhum after poor yields. "This year I expect around 1,000 kg yield, which should generate around Tk 2 lakh in earnings," he said.

Taidu Ram Tripura, who has

worked with coffee cultivation

in the region for 16 years after

receiving training abroad, said

demand remains high at home

and abroad.

As local production is still

insufficient, Bangladesh imports

coffee from Ethiopia, Brazil, and

other countries.

"Local growers here get fair

prices because there is no market

syndicate," he said.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension in Bandarban, coffee was cultivated on 544 hectares in the 2024-25 fiscal year, producing 122.06 tonnes.

Abu Naim Mohammad Saifuddin, deputy director of the DAE in Bandarban, said, "We began with just 586 growers under a project. Now, 1,930 people are engaged in coffee cultivation, which continues to expand steadily due to its profitability and because it allows growers to cultivate other fruits alongside it in mixed orchards."

Yong Chong Mro said he shifted

from jhum to coffee in 2010.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.

He said coffee cultivation is

more profitable than jhum.</p