COFFEE

January: Continue cut back programme on old, unthrifty, low producing coffee trees. Cut to a height of 15-20 inches above the ground. Cover cut surfaces with anti-fungal paint; control weeds, pests and diseases especially in young coffee; complete fertilizing coffee in production; complete Coffee Berry Borer control; if reaping is completed, strip trees of all remaining berries; collect fallen berries and bury or burn all that cannot be used.

February: Complete cut back programme on old, unthrifty, low producing coffee trees. Select land for spring planting; start preparation, i.e. clearing, lining, digging holes or furrows and add organic manure; check for slug damage then do shoot selection in cutback plants; control weeds mechanically or chemically; take care of young shoots and lateral branches when using weedicides; complete stripping and collection of fallen berries; bury or burn all that cannot be used; examine young berries and notify your extension officer if there are signs of Borer damage.

March: Refill holes with soil, sand, organic manure by mixing thoroughly, then add 8 ounces of coffee planting mixture (8:21:32) or triple superphosphate in the upper inches of the hole; complete shoot selection on cutback; do topping at 3'-6"-4'-6" on young coffee plants; control pests and diseases if necessary; continue to examine young berries for signs of Berry Borer damage.

April: Start spring planting if rainfall is good. If there are 2 seedlings per pot, plant the 2 seedlings per hole in an upright position; seedlings 10 months old and over should be planted at a 45 degree angle in the direction in which the wind blows or across the contour; seedlings 9 months and under should be planted upright; where seedlings have been planted one per hole, bend plants in the fall of the previous year to a 45 degree angle so as to produce a multiple shoot system (averaging 3 shoots). Fertilize trees in production with 8-16 ozs. N.P.K. (15:5:35 or 23:10:20 or 16:9:18) depending on the age and condition of the trees and the soil type in which they are grown; prepare to assist the spray team when they come to spray your field. Reap all mature fruit before spraying is done.

May: Continue spring planting with good rainfall. Put in permanent shade trees (spacing 40 ft x 40 ft.) in plot established in the fall of the previous year. Complete fertilizer programme. Control pests and diseases; select single shoot from topped plants; assist the spray team; provide water to mix chemicals; remove animals from your coffee field: keep windows, doors and all water containers closed during, and for 2 hours after spraying.

June: Fertilize seedlings planted in the spring with 4-6 oz sulphate of ammonia or 2-3 oz urea. Start inter-cropping programme with grains, yams and vegetables between coffee rows; establish temporary shade with plantains or bananas, spacing 20 ft x 7 ft.

July: Complete fertilizing of seedlings planted in May or June. Inspect trees for stress signs and add extra quantities of fertilizer if necessary; inspect lands for fall planting; control pests and diseases; continue to assist your spray team and observe all safety measures; examine your coffee for signs of ripening, and contact your coffee officer. Continued on page 36
“A good deed is something one returns”

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**August:** Start land preparation, i.e. clearing, digging holes, adding organic manure (chicken manure, coffee pulp, sludge or farmyard manure). Reap only cherry ripe berries to ensure good quality. **NB:** Do not destroy branches while reaping as a good crop is needed every year; control weeds, pests (rats included) and diseases; select shoots from bent plants; reap your coffee 14 days after spraying has been completed.

**September:** Continue to reap cherry ripe coffee with care. Complete refilling holes by adding 8 ozs. coffee planting mixture (8:21:32) or triple superphosphate to mixture of soil and organic manure; start fall planting if rainfall is good.

**October:** Remember if there are 2 seedlings per pot, plant 2 seedlings per hole and in an upright position; continue fall planting by selecting and planting mature seedlings at 45 degree angle if there is one seedling per pot; establish permanent shade in open and exposed areas in plots established in the spring. Control pests and diseases; continue reaping.

**November:** Complete fall planting; fertilize seedlings planted in September and October with 4-6 oz. sulphate of ammonia or 2-3 oz urea; fertilize seedlings planted in the spring with 8 oz N.P.K 15:5:35. Inter-crop with vegetables, pulses etc. (No corn, sweet potato or pigeon peas). Plant bananas and/or plantains as temporary shade; or companion crop. Fertilize plants for cutback with 16 oz sulphate of ammonia or 8 oz urea. Control weeds, pests and diseases. After harvesting is completed, start removing dry berries from your coffee trees.

**December:** Start cutting back; remove foliage with cutlass, make final cut with saw 12-15 ins at 45 degree angle, cover with anti-fungal paint. Fertilize trees in production with 16 oz N.P.K. 15:5:35 or 23:10:20 or 16:9:18 and 8 oz of sulphate of ammonia if necessary depending on age and condition of the soil type in which they are grown; control weeds, pests and diseases. After harvesting is completed, strip trees of all remaining berries; collect fallen berries from the ground and burn all that cannot be used.