Modeling the responses of Coffee (Coffea arabica L.) distribution to current and future climate change in Jimma Zone, Ethiopia

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ABSTRACT

Coffee arabica species have already been affected by climate change, with socioeconomic implications. Smallholder farmers have encountered and will continue to confront issues in maintaining their coffee plants' productivity. This study aimed to determine which bioclimatic characteristics are most beneficial to coffee production in current and future climate change scenarios. The responses of coffee distribution to climatic conditions were studied under the current, moderate representative concentration (RCP4.5), and worst representative concentration (RCP8.5) pathways using a bioclimatic modelling approach or the Maxent model. Multiple regression models (path and response optimizers) were used to parameterize and optimize the logistic outputs of plant distribution. Results showed that climatic factors such as total precipitation, precipitation seasonality, and mean temperature are the most important climatic factors in determining the success of C. arabica farming. Under the current conditions, total precipitation significantly benefits C. arabica whereas precipitation seasonality significantly affects it (P < 0.001). In the current condition, coffee responded neither negatively nor positively to the mean temperature, but positively in RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. It would also respond positively to increased total precipitation under RCP4.5 but negatively to rising precipitation under the RCP8.5. The average five top-optimal multiple responses of C. arabica were 75.8, 77, and 70% for the present, RCP4.5, and RCP8.5, respectively. The positive response of C. arabica to bioclimatic variables in the RCP4.5 scenario is projected to be much bigger than in the present and RCP4.5 scenarios (P < 0.001). As precipitation and temperature-related variables increase, the cultivation of C. arabica will increase by 1.2% under RCP4.5 but decrease by 5.6% under RCP8.5. A limited number of models and environmental factors were used in this study, suggesting that intensive research into other environmental aspects is needed using different models.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Coffee is one of the most important major agricultural commodities traded across the world. It is mostly farmed by 25–30 million smallholder farmers in around 80 tropical nations (Aderolu et al., 2014). The countries include Ethiopia, Indonesia, Brazil, and Costa Rica as the best coffee-growing countries (Bliss, 2017). However, the majority of the global yield comes from the top five producing countries, including Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Ethiopia (Coffee: World Markets and Trade, 2019; Funk et al., 2012). Ethiopia is the first C. arabica producer from Africa with a 39% share and is the 5th country in the world with a nearly 2% share, and the annual coffee production of the country ranges from 200 to 250 thousand tons (Chauhan et al., 2015; Gray & Brady, 2016).

Coffee is an important component of the overall economy and a major source of foreign currency for many coffee-producing countries (Samper & Quiñones-Ruiz, 2017). More than 125 million families rely on the coffee industry to better their living conditions (Bliss, 2017). In Ethiopia, coffee production and marketing play a basic part in the social and financial lives of the country’s population (Alemayehu, 2015; Minten et al., 2014). It contributes about 44% of the country’s
foreign exchange (Aderolu et al., 2014), 10% of the gross domestic product, and over 25% of the populace of Ethiopia depend on coffee for their livelihoods (Woldesenbet et al., 2015). Coffee is also ingrained in the socio-cultural fabric of the society. The consumption habits of coffee are perfectly matched to modern lifestyles, making it an essential commodity in the daily lives of a vast section of the world’s population (Vegro & de Almeida, 2020). In Ethiopia, more than half of all the coffee produced in the country is drunk by the people, who utilize it not just to stimulate their minds but also to develop social capital and exchange information (Amamo, 2014; USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, 2019).

Bioclimatic predictors are the ones that are the most closely linked to a species’ physiological process. They provide information on temperature and precipitation conditions on a monthly, seasonal, and annual basis (O’Donnel & Ignizio, 2012). Seasonal climatic conditions affect the bioclimatology of many plants in different ways (Chiou et al., 2015). Preseason warmer winters, for example, delay budburst and flowering greatly, whereas cold winter temperatures significantly encourage most plants to release budburst and flowering (Svoboda & Fuchs, 2017). Rainfall availability, in addition to temperature, has a significant impact on plant bioclimatology and is extremely important to climate change (Pohlan & Janssens, 2010). It is the primary factor that frequently regulates plant bioclimatology (Song et al., 2016). Rainfall is responsible for dissolving minerals and carbohydrates and transporting them through the plants and controlling the degree of photosynthesis (Brázdil et al., 2015; Potopová et al., 2015).

Increases and decreases in these bioclimatic factors are equally relevant when dragged on a specific _C. arabica_ (Moraes et al., 2010). Many coffee-growing areas have already seen temperatures much beyond the mild temperature range of 18 to 22°C, which is normally best for coffee production with annual total precipitation of 800 to 1200 mm (Camargo, 2010). Temperatures are expected to rise by about 2 degrees Celsius on average globally until the mid-century (Steffen et al., 2018). This rising temperature scenario may cause the current coffee locations to change. The higher temperatures, extended droughts, and severe rains and frosts have a variety of effects on coffee production, ranging from shrinking coffee-growing regions to increasing pest and disease pressure (Bunn, 2015). It can limit the crop plant’s physiological range, limiting its distribution to varying degrees (Deribe, 2019; Somarriba & López Sampson, 2018). Under high temperatures, _C. arabica_ is exposed to high irradiance and absorbs far more energy than what is required for photosynthesis, resulting in energy overpressure and, commonly, leaf overheating (Moraes et al., 2010). Significant coffee crop production losses and substantial reductions in areas suitable for the coffee landscape will also be caused by the end of the current century (Moat et al., 2017) and even the extinction of wild populations of _C. arabica_ are all related to the impacts of rising air temperatures (Davis et al., 2012).

Despite Ethiopia’s significant socio-economic benefits from coffee, climate change’s impact on _C. arabica_ farming has gotten little attention until recently. Examining the impact of bioclimates across time is therefore beneficial to species conservation. This can give biologists and ecologists more useful and multi-scaled climate data to assist studies on species’ responses to the changing climatic conditions. The goal of this study was to apply machine learning algorithms to evaluate the reaction of the _C. arabica_ distribution to bioclimatic variables and determine the best setting for each bioclimatic factor for present and future climate change scenarios.

![Figure 1. Map of the study area](image-url)
2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Description of the study area

The study was conducted in the Jimma Zone in Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia. Jimma is one of the country’s major coffee-producing administrative zones. It is located 357 kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa. It is situated between 7.13° and 8.56° N and 35.49° and 38.38° E and has an elevation of 871–3231 m above sea level (Fig. 1).

Southwest Ethiopia has a tropical climate. However, because of the highlands (mainly over 1000 meters), it may be categorized as cool-tropical (Moat et al., 2017). The Jimma zone is characterized by a cool-tropical highland climate featuring heavy precipitation, warm temperatures, and a protracted rainy season. According to conventional agro-ecological zonation, there are three primary climatic zones, namely subtropical, tropical, and temperate zones, with 78, 10, and 12% coverage, respectively (National Meteorological Services Agency, 2005). The annual rainfall ranges from 1,200 mm to 2,500 mm, with an average annual minimum and maximum temperatures of 11°C and 28°C, respectively. Twelve of the twenty districts are highly notable for coffee production, demonstrating how vital the crop is to local and rural residents’ livelihoods (Diro et al., 2019).

2.2. Data collection

2.2.1. Species location data

Two hundred twenty-four geographical coordinates or points of data where C. arabica are found were acquired through field surveys, literature reviews, and online sources; the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) database, which can be accessed at http://www.gbif.org. This gathered location data was organized into three columns: species, longitude, and latitude, as stated by Kwon et al. (2019). The spatially auto-correlated data was tested to reduce numerous data points within 25 square kilometers into a single point to avoid the model’s overfitting to environmental bias (Boria et al., 2014).

2.2.2. Climatic data

The Paleoclimate database was used to retrieve historical bio-climatic variables recorded at a high resolution of 30 seconds between 1979 and 2013. It’s a free resource that displays surface temperature and precipitation gauges from the General Circulation Model at http://www.paleoclim.org. The GCM outputs were scaled down to include verified sources that can shed light on the recent past and biological proxies, and biases were addressed (Brown et al., 2018; Karger et al., 2017). However, future bioclimatic data that was recorded from 2041 to 2060 was downloaded from the WorldClim dataset, available at http://www.worldclim.org. This data was also produced by global climate models (GCMs) (Fick & Hijmans, 2017). The RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 climate change scenarios from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s fifth assessment report (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014) were used for this study. The averages of bioclimatic variables were obtained from four models, such as ACCESS1-0; GFDL-ESM2G; HadGEM2-AO, and HadGEM2-ES). These models have a low degree of interdependency, allowing for a more accurate representation of uncertainty in climate projections (Karger et al., 2017).

These variables included: Annual mean temperature (Bio1), Mean diurnal range (Bio2), Isothermality (Bio3), Temperature seasonality (Bio4), Max temperature of the warmest month (Bio5), Min temperature of the coldest month (Bio6), Temperature annual range (Bio7), Mean temperature of the wettest quarter (Bio8), Mean temperature of the driest quarter (Bio9), Mean temperature of warmest quarter (Bio10), Mean temperature of coldest quarter (Bio11), Total annual precipitation (Bio12), Precipitation of wettest month (Bio13), Precipitation of driest month (Bio14), Precipitation seasonality (Bio15), Precipitation of wettest quarter (Bio16), Precipitation of driest quarter (Bio17), Precipitation of warmest quarter (Bio18), and Precipitation of coldest quart (Bio19).

2.3. Data preparation

Prior to machine learning, each dataset was pre-arranged according to the format of the Maxent model. Global environmental layers are raster files, so that they were first extracted into a study area before being converted to the format of the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII). The correlation between the 19 bioclimatic variables was investigated, and then, 9 variables having absolute values of the correlation coefficient of less than 0.5 (R < 0.5) was maintained for model training (Phillips & Dudik, 2008). Both environmental variables and sample species’ geographical location were then, translated into a projected coordinate system, using ArcMap software (Paquit, 2019). The two sets of data were uploaded when all of the necessary steps had been completed, and the Maxent model was run following the steps described in Paquit (2019).
2.3.1. Model validation

The model’s performance was assessed by plotting a sensitivity vs specificity graph following the procedure of Phillips et al. (2017) and producing ROC statistics. The Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve is defined using the Area Under the Curve (AUC), which ranged from 0.5 to 1 (Halligan et al., 2015). According to Pearson and Dawson (2003), the AUC threshold was classified into five categories to characterize model performance in scientific methods. The model’s performance is said to be “excellent or perfect” if the value of AUC is equal to 1, “very good” if the AUC’s value is less than 1 and greater than or equal to 0.9, “good” if the AUC’s value is less than 0.9 and greater or equal to 0.8, “fair” if the AUC’s value is less than 0.8 and greater or equal to 0.7, and “poor or fail” if the AUC’s value is less than 0.7. A random ranking has a mean of 0.5 AUC value. Thus, a higher AUC value shows the greatest model performance for distinguishing between affected and non-affected species’ environments (Mas et al., 2013).

2.4. Statistical analyses

After modeling the species distribution, the logistic outputs of the species distribution from the Maxent model were subjected to multiple regression models using Amos and Minitab software to assess coffee plant responses to combined effects of bioclimatic variables and to determine the optimal setting of these parameters for the coffee plants.

2.4.1. Multiple responses analyses

Multiple response analyses were carried out for *C. arabica* as a response variable and bio-climatic factors as explanatory variables, reflecting plant dispersion under current and future bioclimatic change. This statistical study was conducted utilizing the Analysis of Moment Structures (Amos) program version 23. The chi-square statistic (Chi² and P-value) were employed to assess the quality of model fit, where the lower the chi-square and the higher the P-values associated with the chi-square, the better the model fit (Cuneen & Tobar, 2015; McHugh, 2013).

2.4.2. Multiple responses optimization

A multiple regression optimizer was used to evaluate the best responses of *C. arabica* to bio-climatic factors using Minitab’s response optimizer tool. Response optimization is a technique for discovering the best combination of factors and settings for a single or a series of response variables. This is important for determining the impacts of various bioclimatic factors on *C. arabica* cultivation. For the optimization, plots were created for *C. arabica* vs bioclimatic variable based on current, RCP4.5, and RCP8.5 scenarios of the 2050s. Before computing response optimization for each climatic scenario, the goodness of fit of the model was assessed using R-squared. R-Squared is a statistical measure of fit that indicates how much variation in a dependent variable in a regression model is explained by the variation in independent variable(s) (Gelman et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2017). The goodness-of-fit test is characterized by the difference between the actual and predicted values in the model description (Wan & Davis, 2020). If the R-squared value is less than 0.3, it is typically regarded to have no or very weak impact size. If the R-squared value is greater than 0.3 and less or equal to 0.5, the effect size is deemed weak or lower; if the R-squared value is greater than 0.5 and less or equal to 0.7, the impact size is considered moderate; and if the R-squared value is greater than 0.7, the impact size is considered strong (Moore, 2001).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Models’ performance evaluations results

3.1.1. MaxEnt model

The validation test results showed that the model worked well, with accuracy levels of more than 80% under all of the climate change scenarios studied. Its accuracy level was classified as “good” as enough to discriminate between coffee settings influenced by climate change and those that were not, according to the findings (Fig. 2). The model training and test outcomes exhibited mean AUC values of 0.805 (80.5%) and 0.801 (80.1%), respectively, under the present conditions. Similarly, the mean AUC values for the model training and test outcomes using the RCP4.5 scenario were 0.805 (80.5%) and 0.821 (82.1%), respectively, whereas they were 0.802 (80.2%) and 0.815 (81.5%) for the RCP8.5 scenario.

Table 1. Contributions of bioclimatic variables to the Maxent model as a percentage

| Code | Bioclimatic Variables                      | Current  | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
|------|-------------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Bio1 | Annual mean temperature                   | 3.7      | 7.4    | 10.3   |
| Bio3 | Isothermality                             | 5.7      | 3.3    | 3.1    |
| Bio4 | Temperature seasonality                    | 3.1      | 4.2    | 0.4    |
| Bio7 | Annual temperature range                  | 0.5      | 0.9    | 1.2    |
| Bio12| Total annual precipitation                | 55.1     | 62.8   | 64.8   |
| Bio13| Precipitation of the wettest month        | 0.9      | 5.4    | 5.5    |
| Bio15| Precipitation seasonality                 | 17       | 8.1    | 8.8    |
| Bio18| Precipitation of the warmest quarter      | 5.4      | 2.2    | 1      |
| Bio19| Precipitation of the warmest quarter      | 8.5      | 5.7    | 4.9    |
19 variables were determined and significantly associated with 48, 0.783, and 0.835, respectively. This indicated that the unconstrained model fitted the data very well. Because all of the Chi-square was minimal and the p-values were statistically insignificant, the model's fit test was appropriate to simulate C. arabica’s distribution response to bioclimatic variables (McHugh, 2013). Response optimizer Model: Similarly, the model’s quality of fit to simulate the response and predictor variables is indicated by the R-square analysis. As a result, the R-squared values for current, RCP4.5, and RCP8.5, respectively, were 64.98 %, 70.14 %, and 73.75 %, indicating that bioclimatic had a moderate impact on C. arabica in Current and a large impact in RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 climate change scenarios. To put it another way, the error variance of coffee under each of the three climatic conditions would be around 33%, 27%, and 32% of the variation in the coffee itself, respectively.

### 3.2. Climatic variables’ contributions to the model’s performance

Table 1 demonstrates how each bioclimatic variable affects the model’s performance under the present and RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 of the 2050s climate change scenarios. The results revealed that each of the variables offered the most important information for the model’s performance under all climate change scenarios. In the current and 2050s RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 climate change scenarios, the percentage contributions of total precipitation (Bio12) were determined to be 55.1%, 62.8%, and 64.8%, respectively. The percentage contributions of precipitation seasonality (Bio15) were determined to be 17%, 8.1%, and 8.8%, respectively, under present and 2050s RCP4.5 and RCP8.5. Annual mean temperature (Bio) contributed 3.7%, 7.4%, and 10.3% under current and predicted 2050s RCP4.5 and RCP8.5, respectively. This suggests that precipitation-related factors, in general, had a much bigger influence on C. arabica from 1979 to 2013, and will continue to have a significantly greater impact on the crop until the next 2050s, with total precipitation and precipitation seasonality in particular.

### 3.3. Responses of Coffee (Coffea arabica L.) to current and future bioclimatic factors

#### 3.3.1. Current response analyses

The model’s diagnostic results reveal an asymmetric relationship between coffee and bioclimatic parameters, with coffee having a positive relationship with some bioclimatic factors but a negative relationship with others. Coffee has been shown to be negated and significantly associated with precipitation in the warmest quarter (Bio18) and the coldest quarter (Bio19) over the last three decades, with maximum probability values of 0.01 and -0.001 (P < 0.05), respectively. This means that when the Bio18 and Bio19 variables were increased by one unit, C. arabica declined by 1% and 0.1%, respectively (P < 0.05). Changes in Bio18, in particular, exhibited a significant negative impact on C. arabica. It also exhibited a non-significant negative association with the yearly mean temperature (Bio1) at P < 0.05. Temperature seasonality (Bio4), annual temperature range (Bio7), total precipitation (Bio12), and precipitation seasonality (Bio15) were all shown to have a substantial and positive relationship with C. arabica. The maximum likelihoods’ values of the variables were 0.001, 0.008, 0.001, and 0.018, for Bio4, Bio7, Bio12, and Bio15, respectively. When Bio4, Bio7, Bio12, and Bio15 were grown in parallel to one unit, C. arabica distribution grew by 0.1%, 0.8%, 0.1%, and 1.8%, respectively (Table 2). Bio15 was the most important variable that trained the distribution of C. arabica, while Bio7 was the second most important variable.

The path model, on the other hand, quantifies the magnitude of each influence using normalized regression weight. The negative standardized regression weights between the coffee plant and explanatory variables were estimated to be -0.22, -0.20, and -0.48 for Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19, respectively. The numbers displayed on curved and straight arrows represent the coefficient of multi-co-linearity among the bioclimatic variables and standardized regression weights between the explanatory and the response variables, respectively.
respectively, under current climatic conditions, whereas the positive standardized regression weights, respectively, for Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, Bio12, and Bio19 were 0.09, 0.51, 0.47, 0.49, 0.22, and 0.67 (Table 2). When the explanatory factors rose by one standard deviation, the values of the standardized regression weights of the coffee distribution estimates dropped for negative values and rose for positive regression weights.

### 3.3.2. Future responses analysis under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 climate scenarios

In the RCP4.5, the association between *C. arabica* and bioclimatic variables was estimated to be significantly stronger ($P < 0.05$), except for total precipitation (Bio12) and precipitation in the warmest quarter (Bio18). In the next 2050s, *C. arabica* is expected to fall, with an increase in precipitation seasonality (Bio15), as well as precipitation in the warmest (Bio18), and coldest (Bio19) quarters. The maximum likelihood’s values of Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19 were estimated to be -0.018, -0.01, and -0.001, respectively (Table 2). This suggests that *C. arabica*’s cultivation will be significantly decreased by 1.8%, 0.1%, and 0.1%, respectively, when Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19 increase. On the other hand, *C. arabica* was promisingly associated with annual mean temperature (Bio1), isothermality (Bio3), temperature seasonality (Bio4), annual temperature ranges (Bio7), total precipitation (Bio12), and precipitation of the wettest months (Bio13). The maximum likelihood values for Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, Bio7, Bio12, and Bio13 were predicted to be 0.006, 0.055, 0.001, 0.006, and 0.005, respectively (Table 2), suggesting that percentage increases of *C. arabica* will be 0.6, 5.5, 0.1, 9.6, 0.2, and 0.5, respectively, when these variables are increased by one unit. Among these bioclimatic variables, annual temperature ranges (Bio7) will be the most variable factor in increasing *C. arabica* cultivation, followed by isothermality (Bio3).

### Table 2. *C. arabica* and bioclimatic factors multiple regression weights in Current (1979-2013)

| Predictor Variables | Maximum Likelihood | Standardized R weight | Standard Error. | Critical Ratio. | Sign |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| Bio1                | -0.014             | 0.09                  | 0.012          | -1.500         | 0.126|
| Bio3                | 0.070              | 0.51                  | 0.018          | 1.949          | 0.156|
| Bio4                | 0.001              | 0.41                  | 0.00           | 7.580          | ***  |
| Bio7                | 0.088              | 0.49                  | 0.002          | 4.397          | ***  |
| Bio12               | 0.001              | 0.22                  | 0.000          | 6.88           | ***  |
| Bio13               | 0.000              | 0.67                  | 0.000          | 1.000          | 0.924|
| Bio15               | 0.018              | -0.22                 | 0.003          | 5.275          | ***  |
| Bio18               | -0.010             | -0.20                 | 0.000          | -2.893         | 0.015*|
| Bio19               | -0.001             | -0.48                 | 0.001          | -3.639         | ***  |

**Note:** ***, **, and * indicates a significant relationship between response and explanatory variable at $\alpha = 0.001$, 0.01, and 0.05, respectively.

### Table 3. *C. arabica* and bioclimatic factors multiple regression weights in RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 (2041-2060)

| Predictor variables | Scenarios | Maximum Likelihood | Standard R. weight | Standard Error | Critical Ratio | Sign |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| Bio1                | RCP4.5   | 0.019              | 0.20               | 0.01           | -3.394         | 0.01**|
| Bio3                | RCP4.5   | 0.055              | 0.47               | 0.008          | 6.56           | ***  |
| Bio4                | RCP4.5   | -0.046             | 0.20               | 0.008          | 5.766          | ***  |
| Bio7                | RCP4.5   | 0.001              | 0.51               | 0.000          | 8.856          | ***  |
| Bio12               | RCP4.5   | 0.001              | 0.78               | 0.000          | 0.685          | 0.362|
| Bio18               | RCP4.5   | 0.07               | 0.22               | 0.025          | 3.758          | ***  |
| Bio19               | RCP4.5   | 0.002              | -4.31              | 0.001          | -3.048         | 0.01**|
| Bio1                | RCP4.5   | 0.005              | -1.97              | 0.000          | -4.572         | ***  |
| Bio3                | RCP4.5   | -0.007             | 5.30               | 0.001          | 2.50           | 0.621|
| Bio4                | RCP4.5   | -0.018             | 2.91               | 0.001          | -5.909         | ***  |
| Bio7                | RCP4.5   | 0.02               | 1.26               | 0.003          | -5.275         | ***  |
| Bio12               | RCP4.5   | -0.001             | 1.13               | 0.003          | 6.178          | ***  |
| Bio18               | RCP4.5   | -0.001             | -0.35              | 0.000          | -1.298         | 0.122|
| Bio19               | RCP4.5   | -0.001             | -0.20              | 0.000          | -2.838         | 0.01**|

**Note:** ***, **, and * indicates a significant relationship between response and explanatory variable at $\alpha = 0.001$, 0.01, and 0.05, respectively.

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In the RCP8.5, the changes in informative factors of Bio3, Bio12, Bio13, Bio18, and Bio19 would be expected to exert an important pressure on C. arabica cultivation (P < 0.05). The probability values of coffee production were assessed to be -0.046, -0.004, -0.007, -0.001, and -0.001 for Bio3, Bio12, Bio13, Bio18, and Bio19, respectively. This implies that increasing each of those variables by one unit reduces the C. arabica cultivation by 4.6%, 2%, 0.4%, 0.7%, 0.1%, and 0.1%, respectively. However, the promising effects of climatological factors on coffee cultivation are expected as a result of an increase in Bio1, Bio4, Bio7, and Bio15. Once every climatology issue increases by one unit, C. arabica is expected to increase by 1.19%, 4.6%, 6.3%, and 2%, respectively, for Bio1, Bio4, Bio7, and Bio7 (Table 3).

Furthermore, the standardized regression weights, which disclose the standard deviation of the covariates, show that C. arabica reacted to predictive bioclimatic components unexpectedly. The values of standard regression weight for RCP4.5 were 0.07, 0.47, 0.51, 0.22, -4.31, 5.30, 1.26, 0.20, and 0.18 for Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, Bio12, Bio13, Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19, respectively. Additionally, the standardized regression weights under RCP8.5 were estimated to be 0.20, 0.78, 0.77, 0.73, 1.97, 2.91, 1.13, -0.35, and -0.21 for Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, Bio12, Bio13, Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19 (Table 3).

### 3.4. Optimization of bioclimatic variable for coffee (Coffea arabica L.) cultivation

Fig. 5 shows the response lines or curves between C. arabica and explanatory factors for current and RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 climate change scenarios of the 2050s. The red line in each bio-climatic graph demonstrates the prerequisites of bioclimatic factors for optimum C. arabica production.

#### 3.4.1. Current response optimization

The optimal setups of eligible factors for C. arabica cultivation are displayed in Table 4. Seven influential bioclimatic parameters such as Bio3, Bio4, Bio7, and Bio12, Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19 were optimized for response variables, while Bio1 and Bio13 were reserved from the model since they had no assisted information on the likelihood of coffee cultivation under present climate conditions. The five bio-climatic variables that increased the likelihood of C. arabica cultivation were as follows: 76.33–77.05% for Bio3, 1039–1085.27% for Bio4, 19.77–20.05°C for Bio7, 1649.18–1871 mm for Bio12, 61.63–67.03 for Bio15, 383.54–447.75 mm for Bio18, and 378.45–502.30 mm for Bio19 (Table 4). The maximum probability distribution of C. arabica was achieved at 82% when all bioclimatic variables were measured concurrently at Bio3; 1075.01%, Bio4; 20.09°C, Bio7; 20.09°C, Bio12; 1871.40 mm, Bio1; 567.03%, Bio1; 8436.21 mm, and 502.37 mm of Bio19. If the parameters exceed or drop further beyond these indicated limits, the coffee crop distribution will be declined.

#### 3.4.2. Future response optimization

The top five optimal values of bioclimatic factors for maximum C. arabica production (72–83%) were also set under RCP4.5. The best values were estimated to be ranged between 22.50–23.17°C, 76–81%, 105.13–109.13%, 17.53–20.07°C, 1777.33–2192.67 mm, 319.3–376.33 mm, and 587–813 mm, respectively, for Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, Bio7, Bio12, Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19 (Table 5). The best values were estimated to be 82% when all bioclimatic variables were measured concurrently at Bio3; 1075.01%, Bio4; 20.09°C, Bio7; 20.09°C, Bio12; 1871.40 mm, Bio1; 567.03%, Bio1; 8436.21 mm, and 502.37 mm of Bio19. When these important factors are combined, they significantly help to increase C. arabica production at certain optimal levels for each component. However, it will be disabled in areas where the predictors are less than or more than these optimum levels, as decided by this predefined study (Table 5). Bio13 and Bio18 are flimsy variables that had little or no effect on future C. arabica and were eliminated from the model early on (Fig. 4b).

Similarly, the values of bio-climatic variables that were closer to the optimal solution were estimated as optimal settings of the input variables for predicting C. arabica distribution under the RCP8.5, as shown in Table 6. The maximum estimated probability values of the C. arabica distribution ranging from 67–75% were estimated to be found in landscapes with 23.50–23.80°C of Bio1, 72.67–75.53% of Bio3, 19.20–19.90°C of Bio7, 1685.67–1900 mm of Bio12, 315.33–343 mm of Bio13, 51.33–77.67% of Bio15, 180–364.33 mm of Bio18, and 369–943.33 mm of Bio19. This implies that above or below these optimal values of these explanatory variables the C. arabica cultivation would be reduced.
3. Coffee (Coffea arabica L.) response comparison analyses

*Coffea arabica*’s response comparison among the targeted climate change scenarios analysis results is shown in Fig. 6. The five top logistic output mean values reveal that there are significant differences in *C. arabica* distribution in the three climate change scenarios (P < 0.05). The mean values of logistic output in % were estimated to be 75.8, 77, and 70.2, respectively, under the current, RCP4.5, and RCP8.5 climate change scenarios. The mean difference between RCP4.5 and the current were 1.2%, between RCP8.5 and RCP4.5 it was 6.8%, and between RCP8.5 and current it was 5.6% (Fig. 6d, e, and f). The average value of *C. arabica* likelihood under RCP4.5 would be significantly higher than those under the current and RCP8.5 scenarios (P = 0.0003).

4. DISCUSSIONS

Because data inputs and methodological choices affect the dependability and usefulness of model predictions, it’s critical to evaluate the model’s accuracy and utility. In the present study, the Maxent was made to avoid data overfitting and underfitting and to have a low generalization error, which is a measure of how well it predicts. The precision with which Maxent and multiple regression models predict the
association of *C. arabica* species and bioclimatic data was assessed. All reflected a better understanding of the relationship between inputs and outputs under the three climate scenarios: current and RCP4.5, and RCP8.5 of the next 2050s. The maxEnt model’s threshold was significantly higher than the random model’s threshold (0.5). It performed well (greater than 80%) in distinguishing the presence and absence of the *C. arabica* species in all three scenarios. Total precipitation (Bio12), precipitation seasonality (Bio15), and annual mean temperature (Bio1) played a greater role in delivering the higher efficiency of the models. These results are consistent with numerous studies that found the Maxent Model’s accuracy levels to be between 80% and 90% in various research areas (Angelieri et al., 2016; Padalia et al., 2014; Pramanik et al., 2018; Qin et al., 2017).

Present results also indicate that the recruited Path model for response analyses has the capability to successfully define the association between *C. arabica* and bioclimatic factors. The chi-square values were lower while the p-values were higher (P > 0.05) for each climatological test (Fig. 3). This suggests that the regression model is effective in explaining the association between *C. arabica* and bioclimatic variables. These model evaluation results are in line with the observations of Melesse (2014), who reported the chi-square statistics such as P-values of 0.894 and chi-squared of 0.018 in his dissertation.

The multiple regression model also successfully performed the response optimization for *C. arabica* with the bioclimatic factors. The R-square, which represents the degree of variation in the response variables, indicates that the combined explanatory variables explain more than 64% of the variation in the coffee itself in each climate change scenario. During response optimization, the variables like Bio1 and Bio13 in the current scenario, Bio13 and Bio18 in the RCP4.5 scenario, and Bio4 in the RCP8.5 scenario were dropped from the model as the results of the variables had no significant contribution to the model’s goodness of fit (Fig. 4a, b, and c). The present model’s goodness of fit is more efficient than the result of Yuvaraj (2020), which showed 46.3% coefficient of determination (R2) while applying a regression model for the responsiveness of land surface temperature to the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDV) in North India using a regression model.

The MaxEnt model’s diagnostic results indicate that total precipitation (Bio12), precipitation seasonality (Bio15), and annual mean temperature (Bio1) were shown to have a greater impact on current *C. arabica* than any other variables.

![Figure 6](image)

**Figure 6.** Comparative assessments of *C. arabica* distribution under three climate change scenarios: a) current, b) RCP4.5, and c) RCP8.5.

| No | Bio1 (℃) | Bio3 (%) | Bio7 (℃) | Bio12 (mm) | Bio13 (mm) | Bio15 (%) | Bio18 (mm) | Bio19 (mm) | *C. arabica*
|----|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 1  | 23.77    | 73.67    | 19.47    | 1806.00    | 319.33     | 77.00     | 350.67     | 369.00     | 0.75          |
| 2  | 23.80    | 72.67    | 19.60    | 1900.00    | 343.00     | 73.33     | 364.33     | 377.00     | 0.71          |
| 3  | 23.67    | 75.33    | 19.20    | 1759.67    | 324.00     | 76.67     | 196.00     | 384.00     | 0.70          |
| 4  | 23.50    | 75.00    | 19.27    | 1759.00    | 238.67     | 51.33     | 363.67     | 877.67     | 0.68          |
| 5  | 23.50    | 75.00    | 19.50    | 1685.67    | 315.33     | 77.67     | 180.00     | 943.33     | 0.67          |

**Note:** the bolded numbers indicate values of explanatory variables that best suit for higher coffee production in the future 2050s under the RCP8.5 climate change scenarios.
The distribution of possible habitats for *C. arabica* in its native regions was mostly determined by total precipitation. The present results coincide with the report of Abolmaali et al. (2018), who used the maximum entropy model to discover that the two precipitation (Bio12 and Bio19) and two temperature (Bio5 and Bio8) variables, notably elevation, are the most representative variables in regions of concern for vulnerable Daphne mucronata plant species habitats in central Iran. According to Chemura et al. (2016), precipitation-related factors were more relevant in evaluating suitability for coffee cultivation in Zimbabwe’s eastern highlands. Over 70% of the climate suitability of *C. arabica* was determined by two precipitation-related variables (Bio15 and Bio19) in eastern Zimbabwe.

According to the response analysis, changes in each bioclimatic variable had a substantial influence on *C. arabica* cultivation under present and future climate conditions. The rising extreme precipitation factors (Bio18 and Bio19) significantly declined *C. arabica* cultivation, although the rising two precipitation-related variables (Bio12 and Bio15) and two temperature-related variables (Bio4, and Bio7) significantly improved it during the last three decades. Similarly, despite somewhat predicted climate change prevention and adaptation measures under RCP4.5 scenarios, changes in precipitation-related factors are expected to be the most limiting factor in *C. arabica* production in the future 2050s. Three precipitation-related factors (Bio15, Bio18, and Bio19) will continue to negatively affect *C. arabica* cultivation under RCP4.5, whereas four temperature-related variables (Bio1, Bio3, Bio4, and Bio7), as well as two precipitations (Bio12 and Bio13), will have a significant beneficial impact (Table 3). Furthermore, in the RCP8.5 climate change scenario, increases in precipitation-related factors (Bio12, Bio13, Bio18, and Bio19) as well as isothermality (Bio3) will dramatically reduce C. Arabic, although temperature-related variables (Bio1 and Bio7) and precipitation seasonality (Bio15) are projected to have a favorable effect on the coffee crop distribution.

Despite the scarcity of data on *C. arabica’s* responses to each bioclimatic factor, several studies have found that current and future climate conditions pose a threat to *C. arabica* cultivation in subtropical and tropical zones. The present results are consistent with those reported by Iscaro (2014), who studied the impact of climate change on coffee production in Colombia and Ethiopia. Because *C. arabica* has such particular growing needs, even little variations in temperature and precipitation might destroy the plant. The health of these coffee species in Colombia is being jeopardized by increased rainfall, while rapidly rising temperatures are killing vegetation at an alarming pace in Ethiopia. The results of (Moat et al., 2017), who studied Ethiopia’s coffee sector resilience potential in coffee-growing zones, reported that precipitation-related variables (Bio12 and Bio15), as well as annual mean temperature (Bio1), are the most determinantal factors of *C. arabica’s* adaptability to climate change. In the absence of considerable interventions by the 2080s, the dispersion potential of the coffee plant will be lowered by 39%–59%, according to this assessment. These results are also consistent with those of Wang et al. (2015), who found that *C. arabica* species in Uganda’s east, southeast, and northwest areas will be negatively affected by the seasonality of precipitation (Bio115) and annual mean temperature (Bio1). The results of Abdelaal et al. (2019), Chemura et al. (2016), and Mighty (2015) emphasize that the annual average temperature and total precipitation, which are the most critical determinants in defining climatic suitability for coffee production, appear to be very important to the crop plant’s production.

The current research also sought to determine the optimum settings for joint bioclimatic factors that are needed for *C. arabica* production under each climate change scenario. Table 7 shows the maximum possibility of coffee cultivation under present and future climate change scenarios, with the minimum and maximum ranges placed between them. The higher possibility of *C. arabica* cultivation (72%–82%) was observed in coffee-producing landscapes with total precipitation of 1746–1871.4 mm, annual temperature ranges of 17.10–20.09°C, and other precipitation and temperature-related variables (Table 4). However, there was no significant impact of the annual mean temperature (Bio1) on coffee cultivation under current climatic conditions (Table 4).

A combination of bioclimatic factors given in Table 7, including an annual mean temperature range of 22.5–22.73°C and total precipitation of 1768.33–1850.33 mm, will be

| Variables | Current | RCP4.5 | RCP8.5 |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|
| Bio1(°C)  | -       | -      | 22.50  | 22.73  | 23.50  | 23.77  |
| Bio3 (%)  | 76.52   | 77.05  | 77.00  | 81.00  | 73.67  | 75.00  |
| Bio4(%)   | 103.96  | 107.50 | 100.70 | 108.07 | -      | -      |
| Bio7 (°C) | 17.11   | 20.09  | 17.53  | 19.90  | 19.50  | 19.47  |
| Bio12 (mm)| 1746    | 1871.40| 1768.33| 1850.33| 1685.67| 1806.00|
| Bio13 (mm)| -       | -      | -      | -      | 315.33 | 319.33 |
| Bio15 (%) | 67.03   | 61.63  | 71.00  | 76.33  | 77.00  | 77.67  |
| Bio18 (mm)| 420.84  | 436.21 | -      | -      | 180.00 | 350.67 |
| Bio19 (mm)| 502.30  | 382.35 | 587.00 | 813.00 | 943.33 | 369.00 |
| Logistic output (%) | 72.00 | 82.00 | 72.00 | 83.00 | 67.00 | 75.00 |
required to keep *C. arabica* production at 72–83% under RCP4.5 climate scenarios. This is expected to be significantly higher than those under the current and RCP8.5 scenarios (P = 0.0003). This means that implementing medium-scale climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies such as efficient shade management, irrigation, and mulching (Moat et al., 2017) will favor the cultivation of this type. However, under the RCP8.5 scenarios, an annual mean temperature of 23.5–23.77°C and total precipitation of 1685.67–1806.67 are projected to be required for the highest likelihood of *C. arabica* cultivation (67–77%). From these perspectives, it’s simple to see how precipitation and temperature rise under RCP8.5 are expected to decline coffee farming in the next 2050s, compared to current climatic conditions. The current results are inconsistent with the results of Bunn (2015), who established that *C. arabica* thrives best in tropical regions with annual temperatures ranging from 17°C to 23°C and rainfall ranging from 800 to 1200 mm but coincide with those reported by Moat et al. (2017), who discovered that an optimal mean annual temperature of 18 to 21°C and a total annual rainfall of 1200–to–1800 mm will be required for *C. arabica* coffee species cultivation in the tropical highland of Ethiopia.

When compared to the current and RCP8.5 climate conditions, the likelihood of the distribution of *C. arabica* will rise by 1.2% and 6.8%, respectively, under RCP4.5. However, as compared to the present and RCP4.5, the crop distribution in RCP8.5 is anticipated to decrease by 5.6% and 6.8%, respectively. As precipitation and temperature-related factors rise, the ability of *C. arabica* to cultivate will diminish unless mitigation and adaptation measures are applied. Based on their findings, Davis et al. (2012) predicted that *C. arabica* would fall by 38% in the most favorable area and 90% in the least favorable area in Ethiopia in the 2080s.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Coffee distribution modeling can give significant insight into the expected response of *C. arabica* to the target climatic factors. There is a considerable variation in the *C. arabica* species’ reactions to bio-climatic factors under current and future climate change scenarios, resulting in a significant fluctuation in the crop’s cultivation. In this study, *C. arabica* has negatively responded to the increase in precipitation in the warmest and coldest quarters, which continued to significantly reduce the distribution of coffee crops in each targeted climate change scenario, but favorably responded to annual temperature range ranges (Bio7). In comparison to the current situation, crop cultivation in RCP4.5 is expected to be much higher, but crop cultivation in RCP8.5 is expected to be significantly lower. As a result, the cultivation of *C. arabica* will increase by 1.2% under RCP4.5 but decrease by 5.6% under RCP8.5, as precipitation and temperature-related variables increase.

Researchers have used limited models and bioclimatic factors to estimate the climate change implications of *C. arabica* using bioclimatic modeling, but a more comprehensive analysis is needed to make an accurate prediction of future outcomes using different models and other environmental factors.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no competing financial or personal interests that may appear and influence the work reported in this paper.

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