Coffee leaf rust

Recognize the problem
Coffee leaf rust, is a very destructive disease. It is recognised by yellow powdery spots on the underside of the leaves. Infected leaves fall off resulting in death of the branches. It reduces yield up to 70% in severe cases.

Background
Coffee leaf rust is caused by a fungus, which infects coffee leaves of all stages and makes them fall down. It is severe in dry and warm periods. Coffee leaf rust spreads mainly by wind, but human beings can also spread it when they walk in the farm and the fungus sticks to their clothes and body just like powder. Chemical control measures are costly and need to be taken when the disease has reached the threshold which is generally two spots per leaf.

Management
1. General
   - Coffee should be planted at recommended spacing. It should also be pruned to open up the coffee bush in order to create unfavourable conditions for the development of the fungus and allow sprays to reach leaves which are inside the canopy.

2. Use of chemicals
   - Use copper oxychloride for prevention of coffee leaf rust. Mix 50 grams of copper oxychloride in 15 litres of water, and sprayed on 20 trees after every two weeks.
   - When coffee leaf rust is established, spray cyproconazole by mixing 10ml of cyproconazole in 10l of water, and spray once a year.

   Note: sprays must be directed on the underside of coffee leaves.

3. Plant resistant varieties
   - Plant resistant varieties when available.

Scientific name(s) > Hemileia vastatrix

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.