



Rubber import to come down when production increases

- Dr. K.N. Raghavan

The Rubber Board would recommend to the central government to regulate imports if production increased to the desired level, said Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Chairman, Rubber Board. He was speaking in a meeting in Pala, organised by Rubber Producers' Societies of Pala and Erattupetta. The present demand for rubber in India is about 12 lakh tonnes. But only six or seven lakh tonnes are produced here, necessitating import. Farmers should resume tapping with the cooperation of the Rubber Producers' Societies. RPSs and Rubber Board companies should come forward to take over the harvesting practices, if small holder find it difficult to do so, and share the income with the farmer. If substantial increase is achieved through such methods, imports can be reduced. RPSs should also come forward to produce value added products using rubber at their level.

Various RPS representatives and farmers shared their concerns with the Chairman. Chairman assured the farmers' that their demands would be submitted to the central government. Mr. K.S. Mathew (Convener, Pala RPS Coordination Committee) presided over the meeting. Mr. C. Sabu (Joint Rubber Production Commissioner), Mr. M.G. Sathees Chandran Nair (Deputy Director, Rubber Board) Mr. P.M. Somasekharan (Deputy Rubber Production Commissioner) Mr. P.A. Paul and Mr. Antony John (Development Officers, Rubber Board) spoke on the occasion.



Dr. K.N. Raghavan addressing the meeting of Rubber Producers' Societies of Pala and Erattupetta regions at Kizhathadiyoor Service Co-op. Bank Auditorium, Pala.

Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**
 - Keep cups inverted
 - RubSIS
 - Mechanical weeding
 - Cultural operations
- **Training Programmes**
 - Budding techniques and root trainer plants
 - Rubber processing and grading
- **Rubber Price**
- **And more**

Keep cups inverted after latex collection



Rainy season is to begin in Kerala soon. In this context the Rubber Board requests all rubber growers to ensure that the latex collection cups in their holdings are kept in inverted position after collecting latex in the rainy season. This is because rainwater getting collected in the cups is a good medium for breeding of mosquitoes.

When tapping is carried out uninterruptedly, at least once every week, there is little chance for the water to remain in the cups for long. But as the monsoon sets in, tapping operations may be disrupted for longer periods, leading to

proliferation of mosquitoes. Rainwater may also get collected in the folds of plastic rainguards fixed on the trees, in the old and damaged collection cups, other utensils and old plastic sheets lying discarded in the plantations. The Board requests all rubber growers and tappers to be careful to avoid such circumstances.

Online fertilizer recommendation Rubber Soil Information System (RubSIS)

Based on the geo-statistically derived thematic information on soil fertility as well as soil depth data and following the guidelines of discriminatory fertilizer recommendation, web based online fertilizer recommendation for rubber estates in South India was developed. Certain web map services including 'Google Map' were integrated in the programme, so that the farmers can easily identify their estates and obtain the fertilizer requirement. Farmers can access online fertilizer recommendation through mobile app RubSIS (Android) and <http://rubsis.rubberboard.org.in>.



Mechanical Weeding

Weeds are undesirable vegetation which suppresses growth of main crop by competing for nutrients and soil moisture. The concept of weed management in rubber plantation is to

manage the weeds in such a way that they do not adversely affect the growth of rubber. There can be 40-45 per cent savings in weeding cost, if weed cutters are used, instead of manual weeding.

Important farm activities in July

Field planting

If weather is favourable, planting can be carried out during this month also.

Seedlings and budded stumps

Planting of seedling stumps and budded stumps should be done immediately after pulling out. While planting budded stumps, the bud patch should be just above the ground level to reduce the effects of elephant foot and infection by soil-borne pathogens.

Polybag plants

At the time of planting, the top whorl of leaves of the plant should be fully mature. A planting hole slightly bigger than the size of the polybag is made. The tip of the tap root, if grown out of the bag, should be removed. The bottom of the bag is cut and the bag along with the plant is placed in the hole, gradually filling the hole while keeping the soil core intact. The cut is continued as the bag is slit open and carefully removed. The soil is then packed firmly around the plants.

Root trainer plants



At transplanting, the root plug can be separated from the container without any damage by inverting it and giving a gentle tap of the rim of the root trainer cup to any hard surface. A planting hole can be made in the refilled planting pit by pressing the empty root trainer cup into soil. The root plug is carefully inserted into the planting hole and the soil around it is compacted. The root trainer plants show early establishment due to its well developed root system.

Weed control

Weeding should be carried out by adopting either manual methods or by use of herbicides in the rubber plantations. The weeds removed manually may be kept in plant rows which when dried can be used for mulching the plant base.

Disease control

Spraying Bordeaux mixture (1%) may be carried out at fortnightly intervals to protect young plants in the nursery as well as in the field against shoot rot disease.

Periodic inspection for detecting pink disease affected plants may be undertaken on sunny days as the disease is prevalent during southwest monsoon period. The main seat of infection is usually the fork region. Initially white or pink coloured cobweb mycelial growth on the bark surface may appear with streaks of latex oozing out from the lesions. Rotting, drying up and cracking of the affected bark will follow. In the early stages



of infection Bordeaux paste has to be applied on the infected parts extending up to 30 cm above and below the affected areas. When the infection is in its advanced stage cracks are formed in the bark and exudation of latex occurs. In such cases Bordeaux paste may be applied initially and after drying, the affected region may be scraped to remove all the rotting bark and mycelium and then the paste is applied again as done earlier. Dried branches after disinfection should be pruned off and burnt. Application of fungicides like Thiride was found effective in containing the disease when incorporated (10g/kg) in a petroleum wound dressing compound.

If tapping is continued during the rainy season use of an effective panel protectant is essential to protect the tapping panel from bark rot which may occur during the season. If any leakage is found in the rainguards it should be rectified and if necessary it may be replaced with new ones.

Fungicide like Indofil M-45/Dithane M-45 (5 gm/l of water) or Akomin/Phosjet (2ml/litre) may be applied at weekly intervals on the tapping cut against bark rot disease. In trees where the infection is advanced and the panel is rotten, the surface may be scraped to remove the decaying tissues and washed with effective fungicide solution and then any of the wound dressing compounds like Rubberkot, Sopkot, Treseal etc. may be applied to the panel.

Incidence of patch canker is also noticed during rainy season. The affected area may be cleaned by removing the coagulated pad and rotten bark, washed with Indofil M-45/Dithane M-45 (10g/litre of water) and applied with any wound dressing compounds.

Call Rubber Board to clear your doubts

Information about the services of the Rubber Board; technical advice regarding cultivation, production, processing, etc. of rubber can be regularly sought from the Call Centre functioning at the Head Office of the Rubber Board. The service is available from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm on all working days. Call Centre No. is 0481-2576622.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

The following training courses will be conducted at the Rubber Training Institute during July 2019

1. Training on budding techniques and root trainer plants: 16 July 2019 (Plantation)

Training is in different budding techniques, practical session like brown budding, green budding and root trainer plants. Farmers, nursery owners and interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- (Non-residential) + 18% GST. For board & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra. 25% fee concession for RPS members on production of RPS membership certificate.

2. Training on Sheet Rubber Processing and Grading: 25-26 July 2019 (Technology)

Rubber dealers, rubber growers, processors and consumers can apply for this course. The course content includes latex collection, processing into sheet rubber, smoke houses, grading as per Green Book standard etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.1000/- and for those in tyre sector the fee is Rs.2000/- (Non-residential) + GST 18%. For board & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra. Medium of instruction is English

SC/ST participants are eligible to get 50% concession in course fee on production of caste certificate. Payment can be made by direct remittance to the Board's account with Central Bank of India, RB, Kottayam, IFS Code CBIN0284150 A/C No. 1450300184. For details contact 04812353127, 2353326, 2351313, 2353325. Fax No. 04812353187. E-mail: training@rubberboard.org.in

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - JUNE 2019 - [Price/Rs/Qtl]							
DATE	Domestic					International	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
1/6/2019	14400	14200	Holiday	14400	14200	Holiday	Holiday
2/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
3/6/2019	14400	14200	9615	14350	14150	Holiday	Holiday
4/6/2019	14400	14200	9510	14350	14150	13278	13212
5/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	13414	13348
6/6/2019	14450	14250	9455	14450	14250	13526	13460
7/6/2019	14600	14300	9455	14600	14300	13691	13625
8/6/2019	14800	14500	Holiday	14800	14500	Holiday	Holiday
9/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
10/6/2019	15000	14700	9455	15000	14700	13892	13826
11/6/2019	15200	14900	9455	15200	14900	13944	13878
12/6/2019	15400	15000	9510	15400	15000	14086	14020
13/6/2019	15500	15100	9510	15400	15100	14164	14098
14/6/2019	15450	15100	9565	15400	15100	14239	14172
15/6/2019	15350	15000	Holiday	15350	15000	Holiday	Holiday
16/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
17/6/2019	15250	14900	9615	15250	14900	14181	14114
18/6/2019	15250	14850	9615	15250	14850	14155	14088
19/6/2019	15200	14850	9565	15200	14850	14126	14059
20/6/2019	15200	14850	9510	15200	14850	14186	14119
21/6/2019	15150	14800	9455	15150	14800	14208	14140
22/6/2019	15150	14800	Holiday	15150	14800	Holiday	Holiday
23/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
24/6/2019	15100	14800	9405	15050	14800	14295	14227
25/6/2019	15100	14750	9405	15050	14750	14283	14215
26/6/2019	15050	14750	9405	15050	14750	14261	14193
27/6/2019	15100	14800	9405	15100	14800	14083	14016
28/6/2019	15100	14800	9455	15100	14800	14037	13970
29/6/2019	15100	14800	Holiday	15100	14800	Holiday	Holiday
30/6/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Average	15029	14717	9493	15015	14713	14003	13936