



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

Rain guarding in 40000 ha : rubber output up by 14000 tonnes



As a result of the increased level of adoption of rainguarding by rubber growers, NR production during the month of July 2019 went up by 14000 tonnes on a year on year basis. The production recorded in July was 60000 tonnes while it was 46000 tonnes in July 2018.

The harvesting operations in rubber in Kerala get hindered during rainy months resulting in steep fall in production. Confronted with a drastic reduction in production during the last few years, the Rubber Board took steps to ensure uninterrupted tapping during the monsoon period. The Rubber Board companies in Kerala procured rainguarding materials like polythene sheets and adhesive in bulk and distributed among small growers to promote rainguarding. As a result, nearly one lakh ha of plantations were rainguarded more than the previous year. This is what was reflected in the increased production in July.

Fall in production was one of the major concerns of the Indian rubber sector. This is mainly attributed to high percentage of untapped area, low adoption level of modern techniques like rainguarding and unscientific tapping methods. The present level of low price also has contributed to this. For addressing this issue of unharvested plantations, the Rubber Board has recently introduced a programme for adoption of such units in the small holding sector. The Board in association with its own companies and Rubber Producers' Societies would take over such untapped holdings and arrange for the maintenance, tapping, processing and marketing of produce. Societies and companies have so far successfully adopted 1600 ha plantations during the last few months. This arrangement has resulted in reducing cost of production and in increasing the quantity and quality of the rubber produced.

Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**
 - Controlled upward tapping
 - Farm activities for September
 - **Rubber Board help desk**
 - **Training Programmes**
 - Nursery management
 - Latex goods manufacture
 - Dry rubber goods manufacture
 - **Rubber Price**
- And more**

The Board is also popularizing techniques like low frequency tapping (including once -a -week tapping) and controlled upward tapping to further improve production and bringing down the cost. The Board anticipates an annual production of 7.5 lakh tonnes this fiscal.

Increase yield through Controlled upward tapping

Controlled upward tapping (CUT) is a proven harvesting practice to achieve sustainable high yield for long term from old and senile trees. It can be practised from renewed panel stage onwards on the virgin bark above the basal panel. The combination of Low Frequency Tapping with CUT from renewed panel stage can increase the economic life of trees up to 40 to 45 years. In general 30-50% higher yield can be obtained for many years under CUT. CUT can be adopted when (1) Low yield from the renewed bark (2) Renewed bark is not suitable for tapping because of irregular growth, diseases or panel dryness (3) For prolonging economic life of trees after the completion of BI-2 panel (4) For simultaneous tapping of both basal and high panels (intensive tapping for one or two years) while in BI-1 and BI-2 stage.



For CUT, the tapping cut is opened on the virgin bark just above the renewed bark of the basal panel. If CUT is to be initiated during the first/second year of tapping on BI-1 (C) panel, the CUT panel should be taken above BO-2 (B) panel. The normal recommended CUT practice in India is periodic panel changing, i.e., basal panel tapping (S/2) with rain-guard during rainy season, and CUT (S/4) on high panel during non-rainy season. The length of tapping cut can be quarter spiral irrespective of the girth of tree and its slope should be 45°. Normally one panel can be tapped for two years under continuous tapping or four years under periodic panel changing. Thus the duration of CUT can be 8-16 years under S/4 d3 cut. When the frequency is d4, each S/4 cut can be tapped for 5 years ($5 \times 4 = 20$ years CUT). However, under weekly tapping, the length of tapping cut for CUT should be S/3, and each S/3 cut can be tapped

for seven years ($7 \times 3 = 21$ years CUT). Since the tapping frequency is weekly (d7), thickness of bark shaving should be 2.5mm/tap, but monthly bark consumption is only 1cm. Tapping on the upper cut should be done with maximum control on bark consumption (as per Table 10) and maintenance of the angle of cut (45°). Injury to cambium should be avoided. For CUT, good quality modified long-handled gouge knife must be used so that the tapper can stand on the ground and tap on the high panel. Other advantages of the knife are reduction in spillage due to a curved tapping cut surface (in spite of the tapping cut being inverted), ease in minimizing bark consumption and eliminating injury to cambium. The recommended length of the handle is 120 cm for tapping up to height of 160 cm from bud union, and 180 cm handle for tapping beyond that height. While tapping, active knife movements are made by the right hand and left hand only guides the knife. The left hand should not be raised above the shoulder height and right hand above the elbow during tapping. It is essential to undergo 2-3 hours training for 3-5 days in proper use of modified gouge knife. Bark above the CUT panel (above 2m) can be utilized for intensive tapping for 2-3 years before felling the trees.

During CUT tapping, the support cut may be cleared and inward slope may be formed to prevent spill over. Since it is difficult to rain-guard CUT panel and tap during monsoon, it is advised to shift tapping to basal panel during rainy season. The best system in our agro climatic condition is periodic panel change, i.e., no tapping on upper panel during rainy season (approximately 4-5 months) during which the basal panels can be tapped with rain-guard. On completion of one panel, next CUT panel may be opened on the right side (while facing the tree) of the existing panel.

Tapping cut in the high panel can be stimulated using 5% ethephon following lace application method. Stimulation recommendation for CUT varies with clone, length of cut and tapping frequency. For third daily tapping of quarter spiral cut (S/4 d3) in the high panel, monthly stimulation is enough for high yielding clones and stimulation at once in three weeks intervals is necessary for medium yielding clones. For quarter spiral cuts and weekly frequency, stimulation can be done during wintering also. However, stimulation during extreme drought may be avoided. When very high yield is obtained from CUT panel, stimulation need not be done.

When tapping is done only in the high panel, for quarter spiral cuts, task size can be the same as that for a half spiral cut in the basal panel. When simultaneous tapping of high and basal panel are done, the task can be 50%. The tapping frequency for CUT is the same as that of basal panel.

Important farm activities in October

Manuring

The quantity of fertilizer may be fixed as far possible based on soil and leaf analyses. The soil and leaf sampling can be done during this month. The second application of fertilizer for immature plants and mature trees should be made during September-October months. The first dose of fertilizer for the young plants planted this year can be applied provided sufficient moisture is available in the soil.

Pruning

In budded plants pruning may be carried out to remove any side shoots developing up to 2.5 m from the ground level. Once branching has taken place at the desired height, further pruning of branches should only be made for achieving a balanced crown. Since the opening for tapping in budded plants is at the height of 125cm from the bud union, retaining branches at this height may create problems for tapping.

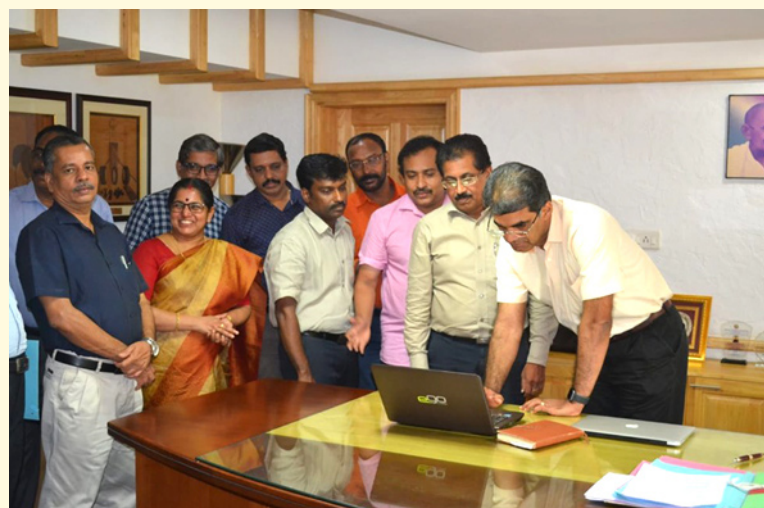
Disease management

Incidence of Pink disease is noticed from August to November. The disease is more damaging for plants in the age group of 2 to 12 years. Initially, pink or white coloured cobweb mycelial growth on the bark surface appears with streaks of latex oozing out from the lesions. Rotting, drying up and cracking of the affected bark may also occur later. In the initial stages of infection, when superficial mycelium only is present, Bordeaux paste may be applied on the infected parts and 30cm above and below the infected areas. When the infection is in advanced stages the pathogen penetrates into the bark and exudation

of latex occurs. In such cases, Bordeaux paste may be applied initially and, after drying, the infected region may be scraped to remove all the decayed tissues and then the paste is applied again as done earlier. Dried branches should be pruned and burnt after disinfestation. Fungicides like Thiride (10 gm) incorporated in a petroleum wound dressing compound (1kg) can also be applied on the affected region as a disease control measure.

Against shoot rot and other leaf diseases, spraying with 1 per cent Bordeaux mixture on the tender green shoots and on the surface of the tender leaves of young rubber is effective. Protection of tapping panel is necessary if the monsoon prolongs. To protect the tapping panel from panel diseases during rainy season, effective panel protectants may be applied. Washing the tapping cut and the tapping panel just above with fungicide like Dithane (Indofil) M45 (5gm per L of water), once in 7-10 days, is an effective method for controlling the disease. Application of wound dressing petroleum compounds on renewed bark keeps off moisture and enables bark regeneration.

Rubber Board launches help desk for online services



Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board launched 'RUBHELP', a help desk of the Rubber Board to assist its stakeholders to acquaint themselves with and utilize various online services of the Board. The help desk will function at all Sub Offices and office of Revenue Intelligence Squad under the Licence & Excise Duty Department of the Board and at Head Office in first phase, on a pilot basis and will be extended to all regional/zonal offices and other offices of the Board after assessing the utiliza-

tion/demand of the facility. The services through the helpdesk include all online activities connected with issue of rubber licenses, filing of returns, filing of applications for Registration Cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) for NR export, filing of applications/uploading of documents for No Objection Certificate in respect of imported consignments of natural rubber etc.

The fee for the above services has been fixed as Rs.100/- per each service. An amount of Rs.10/- per page will be charged for the supply of print out / copy, on demand. GST @19% is applicable in Kerala (inclusive of 1% flood cess) and 18% in other states. Stake holders can contact the nearby office of the Board for more information. Ms. P. Sudha (Secretary -in charge), Mr. C. Sabu (Jt. Rubber Production Commissioner), Mr. K. C. Surendran, (Director (Finance) -in charge), Mr. M. Rajagopalan (Deputy Director L&ED Dept), Ms. M. J. Lizy (Jt. Director(Statistics)- in charge), Mr. Toms Joseph (Jt. Director, Planning), Mr. P. Arumugam (Jt. Director, P&QC), Mr. M. G. Sathes Chandran Nair (Dy. Director, P&PR), Mr. K. Moahanan Nair (Jt. Rubber Production Commissioner – in charge), Mr. Thomas Augustine (Vigilance Officer), Dr. Binoi K. Kurian (Dy. Director, Marketing) and Mr. P.R. Viswanathaprabhu (Dy. Director, Licensing) were present on the occasion of launching of help desk.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

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

1. Training on Nursery management : 5-6 November 2019

The objective of this two day programme is to impart scientific knowledge on nursery management. Farmers, nursery owners, and other interested persons can participate in this training. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.1000/- (Non-residential). + 18% GST. 25% fee concession for RPS members on production of RPS membership certificate. For board & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra.

2. Short term training on Latex goods manufacture: 18-22 November 2019 (Technology)

Entrepreneurs/interested persons from latex product manufacturing industries can apply for this course. The course content includes latex collection, preservation and concentration, compounding ingredients, latex compounding, product design, production of rubber band, gloves, foam rubber, adhesives and balloons and its quality control aspects. The fee prescribed for the course is Rs.3750/- (Non-residential) + 18% GST. For board & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra. Medium of instruction is English

3. Short term training on Dry rubber goods manufacture: 25-29 November 2019- (Technology)

Entrepreneurs/interested persons from dry rubber product manufacturing industries can compounding ingredients, principles of rubber compounding, moulded, extruded and calendared goods, Process control tests and vulcanisates testing, production, planning and control etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.5000/- (Non-residential) + 18% GST. 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 0481 2353127, 2353326, 2351313, 2353325. Fax No. 0481 2353187. E-mail: training@rubberboard.org.in

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - SEPTEMBER 2019 - [Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	Domestic			International			
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
1/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
2/9/2019	14000	13500	10355	13900	13500	10970	10900
3/9/2019	14000	13500	10355	13900	13500	11005	10934
4/9/2019	14000	13600	10565	13950	13600	11093	11023
5/9/2019	14000	13600	10565	13950	13600	11230	11159
6/9/2019	14000	13600	10675	13950	13600	11224	11153
7/9/2019	14000	13600	Holiday	13950	13600	Holiday	Holiday
8/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
9/9/2019	14000	13600	10675	13950	13600	11092	11022
10/9/2019	14000	13550	10675	13950	13550	10975	10905
11/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	10957	10887
12/9/2019	13900	13500	10675	13900	13500	10906	10836
13/9/2019	13800	13300	10675	13800	13300	10963	10892
14/9/2019	13700	13200	Holiday	13700	13200	Holiday	Holiday
15/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
16/9/2019	13600	13100	10675	13600	13100	10923	10853
17/9/2019	13300	12900	10515	13300	12900	10935	10865
18/9/2019	13100	12700	10515	13100	12700	10965	10894
19/9/2019	13000	12600	10515	13000	12600	10937	10866
20/9/2019	12700	12300	10515	12700	12300	10812	10742
21/9/2019	12600	12300	Holiday	12600	12300	Holiday	Holiday
22/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
23/9/2019	12600	12200	10515	12600	12200	10807	10737
24/9/2019	12600	12200	10565	12600	12200	10844	10774
25/9/2019	12600	12200	10675	12600	12200	10771	10702
26/9/2019	12600	12250	10885	12600	12250	10691	10622
27/9/2019	12550	12250	10885	12550	12250	10582	10513
28/9/2019	12500	12200	Holiday	12500	12200	Holiday	Holiday
29/9/2019	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
30/9/2019	12450	12150	10885	12450	12150	10385	10316
Average	13317	12913	10618	13317	12913	10908	10838