



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

NR production increased in last fiscal:

Dr. K.N. Raghavan

India's natural rubber production increased by 0.4 per cent during the 2020-21 fiscal despite the shutdown and other control measures due to the Covid-19 pandemic but consumption dropped as a result by 3.2 lakh tonnes. This also led to lower imports



last fiscal, said Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Chairman & Executive Director, Rubber Board. He was speaking on 'current rubber situation' through Facebook Live, streamed on 27 May 2021.

'Despite a trying first quarter in the last fiscal, natural rubber production increased to 7.15 lakh

tonnes compared with 7.12 lakh tonnes in 2019-20. The rise came after the production in the first quarter dropped by 41,000 tonnes to 82,000 tonnes (1.23 lakh tonnes)' Dr. Raghavan, said. He cited rising production, higher prices prevailing in the domestic market, more rubber plantations being tapped during the rainy season by "rain guarding" and initiating tapping in plantations lying untapped through "adoption" of such land by the Board and promotion of self tapping through special campaigns. But at the same time natural rubber consumption in the country declined to 10.96 lakh tonnes against 11.34 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 showing a negative growth rate of 3.2 per cent.

As regards consumption, he told that the tyre sector staged a smart recovery after a near-barren first quarter when activities in the manufacturing sector had come to a virtual standstill due to the nationwide lockdown. The tyre industry was helped in this regard by the restriction imposed by the government on import of tyres from abroad.

The increased production and fall in consumption lead to reduction of rubber imports, which fell from 4.57 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 4.10 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 recording a decline of 9.6 per cent. Of this, 1.61 lakh tonnes were imported under Advance Licence Scheme against export commitments.

Emphasising the need to maximise production during 2021-22 so as to minimise imports, Raghavan urged farmers to complete the rain guarding operations before the onset of monsoon so as to conduct tapping from June till November, when the rubber growing areas get rain. He also said that the Board has released subsidies for planting amounting to ₹18 crore during 2020-21 and another ₹15 crore is planned during the first half of 2021-22.

Highlights

● **Grower's Corner**

- Switch over to low frequency tapping
- Field planting
- Disease control

● **Rubber Price**

And more

The electronic trading platform being developed by Rubber Board is nearing completion and a security audit of this platform is expected to start within a month. It will be launched after this audit is completed successfully. The Board is also planning to conduct a "Census" of all rubber plantations across the country to update its data about number of holdings, acreage under plantation, age of rubber trees, system of tapping adopted, etc. This work will commence as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted, Dr. Raghavan added

Switch over to low frequency tapping to reduce cost of production



Low frequency tapping (LFT) with stimulation can be practised from the first year of tapping to reduce the cost of production, increase productive life of trees and to manage the tapping labour shortage. The systems recommended are once in three days (S/2 d3), once in four days (S/2 d4), once in six days (S/2 d6) or once in seven days (S/2 d7) frequency. Trees under higher frequencies of tapping can also be converted to LFT. However, when such conversion is done there will be a temporary yield depression. To minimise the depression effect, conversion may be done during the low

yielding months (February-April). Success of LFT depends on regular tapping throughout the year with application of yield stimulant at stipulated schedules for each frequency and clone. The stimulation schedule varies with clone, age of the tree, tapping system and frequency. Method of yield stimulation recommended is application of 2.5% ethephon on the panel (applied on recently tapped area just above the tapping cut to a width of 1.5 cm) in all the above cases. For high yielding clones like RRII 105 under third daily (d3) tapping frequency with weekly one day regular off (6d/7), three annual stimulation and under 7/d7 only two rounds are needed. The updated stimulation schedule recommended for different systems of tapping and clones under 6d/7 and 7d/7 are given in Table 1 below. The scheduled stimulation for April may be postponed to May/June, if soil moisture is deficient.

When tapping is done by the grower himself, weekly tapping with rainguard would be most appropriate as the effort will be minimal without compromise on production. In addition to tapping on all scheduled days under d6 or d7, removal of bark shaving @ 2.5mm/tap, and tapping upto the correct depth (0.5 to 1.0 mm near to cambium) in all tapping days, and yield stimulant application as per recommended schedule ensures optimum crop. Trees which have undergone higher frequencies of tapping for the initial two or more years, after converting to weekly (d7) tapping, monthly stimulation may be followed.

Schedule of stimulant application under low frequency tapping

Clone	Tapping system	Rounds/year	Schedule
RRII 105	S/2 d3 7d/7	2	April/May/June, September/ October/ November
RRII 105	S/2 d3 6d/7	3	April/May/June, September, November
RRII 105	S/2 d4 7d/7	4	April/May/June, August, October, December
RRII 105	S/2 d4 6d/7	6	April/May, June, August, September, November, December
RRII 105	S/2 d6 7d/7	10*	All months - after every 6th tapping, 72 hours before the 7th tapping
RRII 105	S/2 d6 6d/7 (weekly tapping)	12**	All months - after every 4th tapping, 72 hours before the 5th tapping
PB 217	S/2 d3 6d/7	3#	April/May/June, September, November
PB 217	S/2 d4 6d/7	5	April/May, June, August, October, December
GT 1	S/2 d3 6d/7	4	April/May/June, August, October, December
GT 1	S/2 d4 6d/7	7	April/May, June, August, September, October, December, January
RRIM 600	S/2 d3 6d/7	4	April/May/June, August, October, December

Grower's
Corner

Important farm activities in June

Grower's
Corner

Planting

Planting should be done when the weather conditions are ideal with sufficient rains. It is better to undertake planting with the onset of rains in June-July and therefore the land preparation should be completed well in advance. Refill the planting pits with 12 kg compost or rotten cattle manure. Apply 175gm rock phosphate in top 30cm soil.



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 finally 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 is compacted. The root trainer plants show early establishment due to its well developed root system.

Disease Control

Shoot rot

The disease recurs annually during south-west monsoon period. Rotting of newly formed tender flush and green shoots. Black lesions are sometimes noticed on tender green shoots, resulting in wilting and drooping of distal portion. It is more damaging for nursery plants and the young plants in field. Prophylactic spraying undertaken against ALF takes care in mature plants. For young plants in nursery as well as in field, spraying with water-based copper fungicides, Bordeaux mixture 1% or water-dispersible copper oxychloride 0.125% just before the onset of south-west monsoon, and then repeated during bright breaks protects the plants. Phosphorous acid 0.16 % and metalaxyl mz 0.2% are also effective. Addition of adjuvant (@ 0.5 ml/L of spray fluid) improves tenacity and coverage of spray on applied surface

Colletotrichum leaf disease

The disease is observed during April to October in young plants in the nurseries and field. Rains followed by cloudy hot days favour disease development. Tender leaves are more susceptible and usually infection starts at the leaf tip or margins where numerous spots coalesce and dry up leading to defoliation. Occurrence of raised spots on semi-mature leaves is common. The infected leaves often crinkle and become distorted before shedding. The fungus invades tender shoots resulting in shoot rot thus affecting plant growth adversely.

Spraying Bordeaux mixture 1%, wettable copper oxychloride 0.125%, mancozeb 0.2% or carbendazim 0.05% at 10-15 days interval is recommended. Spraying a combination product of mancozeb 63% and carbendazim 12% is also effective. Providing drainage and balanced nutrition negate the favourable situation for disease development.

Pink disease

This is a stem disease that occurs mainly in immature plantations of 2 to 7 years. Though infection commences from June during south-west monsoon period, visible effects are noticed later from July to November. White or pink-coloured cobweb-like mycelial growth on the bark surface with streaks of latex oozing out from the affected portion is the initial symptom. Rotting, drying up and cracking of the affected bark follow. Sprouts develop from below the affected portion. The distal portions of branches dry and dried leaves remain intact on the dead branches. Both prophylactic and curative methods are employed for effective management of disease. Prophylactic treatment for pink disease can be done for highly susceptible clones planted in disease-prone areas. Two rounds of spraying with 1% Bordeaux mixture (just before monsoon and in August) on to the fork and branches reduces disease incidence. For 2-year-old plants, the topmost brown portion of all the branches may be applied with Bordeaux paste in a 30 cm wide band all around. The forking region also has to be applied with the paste. In 3-year-old plants, application on all major forking regions except the lowermost and also on all the lead branches at the topmost brown regions is necessary. The application can be made from ground using a long-handled brush before the onset of monsoon.

Frequent tree inspection has to be made during June to October on sunny days for detecting infection. Application of Bordeaux paste (10 %) at early stages of infection on affected part and up to 30 cm above and below is effective. In advanced cases, Bordeaux paste may be initially applied and then the affected portion scraped to remove mycelium and decayed bark followed by a second Bordeaux paste application. Dried branches should be pruned after disinfection. Thiram 0.75% incorporated in a wound dressing compound like Rubberkote or thiram 0.75% or propiconazole 0.1% in pidivyl, china clay and water (1:2:4 by volume) is also effective. Thiram mixed in wound dressing compounds is not recommended for prophylactic treatment.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

The following training courses will be conducted at the Rubber Training Institute during June 2021

1.Short term training on Dry Rubber good Manufacture: 9-11 June 2021(Online)

This three days online training programme includes topics on principles of rubber compounding, moulded, extruded and calendared goods, Process control tests and vulcanisates testing, MSME schemes, Marketing etc. Entrepreneurs and technical personnel from rubber industries/ interested persons from start-up missions can participate. Fee prescribed for this course is Rs. 1500/- + GST 18% + 1% flood cess

2.Training on Sheet Rubber Processing & Grading: 17-18 June 2021(Online)

This two days online training programme includes topics on Latex collection, processing into sheet rubber, smoke houses, grading as per Green Book standards etc. Rubber Processors/Dealers/Graders can participate. Fee prescribed for this programme is Rs.500/- + GST 18% + 1% flood cess

3.Training on Manuring in Rubber: 18th June 2021(Online)

This one day online training on the importance of fertilizer application, fertilizer recommendations, soil and leaf analysis and discriminatory fertilizer application. The training fee is Rs. 100/- + GST 18% + 1% flood cess.

4. Training on Intercropping in Rubber: 22 June 2021(Online)

This one day online training includes different intercrops practiced in rubber plantations, guidelines for their planting

and maintenance. The training fee is Rs. 100/- + GST 18% + 1% flood cess.

5. Short term training on Rubber Cultivation for Estate sector 28-30 June 2021(In-house)

Estate managers, nursery owners, interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The course content includes modern developments in planting materials, planting techniques, fertilizer recommendations, pest and disease management, tapping techniques and primary crop processing. Medium of instruction is English. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.3750/- + GST 18% + 1% flood cess. 6. Training on low frequency and controlled upward tapping: 25th September 2019 (Plantation)

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 - MAY 2021

[Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	Domestic						International	
	Kottayam			Kochi			Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4	
01-05-2021	16700	16400	Holiday	16700	16400	Holiday	Holiday	
02-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
03-05-2021	16800	16500	11940	16800	16500	Holiday	Holiday	
04-05-2021	16800	16500	12045	16800	16500	Holiday	Holiday	
05-05-2021	16800	16500	12045	16800	16500	16855	16784	
06-05-2021	16900	16600	12150	16900	16600	17221	17150	
07-05-2021	16900	16600	12150	16900	16600	17465	17394	
08-05-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
09-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
10-05-2021	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
11-05-2021	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	17341	17270	
12-05-2021	NT	NT	12680	NT	NT	17326	17255	
13-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	17385	17315	
5/14/2021	NT	NT	12785	NT	NT	17110	17040	
5/15/2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
16-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
17-05-2021	17200	16900	12840	17200	16900	17093	17023	
18-05-2021	NT	NT	12840	NT	NT	17036	16966	
19-05-2021	NT	NT	12785	NT	NT	16944	16875	
20-05-2021	NT	NT	12785	NT	NT	16991	16921	
21-05-2021	17200	16900	12785	17200	16900	17145	17075	
22-05-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
23-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
24-05-2021	17200	16950	12735	17200	16950	17237	17167	
25-05-2021	NT	NT	12735	NT	NT	17331	17261	
26-05-2021	NT	NT	12735	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
27-05-2021	NT	NT	12735	NT	NT	17284	17214	
28-05-2021	17200	16950	12735	17200	16950	17371	17301	
29-05-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday	
30-05-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
31-05-2021	17100	16750	12735	17100	16750	16723	16653	
Average	16982	16686	12569	16982	16686	17168	17098	