



## The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

### Keeping pace with international standards is essential for growth of rubber sector: Dr. K.N. Raghavan



Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board inaugurating National Institute of Rubber Training. Mr. Prahalad Reddy, Dr. Nishiath Rahiman, Dr. Alice John, Ms P. Sudha and Dr. Sabu Thomas are also seen.

Keeping pace with international standards and state of the art technology is essential for sustenance and growth of both upstream and downstream activities in rubber sector and training and upskilling activities are essential to keep the sector alive and vibrant, said Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board. He was delivering the inaugural address in the ceremony for upgrading Rubber Training Institute (RTI) to National Institute of Rubber Training (NIRT). Whatever has been achieved by mankind is only because of advances in science and it is cutting-edge technology that determines the world leader. In order to meet the ever increasing demand of natural rubber from the consuming industry, an integrated approach of training, research and extension in a structured manner is essential. The most sacred of all virtues is knowledge. NIRT is to impart of knowledge. The Institute should try to stay ahead in all fronts, and the aim should be to become internationally acclaimed, he added.

Dr. Sabu Thomas, vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, launched the 'Microsite' of the Institute in the function. Quoting Lord Todd, the Nobel laureate in 1957, Dr. Sabu said that world would have been a different place without elastomers viz. rubber, plastic, fibre etc. NIRT is the only institute that take care of the training needs of farmers, traders and manufacturing industry in the rubber sector and has been helpful throughout the years in creating excellent manpower. The Institute is giving excellent training for rubber cultivation, processing, product manu-

facture, skill development and entrepreneurship motivation. He also proposed a course of action to be followed by the NIRT to transform it to an internationally acclaimed centre of excellence.

Dr. Jiju P. Alex (Planning Board Member, Government of Kerala & Ex. Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University), Dr. A.K. Krishnakumar (Principal Advisor, Schoolnet India Ltd, Ex. Rubber Production Commissioner and Ex. Executive Director, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited), Mr. Prahalad Reddy (General Manager and Unit Head, MRF, Kottayam), Dr. R. Mukhopadhyay (Chairman, Indian Rubber Institute and Director & Chief Executive of Hari Shankar Singhania

#### Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**

Switch over to  
low frequency tapping

Cultural operations

- planting
- manuring
- crop protection

- **Training programmes**

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**And more .....**

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# 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 7d/7 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

\*During the initial two years of opening 20 rounds per year (after every three tapping, 72 hours before 4th tapping), \*\*During the initial two years of opening 24 rounds/year (after every two tapping, 72 hours before 3rd tapping), # No stimulation in the initial two years of opening due to low drc. **Note:** 1) Diluent – palm oil/coconut oil; 2) 5% lace application before third tapping after new opening/opening after annual rest; 3) All the above recommendation are applicable under rainguarded condition; 4) Stimulation may be done between 48-72 hours before tapping; 5) Do not stimulate when drc falls below 30%. ■

(... Contd. from page 1 )

Elastomer & Tyre Research Institute), Dr. R.K. Matthan (President, Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association and Latex Expert cum Consultant), Ms. Sudha P. (Director, Training, Rubber Board) and Dr. Alice John (Deputy Director, Rubber Plantation Development Training) spoke on the occasion.

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has upgraded the Rubber Training Institute (RTI) under the Rubber Board as National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT), as per the recommendation of the national committee on external evaluation engaged for the performance evaluation of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Scheme of the Rubber Board. Certificate courses in plant science and rubber technology disciplines, in affiliation with reputed Universities with more thrust to skill development, formulation of niche programmes in collaboration with centres of excellence and professional bodies at national and international level, empowerment of clusters through business development, promotion of value addition, knowledge marketing through international programmes etc. are some of the future priorities of the Institute. ■

# Important farm activities in August

## Planting / Vacancy filling

Planting can be carried out using root trainerplants or polybag plants, if there is sufficient moisture in the soil.

## Pruning



ground level.

## Manuring

Immature plants, including those planted during current planting season can be manured now. The application of fertilizer should be undertaken after cessation of south-west monsoon but before the onset of the north-east monsoon. Sufficient moisture in the soil should be ensured at the time of application of fertilizer and the chances of loss through leaching should also be avoided.

Manuring of cover crops is also essential for proper growth and establishment in plantations. Application of 150 kg of powdered rock phosphate per ha in two equal instalments is recommended. The first application can be made two months after sowing. In areas which are deficient in available potassium, application of a mixture of 150 kg of rock phosphate and 50 kg of muriate of potash may be made. The fertilizer can be applied broadcast on the cover crop planted strips.

## Disease control

Pink disease usually occurs during south – west monsoon period, but severe incidence and drying up of the plant / branches are noticed from August to November. Inspection of each tree in young plantation at fortnightly interval is essential to detect the disease at early stage for effective control. As soon as the infection is noticed, Bordeaux paste may be applied on the infected parts. The dried branches should be pruned off and burnt. Thiride 10 g/kg in rubberkote or systemic fungicide like Tridemorph (Calixin) 1% or propiconazole (Tilt) 0.1% in pidivyl–china clay (1:2:4 by volume) is also effective.

Patch Canker is noticed in the wet monsoon months. The loci of infection could be anywhere on the stem. Copious exudation of latex is the main symptom. The exudates later dry up to form a black streak below the affected portion. Simultaneously latex coagulates under the bark at the site of infection forming a pad. The disease affected portion may be cleaned thoroughly by removing the rubber pad and damaged or rotten tissues and then fungicide solution may be applied at this region. Fungicides like Dithane (Indofil) M-45 (10 g/L of water) may be

applied. When the fungicide is dried, appli-

cation of a wound dressing compound like rubberkote may be made for protecting the tapping panel.

Wherever tapping is continued in rainy season, the tapping panel should be protected from bark rot disease. For this purpose fungicides like Dithane (Indofil) M-45 (5 g/L) or Akomin or Phosjet (2 ml/L of water) may be applied on tapping cut at weekly intervals.

Spraying with 1 % Bordeaux mixture at fortnightly intervals on the tender green shoots and on the tender leaves of young rubber protects from disease like shoot rot and other leaf diseases. Colletotrichum leaf disease is severe during July – October in young plantation. In such areas alternate fortnightly spraying with Dithane (Indofil) M-45 at the rate of 2.5 g/L of water is recommended.

## Weeding

The growth of weeds is fast during monsoon season and weeding should be carried out during every month. The weeds so removed may be kept in plant rows. These weeds when dried can be used for mulching the plant bases. ■

## Rubber Clinic

Rubber clinic is a distance diagnostic system for pests and diseases of rubber. The online clinic, an interactive portal open round the clock at <http://clinic.rubberboard.org.in>, can be accessed by any grower by registering an account free of charge. Diagnosis can be done by the grower himself by comparing the symptoms on his plant with the pictures in the portal. Alternatively, the grower can get help from experts available in the clinic at fixed hours. The expert diagnoses the disease from the description and photographs submitted and suggest remedial measures. Live chatting possible between 2 and 3 pm on every working day. Besides diseases, the clinic also answers questions on any topic in rubber cultivation/processing. Growers can send images and make calls to the rubber clinic using WhatsApp facility for getting their problems addressed. the service is available 24 x 7 hours and the number is 9496333117.

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

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

### 1. Online Training on Sheet Rubber Processing and Grading(For processors): 2-3 August 2021 (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 standards etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + GST 18%.

### 2. Online Training on Intercropping in Rubber: 10th August 2021

This one day course content includes different intercrops practiced in rubber plantations, guidelines for their planting and maintenance. Farmers, Estate managers, nursery owners, interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. Fees: Rs.100/- + 18% GST

### 3. Training on Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Rubber Production: 24-25 August 2021

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.

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/Qt]

DATE	Domestic					International	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-07-2021	16600	16300	12365	16600	16300	14382	14312
02-07-2021	16550	16250	12365	16550	16250	14125	14055
03-07-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday
04-07-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
05-07-2021	16600	16300	12365	16600	16300	14163	14093
06-07-2021	16650	16350	12365	16650	16350	14222	14153
07-07-2021	16650	16350	12470	16650	16350	14053	13984
08-07-2021	16700	16400	12470	16700	16400	13898	13829
09-07-2021	16700	16400	12575	16700	16400	13673	13604
10-07-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday
11-07-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
12-07-2021	16700	16450	12680	16700	16450	13574	13506
13-07-2021	16750	16450	12785	16750	16450	13518	13449
14-07-2021	16850	16550	12890	16850	16550	13396	13327
15-07-2021	16900	16650	12945	16900	16650	13453	13384
16-07-2021	16950	16650	12945	16950	16650	13443	13375
17-07-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday
18-07-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
19-07-2021	17000	16750	12945	17000	16750	13603	13534
20-07-2021	17000	16750	12890	17000	16750	13175	13106
21-07-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	13202	13134
22-07-2021	16950	16750	12785	16950	16750	13223	13154
23-07-2021	16950	16750	12680	16950	16750	13175	13107
24-07-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday
25-07-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
26-07-2021	17000	16800	12680	17000	16800	Holiday	Holiday
27-07-2021	17000	16800	12680	17000	16800	13502	13434
28-07-2021	17000	16800	12680	17000	16800	Holiday	Holiday
29-07-2021	17050	16850	12680	17050	16850	13533	13465
30-07-2021	17100	16900	12680	17100	16900	13623	13555
31-07-2021	NT	NT	Holiday	NT	NT	Holiday	Holiday
Average	16840	16583	12663	16840	16583	13647	13578