



Rubber Board Launches Virtual Trade Fair



Virtual trade fair will become a harbinger of change as far as marketing of rubber and rubber products are concerned, said, Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board. He was launching the virtual trade fair of Rubber Board in function held at Kottayam. Rubber products exports from India fetch Rs 25000 crores in foreign exchange and proper positioning of a product is an absolute requirement for marketing it. New manufactures especially in the MSME sector need to constantly showcase their products as they need to make improvisations, innovations and incremental value additions on a near constant basis. All stakeholders of the rubber value chain are important for the development of rubber industry and virtual trade fair provides the prompt platform that can be utilized by each member of the sector for buying, selling and taking orders to move their business forward. This would also be a perfect place for buyer seller meets and also to showcase rubber and rubber products, he added.

Mr. Divakar Nath Misra, Jt. Secretary (Plantations), Ministry of Commerce and Industry who made the opening remarks lauded the Board for conceptualizing Virtual Trade Fair, especially on the backdrop of Covid pandemic situations. He said that India exports around 30000 rubber products and there is tremendous potential for expansion of the sector, especially the MSMEs.

Mr Rajendra Bhamara, Secretary-General AIRIA, Ms. Ruchi Singhal, Deputy Director, ATMA; Mr R Sanjit, Secretary UPASI; Mr P R Nag, President NFRPE; Mr Abraham Kuriakose, President Kerala Small Scale Industries Association (KSSIA); Mr. Satish Abraham, President, Association of Latex Producers; Mr. Ronny Joseph Thomas, Secretary, India Block Rubber Producers Association (IBRPA); Mr George Valy, President Indian Rubber Dealers Federation (IRDF) and Dr. Binoi Kurian, Dy. Director (Marketing) Rubber Board spoke on the occasion.

Dr K.N. Raghavan also released the 42nd edition of Indian Rubber Statistics in the function by handing over a copy to Mr. Ronny Joseph Thomas, Secretary, IBRPA.

Rubber Board is hosting the Virtual Trade Fair for rubber and rubber products with the objective of showcasing Indian rubber products, especially from the MSME sec-

tor, in the international market. Indian rubber product exports witnessed an annual growth rate of 4 per cent. However, It is assessed that the Indian rubber industry possess inherent capacity for further growth. The industries falling under the category of MSME sector in the non-tyre

Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**
 - Controlled upward tapping
 - Farm activities for October
- **Training Programmes**
 - Rubber cultivation for small growers
 - Bee keeping in rubber plantations
 - Latex Harvest Technology
 - Nursery Management
 - Testing of DRC for Skill Development
- **Rubber Price**
 - And more

Increase yield through Controlled upward tapping

Grower's
Corner

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 rainguard 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 x 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 x 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. 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 rainguard 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 rainguard. 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.

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sector could benefit from this trade fair by getting greater exposure to the international market. This is particularly important at this juncture when all sectors are working hard to achieve the export target of USD 400 billion for this fiscal.

The Virtual Trade Fair will be placed on the Rubber Board website and exporters of rubber and rubber products will be given the opportunity to showcase their products, company profile, product videos, display posters,

contact details etc. Besides the exhibition, the Virtual Trade Fair offers virtual conference facilities, online meetings with international buyers and live streaming of events. The visitors could visit individual stalls and could understand the products offered by different sellers. A real-time chat facility to speak directly to the seller is also built into the trade fair. Indian rubber and rubber product exporters can make use of this opportunity for improving their market visibility in the international market. ■



Important farm activities in October

Grower's
Corner

Nursery Establishment

The germinated seeds are to be planted in seedling nurseries. Depending on the planting materials to be raised, spacing can be decided. The common spacing adopted for raising seedling stumps is 30'30 cm. To produce green-budded stumps 23'23 cm spacing may be followed. For brown budded-stumps, a spacing of 30'30 cm or staggered pairs of rows 60 cm apart and 23 cm between plants may be adopted. The spacing adopted for budwood nursery is 90' 60 cm or 120'60 cm, wider spacing being between the rows.

Nursery Management



In nurseries, two and a half tonnes of compost or well-rotten cattle manure and 350 kg of powdered rock phosphate may be applied as basal dressing for every effective hectare. If the same beds are being used repeatedly, application of rock phosphate has to be made once in 3 years. In a newly-cleared forest area, compost or cattle manure is not necessary during the first year and rock phosphate alone is sufficient.

Application of 2500 kg of 10:10:4:1.5 NPKMg mixture per effective hectare, i.e., 25 kg per 100 m² of the nursery bed, 6 to 8 weeks after planting may be done. Application of 550 kg of urea per effective hectare 6 to 8 weeks after the first application but before undertaking mulching may also be made.

The nursery beds are to be kept free of weeds. In the initial period weeding is done at least once in a month. Unhealthy and weak seedlings should be removed and only the vigorously growing plants are retained. The ideal time for this culling is two or three months after planting. The nursery beds should be mulched before the commencement of summer season. Natural materials like tree toppings, dry leaves and grass cuttings after drying are commonly used for mulching. During the dry period, the nursery should be irrigated. Daily watering is preferred during the initial weeks. Later the interval of irrigation can be reduced to once in two or three days.

In budwood nurseries, false shoot sprouting from the stock should be removed and only one vigorous bud shoot may be allowed to develop. Further pruning may be carried out to remove any side shoots developing. Effective plant protection measures should be adopted in the nurseries in time.

Manuring

The quantity of fertilizer may be fixed as far possible based on soil and leaf analyses or by ascertaining through online fertilizer application system (Rubsis). 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 disinfection. 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. ■

TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

The following training courses will be conducted by the Rubber Training Institute during October 2021

1. Online Short term training on Rubber Cultivation for Small Growers(in Malayalam): 6-8 Oct 2021

The course content includes modern planting materials, planting techniques, manuring, pest and disease control, tapping and latex processing. The medium of instruction is in Malayalam. The training fee is Rs.708/- including 18% GST.

2. Online Training on bee keeping in rubber plantations : 11th Oct 2021 (Plantation)

This one day course imparts training on beekeeping to farmers/SHG members for additional income generation. Rubber growers, farmers, RPS, SHG members can apply for this course. Fees prescribed for this course is Rs.118/- including GST 18% .

3. Training on Latex Harvest Technology: 20-21 Oct 2021- Offline

Topics include latex harvesting, different types of tapping knives, modern tapping methods, application of stimulating agents, LHT and CUT. Rubber growers and interested persons from plantation sector can apply. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.1000/- (Non-residential) + 18% GST

4. Training on Nursery Management: 25-26 Oct 2021 - Offline

The objective of this two day programme is to impart scientific knowledge on different propagation methods for production of quality planting materials, nursery practices and maintenance. 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.

5. Training on testing of DRC for Skill Development : 27-29 Oct 2021 - Offline

Training is on testing of DRC of field latex/concentrated latex as per standards. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.3000/- + GST 18% Medium of instruction is English

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - SEPTEMBER 2021 - [Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	Domestic			International			
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-09-2021	18050	17850	12890	18050	17850	13908	13839
02-09-2021	17950	17800	12840	17950	17800	13689	13622
03-09-2021	17900	17750	12785	17900	17750	13663	13596
04-09-2021	17900	17750	Holiday	17900	17750	Holiday	Holiday
05-09-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
06-09-2021	17900	17700	12840	17900	17700	13556	13489
07-09-2021	17800	17600	12840	17800	17600	13388	13320
08-09-2021	17700	17500	12785	17700	17500	13214	13146
09-09-2021	17600	17400	12680	17600	17400	12989	12921
10-09-2021	17500	17200	12575	17500	17200	13104	13036
11-09-2021	17400	17150	Holiday	17400	17150	Holiday	Holiday
12-09-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
13-09-2021	17400	17150	12575	17400	17150	13169	13101
14-09-2021	17400	17150	12575	17400	17150	13201	13134
15-09-2021	17400	17150	12575	17400	17150	13216	13149
16-09-2021	17450	17200	12520	17450	17200	13296	13229
17-09-2021	17450	17200	12520	17450	17200	13247	13180
18-09-2021	17400	17150	Holiday	17400	17150	Holiday	Holiday
19-09-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
20-09-2021	17300	17000	12415	17300	17000	12935	12869
21-09-2021	17200	16900	12365	17200	16900	12737	12671
22-09-2021	17100	16800	12365	17100	16800	12592	12526
23-09-2021	17000	16700	12365	17000	16700	12634	12568
24-09-2021	16900	16600	12260	16900	16600	12611	12545
25-09-2021	16900	16600	Holiday	16900	16600	Holiday	Holiday
26-09-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
27-09-2021	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	12738	12672
28-09-2021	16900	16600	12260	16900	16600	12878	12811
29-09-2021	16900	16600	12260	16900	16600	12894	12828
30-09-2021	16900	16600	12260	16900	16600	12989	12923
Average	17412	17164	12550	17412	17164	13120	13053