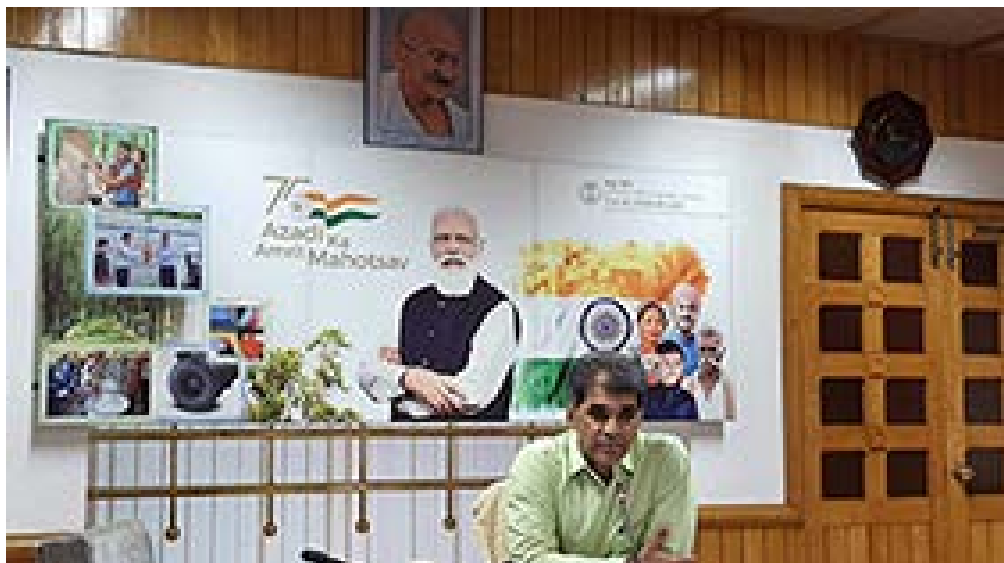




## The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

# Rubber Board campaign to make India Atmanirbhar in Natural Rubber



The Rubber Board has launched an intensive campaign 'Resurgence in rubber for Atmanirbhar Bharat' to increase rubber production and productivity of rubber holdings to make India self reliant in natural rubber. Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board in his inaugural address, delivered online, called upon rubber growers to increase production and productivity in their rubber holdings to make India self reliant in natural rubber. He also said that the gap between consumption and production has to be bridged to avoid large scale imports.

The meetings and training programmes as part of this annual mass contact programme are now in progress in traditional rubber belt and in North Eastern States and will be continued up to March 2022. The Board plans to interact with a minimum of 50,000 farmers through 2500 meetings, with the help of Rubber producers' Societies. The meetings will also discuss the challenges and opportunities in the upstream sector and the ways to overcome the various issues faced by the rubber growers.

The Rubber Board proposes many long term and short term strategies to increase rubber production and productivity of rubber holdings. The long term plans include extension of rubber area in the country through new planting, with special focus to North East India, and replanting of old and senile plantations with high yielding and disease resistant clones. The Board has already started a Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRDP) in North Eastern States supported by Automotive Manufacturers Association (ATMA) and NABARD. The short term strategies are adoption of good agricultural practices in rubber holdings, promotion of rainguarding, disease management, new tapping techniques, adoption of rubber plantations for resuming tapping in untapped holdings etc.

### Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**

Switth over to  
Low frequency tapping  
Cultural operations

- **Training Programmes**

Latex goods manufacture  
Pest and Disease Control  
Nursery Management  
Production of planting materials and clones  
Dry Rubber Goods Manufacture

- **Statistical updates**

And more .....



## Switch over to low frequency tapping to reduce cost of production

Grower's  
Corner



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	R o u n d s / 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%.

## Important farm activities in November

Grower's  
Corner



### Nursery

Manuring of nursery plants, if not done so far, can be undertaken after ensuring adequate soil moisture. In addition to the basal application of organic manure and rock phosphate applied at the time of land preparation, 10:10:4:1.5 NPKMg mixture at the rate of 250 gm per m<sup>2</sup> can be applied 6-8 weeks after planting. Fertilizer should be applied in between the rows followed by light forking to incorporate the fertilizer into the top soil.

Mulching the inter-row areas with dried plant materials is useful in conserving the soil moisture, suppressing the weed growth and protecting the base of the stem from direct sunlight. Green leaves and fresh grass cuttings should not be used for mulching.

In budwood nurseries, false shoots sprouting from the stock, if any, should be removed. Weeding should also be carried out regularly and the weeds so removed may be kept in inter-rows for using as mulch after drying. The nursery plants may be sprayed with Indofil M.45 (2.6g/L) or Bavistin (1g/L) if symptoms of leaf spot diseases appear.

### Young plantations

In young rubber plantations, mulching or covering the soil around



the young plants should be undertaken. Mulching is very effective in retaining soil moisture, protecting the soil from the lashing rainfall which causes soil erosion and preventing leaching loss of nutrients. It also protects the collar of young plants from sun-scorching action and prevents weed growth around plant basin. Natural materials like leaves, grass cuttings, 'African payal' (Salvinia sp.) etc. can be used as mulch after drying. Care should be taken to place the mulching materials about two to three inches away from the plant base so that the collar of the young plants is not in touch, as too close mulching leads

to collar injuries and subsequent fungal infection.

In the case of budgrafts, false shoots sprouting from the stock, if any, should be removed. Pruning should be carried out to remove side-shoots up to 2.5 m from the ground level. Since the tapping panel is opened at the height of 125 cm (4 feet) from the bud union, in budded plants, it is not desirable to allow branching up to a height of 2.5 m. The side shoots and branches should be cut back regularly using a sharp knife.

During the initial years of growth, some plants tend to bend and in such cases, the plants have to be kept erect by providing adequate support using wooden or bamboo poles. If plants are tied with ropes, the bark must be protected at the point of contact with a pad of sack or other suitable soft materials to avoid damage. The rope should not be tied too tightly to the stem as otherwise it will obstruct girdling.

If branch snap or other damage is caused to the trees due to wind, the affected portion may be cut carefully and a petroleum wound dressing compound applied.

Symptoms of pink disease and dry rot disease are often seen during this time also. Branches dried due to pink disease should be cut and the cut surface applied with Thiride (10g/kg) incorporated in petroleum wound dressing compound (rubberkote). Profuse exudation is associated with dry rot disease. Thiride-rubberkote combination is effective against this disease also.

Fertilizers can be applied to the newly planted cover crops and to those which are not manured till now. 150 kg of powdered rock phosphate per ha can be applied in two equal splits. The first dose is applied one month after sowing and the second, two months after the first application. If manuring is done after germination, one time application of half the quantity of fertilizer is recommended. Weeding may be carried out in the cover crop planted patches for ensuring proper growth and spread. The bases of young rubber plants should be kept free of cover crop growth during the initial years to prevent competition with young rubber. Twining of cover crop vines on young rubber should be prevented by cutting and removing.

### Mature plantations

Yield stimulants like ethephon (Ethrel) can be applied on trees under tapping during this month. ■

# TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

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

## 1. Short term training on Latex goods manufacture: 8-12 November 2021 (Technology)

Entrepreneurs from latex product manufacturing industries/interested persons 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/- + GST 18%

## 2. Training on Pest and Disease Control : 15 November 2021 (Plantation)

Training is on diseases and pests affecting rubber and methods to control them. Farmers, interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + GST 8%

## 3. Training on Nursery Management: 17-18 November 2021 (Plantation)

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. **4. Training on Production of planting materials and clones: 22 November 2021(Plantations)**

This training is to impart training on Modern clones and good quality planting materials. Farmers and interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs. 500/-+ GST 18%

## 5. Short term training on Dry Rubber Goods Manufacture : 22-26 November 2021(Technology)

Entrepreneurs and technical personnel from rubber industries/ interested persons from start-up missions can participate in this course. It includes topics on principles of rubber compounding, moulded, extruded and calendared goods, Process control tests and vulcanisates testing, MSME schemes, marketing , planning and control etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.5000/- + GST 18%

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](mailto:training@rubberboard.org.in) . ■

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - OCTOBER 2021							
DATE	Domestic					International	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-10-2021	16900	16650	12260	16900	16650	13001	12936
02-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
03-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
04-10-2021	16900	16700	12260	16900	16700	12959	12893
05-10-2021	16950	16750	12260	16950	16750	12995	12929
06-10-2021	17000	16800	12260	17000	16800	13062	12996
07-10-2021	17000	16800	12205	17000	16800	13111	13045
08-10-2021	17000	16800	12205	17000	16800	13446	13379
09-10-2021	17000	16800	Holiday	17000	16800	Holiday	Holiday
10-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
11-10-2021	17000	16800	12100	17000	16800	13745	13678
12-10-2021	17000	16800	12100	17000	16800	13820	13753
13-10-2021	17000	16800	12100	17000	16800	Holiday	Holiday
14-10-2021	17050	16800	12100	17050	16800	13939	13872
15-10-2021	17050	16800	12100	17050	16800	14048	13980
16-10-2021	17050	16800	Holiday	17050	16800	Holiday	Holiday
17-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
18-10-2021	17050	16850	12150	17050	16850	13883	13815
19-10-2021	17100	16850	12205	17100	16850	14052	13985
20-10-2021	17150	16900	12205	17150	16900	14216	14148
21-10-2021	17200	16950	12260	17200	16950	14450	14383
22-10-2021	17200	17000	12365	17200	17000	14313	14246
23-10-2021	17200	17000	Holiday	17200	17000	Holiday	Holiday
24-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
25-10-2021	17200	17000	12415	17200	17000	14160	14093
26-10-2021	17200	17000	12470	17200	17000	14312	14244
27-10-2021	17300	17100	12575	17300	17100	14391	14323
28-10-2021	17400	17100	12680	17400	17100	14361	14293
29-10-2021	17450	17150	12680	17450	17150	14387	14319
30-10-2021	17500	17200	Holiday	17500	17200	Holiday	Holiday
31-10-2021	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Average	17114	16888	12284	17114	16888	13833	13766