



## Rubber Board launches e-market logo



Mr. Satish Sharma, Chairman, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association launching the logo 'mRube' of the rubber e trade platform of the Board.

Rubber Board has launched the logo of e-trade platform for rubber, named 'mRube', in a virtual meeting held at Rubber Board head office Kottayam. The logo was launched by Mr. Satish Sharma, Chairman, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA). He said that 'electronic trading platform for trading of natural rubber is a timely initiative by the Rubber Board and will be a catalytic movement in the right direction'. 'The easy access and transparency of this digital platform will fundamentally add confidence of the stake holders', Mr. Sharma added. Dr. Sawar Dhanania, Chairman, Rubber Board in his opening remarks said that 'the e trade platform is a remarkable achievement by the Rubber Board and through this the farmer in any remote corner of the country could sell his produce'. Dr. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board in his welcome address said that 'the e trading platform for rubber is an improvisation on the existing robust rubber trading system in the country where farmer is getting more than 90 percent of the end price of the product. The e trading platform developed by the Board ensures transparency, quality assurance and payment security, he added.

Mr. Rajiv Budhreja (Director General, ATMA), Shashi Singh (Sr. Vice President, All India Rubber Industries Association), Satish Abraham (President, Association of Latex Producers of India), Ronney Joseph Thomas (Secretary, Indian Block Rubber Processors Association), George Vally, (President, Indian Rubber Dealers Federation), R. Sanjith (Secretary, UPASI) and Dr. Binoi Kurian, (Dy. Director(Marketing), Rubber Board) spoke on the occasion ■

### Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**
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    - Rainguarding
    - Disease control
    - Weeding
    - Land preparation
    - Manuring
  - **Training Programmes**
    - Rubber cultivation
    - processing & grading
    - Latex Harvest Technology
    - Planting & upkeep
    - Disease Control
    - Planting material
  - **Rubber Price**
- 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	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

## Important farm activities in May

**Grower's  
Corner**

### Rainguarding



All works related to rainguarding should be completed within the first fortnight. Any leakage observed during summer rain, on the already fixed rainguards should be corrected.

### Plant protection measures

Prophylactic disease control measures are to be undertaken against various diseases during this month, just before the onset of southwest monsoon.

Against abnormal leaf fall disease, 1% Bordeaux mixture or oil-based copper oxychloride (COC) is recommended. For protecting young rubber and nursery plants repeated rounds of Bordeaux mixture sprayed through knapsack sprayer, rocker sprayer or high volume power sprayer are preferred. For mature rubber, single round application of 1% Bordeaux mixture (3000 L/ha) may be sprayed. As an alternative, COC dispersed in agricultural spray oil is sprayed through micron sprayer from ground or helicopter, as aerial application. For micron spraying, the COC is mixed with oil in 1:5 proportion and 30-37 L/ha is sprayed. The machine should be carried through each row at a walking speed of 2-3 km/h. For helicopter spraying, 8 kg COC mixed with 40 L of oil is used. Fycop, Chlorocop, Parikh etc are oil-based COC powder formulations commonly used in rubber plantations. The spray oil is marketed mainly by Indian Oil Corporation. Care should be given to clean the spray equipment after each day's use.

For shoot rot disease control in nursery and young field plants, 1% Bordeaux mixture is to be sprayed at 10-14-day-interval. If monsoon sets in early and tapping is continued during rainy seasons, the tapping panel should be disinfected at weekly intervals with mancozeb (Dithane/Indofil M-45-5g/L) or phosphorous acid (Akomin/Phosjet 2ml/L).

Spraying of 1% Bordeaux mixture on the trunk also along with the spraying against Phytophthora leaf fall ensures reduction in pink disease incidence. In high disease-prone areas, Bordeaux paste can be applied prophylactically. For 2-year-old plants, the top most brown portion of all branches is to be applied with the paste in a 30 cm band in addition to the forking regions. For 3 year old plants, application has to be made on all major forking regions, except the lower most, and also on all leaders of topmost brown regions.

### Weeding

Weeding should be carried out before the fertilizer application. The weeds thus removed may be kept aside for drying and the dried weeds can be used for mulching the plant basin.

### Land Preparation

Land preparation for new planting and replanting can be continued during this month. Large trees of economic value should be removed first followed by smaller ones. Slashing of undergrowth is needed only for new planting. Burning of dried debris facilitates planting operations. Lining, terracing and pitting also may be undertaken during this period. Rubber may be planted either by square (for level land) or rectangular (for level and near level lands) planting system. In undulating and hilly areas, contour lining should be undertaken and terraces cut along the contour to conserve moisture and prevent soil erosion. Instead of taking continuous terraces in the beginning, for economy, individual square platforms of size 1.25 m x 1.25 m can be made around each plant point which later on be joined together to form continuous terraces. Provision for proper drainage is to be given due consideration while preparing land for planting.

### Planting distance

The density recommended for proper growth of rubber is about 420-445 plants/ha. In no case, the number should exceed 500/ha

### Soil and water conservation

In slopes, soil conservation measures may be undertaken along with land preparation to prevent soil erosion and to conserve water. Construction of stone-pitched contour bunds (Edakkayyalas) and silt pits is the common conservation practices recommended other than contour terracing. Silt pits (trenches) of about 120 cm length, 45 cm width and 60 cm depth can be taken across the slope on the interspaces of rubber at the rate of 250 pits per hectares.

### Cover crop establishment

In fields where planting is undertaken during this season, leguminous cover crop can be established. Pueraria and Muccuna are the popular cover crops.

### Fertilizer application

Fertilizer application as per discriminatory fertilizer recommendation based on soil and or leaf analysis is more advantageous and economical. Online fertilisation application can also be followed. If the discriminatory fertilizer recommendation based on soil analysis is not available, the general fertilizer recommendation can be practised.



# TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

The following training courses will be conducted at the Rubber Training Institute during May 2022

## 1. Short term training on Rubber Cultivation for Small Growers(in Malayalam): 9-13 May 2022

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.2000/- + 18% GST .Medium of instruction is Malayalam.

## 2. Online training on Entrepreneur Development in Rubber Industry: 12 May 2022

The training programme focuses on investment scope in RSSProcessing ,Latex and Dry Rubber Products Manufacture. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs. 500/- + 18% GST.

## 3. Training on Latex Harvest Technology: 17-18 May 2022

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/- + 18% GST.

## 4. Online training on Production of planting materials and clones: 20 May 2022

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. 100/- + 18% GS

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - APRIL 2022							
[Price/Rs/Qt]							
DATE	Domestic					International	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-04-2022	17550	17350	12205	17500	17350	17936	17868
02-04-2022	17600	17400	Holiday	17550	17400	Holiday	Holiday
03-04-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
04-04-2022	17550	17350	12205	17550	17350	18167	18099
05-04-2022	17500	17300	12205	17500	17300	18340	18272
06-04-2022	17350	17100	12205	17350	17100	Holiday	Holiday
07-04-2022	17200	16900	12100	17200	16900	18529	18461
08-04-2022	17100	16800	12045	17100	16800	18405	18337
09-04-2022	17150	16850	Holiday	17150	16850	Holiday	Holiday
10-04-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
11-04-2022	17200	16900	12045	17200	16900	18182	18114
12-04-2022	17200	16900	12045	17200	16900	17895	17828
13-04-2022	17150	16850	11995	17150	16850	Holiday	Holiday
14-04-2022	17100	16850	11995	17100	16850	Holiday	Holiday
15-04-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
16-04-2022	17100	16850	Holiday	17100	16850	Holiday	Holiday
17-04-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
18-04-2022	17100	16850	11940	17100	16850	17947	17879
19-04-2022	17100	16850	11890	17100	16850	18059	17991
20-04-2022	17000	16750	11890	17000	16750	17780	17713
21-04-2022	16900	16650	11890	16900	16650	17548	17480
22-04-2022	16800	16500	11780	16800	16500	17213	17146
23-04-2022	16750	16450	Holiday	16750	16450	Holiday	Holiday
24-04-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
25-04-2022	16700	16350	11695	16700	16350	16979	16911
26-04-2022	16700	16400	11625	16700	16400	16769	16701
27-04-2022	16700	16400	11520	16700	16400	16346	16279
28-04-2022	16700	16400	11410	16700	16400	16216	16149
29-04-2022	16750	16450	11305	16750	16450	16330	16263
30-04-2022	16850	16500	Holiday	16850	16500	Holiday	Holiday
Average	17072	16798	11900	17068	16798	17567	17499

## 5. Training on RSS Processing and Grading: 19-20 May 2022

Rubber dealers, rubber growers, processors and consumers in non-tyre sector 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.1000/-(Non-residential) + GST 18%.

## 6. Training on Planting & up-keep: 25 May 2022

Farmers and interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The course content includes methods of planting, up keeping, maintenance, intercropping, weeding etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + 18% GST.

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.