



# The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

APRIL 2023



## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Centralized Placement Portal of National Institute for Rubber Training**
- **I.O.C.L. makes Rubber Spray Oil available in small packs**
- **Comprehensive Rubber Information System Platform launched**
- **Grower's Corner**
  - Rainguarding
  - Weed Control
  - Preparation of the land
  - Spacing
- **Training Programmes**
  - Rainguarding
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- **Rubber Price**

## CENTRALIZED PLACEMENT PORTAL of National Institute for Rubber Training



National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) has launched a Centralized Placement portal. The platform is expected to reduce the gap between the quality manpower requirements of the industry and the available workforce. Dr. K.N Raghavan IRS, Executive Director, Rubber Board inaugurated the Portal in a function held at NIRT. Representatives from the rubber processing and product manufacturing

industry, Industrialists, academicians, representatives from institutions, skill development councils like RCPSPDC, ASAP, officials of the Rubber Board, and members of the various segments in the rubber value chain attended the event. Smt. Sheela Thomas IAS, CMD, Kerala Rubber Limited delivered the presidential address. Dr. Usha Titus IAS, CEO, ASAP, Kerala delivered the special message. Dr. Sawar Dhananya, Chairman, Rubber Board, Sri Rajiv Budhreja, Director General ATMA, Sri. Vinod Patkotwar, Chairman, RCPSPDC, Dr. Raj Kumar Director, IRMRA, and Mr.Saji Varghese, Sr. General Manager, MRF Ltd, Former RRII Director Dr. N. M. Mathew, Former Director (Training) Dr. Kuruville Jacob and Umasankar G. of NIRT spoke on the occasion. The concept and user interface of the unique portal were demonstrated by the developers, M/s INI Technologies, Cochin. Dr. K.N. Raghavan also inaugurated the new hostel of NIRT.



Dr. K.N. Raghavan inaugurating the new hostel of NIRT

## I.O.C.L. MAKES RUBBER SPRAY OIL AVAILABLE IN SMALL PACKS



*Release of Small Packs of Spray Oil*

Dr. K.N. Raghavan I.R.S., Executive Director, Rubber Board, released the small packs of rubber spray oil in 26 kgs made by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (I.O.C.L.) in a meeting held at Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam. The Copper Oxychloride used to control abnormal leaf fall disease of rubber trees is mixed with spray oil and sprayed in the estates. Until now, spray oil was available in large barrels of 210 kg. The small farmers demanded to get the spray oil in small quantities. Large barrels are difficult to handle, and the marginal growers do not require large quantities of spray oil for their small holdings. Abnormal leaf fall is a disease widely seen in the rubber estates of Kerala and causes significant production losses to rubber trees. Preventive measures are better than treating rubber trees after they become infected by the diseases. If the trees are disease free, the loss of production can be avoided, and the

farmer would be able to get the maximum benefit when the price goes high, Mr. Raghavan said.

Speaking on occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Behra, Chief General Manager & Kerala Head of I.O.C.L., said that efforts would be made to provide spray oil at an affordable price to the farmers and to spend corporate social responsibility funds in the rubber sector. Mr. Sidhartha Pandey (Chief General Manager & Lubes-Direct Sales Head, I.O.C.L.), Dr. M.D. Jessy (Director-in-Charge, Indian Rubber Research Institute), K.P. Rajeev (Deputy Rubber Production Commissioner-in-Charge), Moncy P. Kurian (Managing Director, Manimalayar Rubbers), Anil Vasu (Deputy General Manager, Lubes, I.O.C.L.), Shaji Philip (Principal Scientist, Indian Rubber Research Institute) and Eldho Baby (Chief Manager, Lubes-Direct Sales, I.O.C.L., Kerala Division) spoke on the occasion. Representatives of Rubber Producers' Societies and rubber growers attended the meeting.

## COMPREHENSIVE RUBBER INFORMATION SYSTEM PLATFORM LAUNCHED

Dr. Z.P. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat, launched the mobile app 'Comprehensive Rubber Information System Platform (CRISP)' developed by the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in collaboration with the Digital University of Kerala in a meeting held at RRII, Kottayam. Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, who presided over the function, launched the e-library of RRII. Dr. Saji Gopinath, Vice-Chancellor of the Digital University of Kerala, released the book 'Status report- Molecular and physiological markers for genetic improvement of natural rubber'. Dr. Lalit Mahatma, Associate Director of research at Navsari Agricultural University explained the ongoing rubber cultivation trials in Gujarat. Mr. T. Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor & Coordinator (Geospatial Analytics), Digital University of Kerala,

detailed the efforts behind the development of 'CRISP', the new mobile app. Dr. M.D. Jessy, Director (Research) in-charge, RRII, welcomed the gathering and Dr. M.B. Mohammad Sathik, Officer in-charge, Botany Division, RRII proposed a vote of thanks.

The recommendations of RRII regarding production & productivity enhancement, reduction of cultivation cost, maintenance of soil fertility, disease control measures etc., are now reaching the farmers through traditional extension methods. Many of these recommendations are location specific and can be linked to geo-information systems and delivered directly to the farmers. As information technology now has access everywhere, the mobile app 'CRISP', launched by the Rubber Board, will allow the farmers to know recommendations related to rubber cultivation and get solutions online.

## Rainguarding



During rainy season, tapping can be carried out by fixing a rainguard above the tapping cut and prevent loss of tapping days and thus yield due to rain. Regular tapping can be ensured by rainguarding under any given tapping frequency. Chances of bark rot are high when the trees are rainguarded and tapping is continued during rainy season. Irrespective of the type of rainguard used, regular panel washing using fungicide (mancozeb 0.375%) at 10-15 days interval is necessary to prevent incidence of panel diseases. Spraying of fungicide is not very effective to prevent panel disease. With the introduction of low frequency tapping, rainguarding is needed even under low rainfall. For rainguarding, a suitable device is fixed on the trunk just above the tapping cut and flow of water through the main trunk is channeled out. This method is found to be effective in keeping the tapping cut and the bark below and above within the rainguard in dry condition during the rainy season. To obtain optimum yield under LFT system, timely fixing of good quality rainguard and maintaining it leak proof throughout the monsoon is essential.

## Weed Control

Weeds are undesirable vegetation which suppress growth of young rubber by competing for nutrients and soil moisture especially during initial years. The concept of weed management in rubber plantation is to manage the weeds in such a way that they do not adversely affect the growth of rubber. Complete eradication of the entire weed flora from the field is not envisaged. Weeds can be controlled by manual, chemical (using herbicides) or mechanical (using weed cutters) methods. Manual weeding and herbicide application can also be done in rotation for effective weed control which provides better environmental safety

## Preparation of the land

The land should be cleared of the existing vegetation. A light burn after felling reduces the stubble in the field. However, excessive burning is harmful as it may cause loss of organic matter and expose the land to erosion.

## Spacing

The density of planting recommended is 420 to 500 plants per hectare (170 to 200/acre). However, for the clone RR11 105 the density can be up to 550 /ha. Paired row planting can be done to extend the period of intercropping.



## Lining

In flat or slightly undulating areas, square or rectangular planting can be adopted. For rectangular planting, lines should be taken eastwest to get maximum sunlight. Contour lining is done on undulating and hilly lands by marking out the planting points in contour lines across the slope

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

### 1. Training on Rainguarding on 20 April 2023

Rubber farmers and interested persons can apply for this course. The course contents include different methods of rain guarding and knowledge on rain guarding. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/-+ 18% GST.

### 2. Short Term Training on Rubber Processing & Quality Control from 24-26 April 2023

The course content includes composition of natural rubber latex, collection and preservation, preparation of sheet rubber, grading, concentration of preserved latex, solid block rubber, EBC, PLC, testing of block rubber and cenex, effluent treatment and pollution control.

Persons from rubber plantations, public sector institutions, rubber processing units, and any other interested persons can participate in this course. Fees prescribed for this course is Rs.4500/- + 18% GST.

### 3. Training on manuring in rubber on 27 April 2023

This one day course content imparts knowledge on fertilizer recommendation, discriminatory fertilizer application and manuring in rubber. Farmers, Estate managers, nursery owners, interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. Fees prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + GST 18%.

### 4. Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPS from 27-28 April 2023

The two day training programme imparts managerial skills to Director Board Members of RPSs towards capacity building of the Societies. Director Board members of RPS selected by the Rubber Board can participate in this programme by contacting their corresponding RPS. Fees: Nil.

## DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - MARCH 2023 [Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	DOMESTIC					INTERNATIONAL	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-03-2023	14300	14000	9300	14300	14000	14354	14284
02-03-2023	14400	14000	9300	14400	14000	14534	14463
03-03-2023	14450	14050	9300	14450	14050	14604	14533
04-03-2023	14450	14050	Holiday	14450	14050	Holiday	Holiday
05-03-2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
06-03-2023	14500	14100	9350	14450	14050	Holiday	Holiday
07-03-2023	14500	14150	9350	14450	14050	14462	14392
08-03-2023	14450	14100	9405	14450	14100	14433	14362
09-03-2023	14400	14100	9405	14400	14100	14262	14192
10-03-2023	14400	14100	9510	14400	14100	14015	13945
11-03-2023	14350	14100	Holiday	14350	14100	Holiday	Holiday
12-03-2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
13-03-2023	14350	14050	9615	14350	14050	13805	13735
14-03-2023	14350	14050	9615	14350	14050	13948	13877
15-03-2023	14350	14050	9825	14350	14050	14127	14055
16-03-2023	14350	14050	9825	14350	14050	14153	14081
17-03-2023	14350	14100	9825	14350	14100	14034	13962
18-03-2023	14350	14100	Holiday	14350	14100	Holiday	Holiday
19-03-2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
20-03-2023	14400	14100	9935	14400	14100	14151	14078
21-03-2023	14400	14100	9935	14400	14100	14176	14104
22-03-2023	14500	14150	9935	14500	14150	14056	13984
23-03-2023	14600	14250	10040	14600	14250	13968	13896
24-03-2023	14650	14300	10040	14650	14300	14123	14051
25-03-2023	14700	14400	Holiday	14700	14400	Holiday	Holiday
26-03-2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
27-03-2023	14900	14500	10145	14900	14500	14307	14235
28-03-2023	14950	14600	10460	14950	14600	14270	14198
29-03-2023	14950	14600	10675	14950	14600	14247	14175
30-03-2023	14950	14600	10780	14950	14600	14277	14205
31-03-2023	14950	14650	10830	14950	14650	14325	14253
Average	14528	14200	9843	14524	14194	14211	14139