



# The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2023

## Annual Rubber Conference and Assembly Meetings of ANRPC held in Guwahati



Annual Rubber Conference and Assembly Meetings of Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) concluded in Guwahati. The meetings were held from 9-13 October 2023 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Guwahati. Dr. Sawar Dhanania, Chairman of the Rubber Board, inaugurated the Annual Rubber Conference and Assembly Meetings of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC). In his inaugural talk, Dr. Dhanania said that



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual Rubber Conference and Assembly Meetings of ANRPC held in Guwahati
- The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) observed the foundation day
- Grower's Corner
  - Cultural Practices during November
- Training Programmes
  - Training in Pest and Disease Control
  - Short term training in Latex Goods Manufacture
  - Training in Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable rubber production
  - Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPS
  - Online training in intercropping in Rubber
  - Short term training on Marketing and Export Management of Natural Rubber
  - Short term training on Dry Rubber Goods Manufacture
- Rubber Price

the ANRPC should prioritize addressing such issues common for all and formulate appropriate policies. He added that mechanization in the rubber plantation sector, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening of the supply chain, value addition for rubber wood etc., would ensure the sustainable existence of rubber farmers everywhere. Dato' Dr. Zaroissani Mohd Nor, Director-General, Malaysian Rubber Board & Chairman of ANRPC, presented the

annual statement of the ANRPC. The mission of the Association is to continuously improve the productivity of rubber holdings, reduce cost, increase value addition in the downstream rubber sector, explore sources of ancillary income, capitalize on the eco-friendly credentials of natural rubber, and thereby improve the well-being of rubber farmers, Dr. Zaroissani said. Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, in his welcome address, remarked that low prices of rubber, increased labour costs, labour shortages, diseases, climate change, environmental problems, etc., are the common challenges that all NR-producing countries face today. Collective efforts are essential to solve these common issues in this sector. Efforts are largely ongoing in various dimensions for the overall development of the rubber sector and to achieve self-sufficiency in all rubber production and product manufacturing. 'INROAD', the biggest rubber planting project to expand rubber in two lakh hectares of land in northeastern states with the cooperation and financial support of ATMA, the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, is underway. Mr. Vasanthagesan also expressed extreme gratitude to Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, who has taken special interest and guidance to implement the 'INROAD' project.

Followed by the inaugural session, Mr. Toh Heng Guan (Secretary-General of ANRPC), Mr. Errol Perera (Agricultural Advisor to ASEAN), Mr. Rajiv Budhraj (Director General, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association) and Mr. Huang Chunlin (Product Manager-Commodities, Singapore Exchange) spoke on various topics. Mrs. Sheela Thomas (Chairperson & Managing

Director, Kerala Rubber Limited) and Prof. Dr. Joseph Adelegan (Secretary General, International Rubber Study Group) were the moderators of the panel discussions. The meeting also discussed the scope of carbon crediting.

'Outlook of Natural Rubber', 'Sustainable NR Supply: Challenges and Solutions', 'Tyre Industry', 'How SICOM can be a reliable price discovery hub for Natural Rubber' and 'Measures to improve the NR prices and domestic demands: country experiences' were the topics of speeches and discussions in the various sessions of the annual meetings. Rubber Board members, Senior Officials from the State governments, foreign delegates, representatives of all stakeholder sessions in the NR sector, rubber growers, media representatives etc. participated in the annual rubber conference.

The Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1970. The membership is open to the governments of countries producing natural rubber. Currently, 13 countries, including India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam are members of this global association. The ANRPC aims at the overall development of the NR sector and plays a significant role in assessing the situations in the member countries and facilitating communication between the stakeholders. The exchange of ideas in the public forums of ANRPC, such as the Annual Rubber Conference, facilitates the formulation of strategies required to sustain the NR sector everywhere.

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## THE RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INDIA (RRII) OBSERVED THE FOUNDATION DAY



Dr. Tessy Thomas, former Director General of Aeronautical Systems of Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) inaugurated the Foundation Day celebrations of Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) on the occasion of its 68th year of establishment at RRII, Kottayam. She delivered the

foundation day lecture on 16 October and launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) based web portals on 'Vulnerability of rubber plantations in Kerala to floods' and 'Landslide susceptibility of rubber plantations in Meghalaya'. Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, presided over the function. He also released the book on 'Rubber plantations in landslide-vulnerable areas of Kerala and Meghalaya delineated through remote sensing and the Geographic Information System'. Dr. M.D. Jessy, Director, Research (in-charge), RRII welcomed the gathering. Mr. T. Radhakrishnan, Assistant Professor, Digital University of Kerala and Mr. Eldho Baby, Chief Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, felicitated at the function. Dr. Siby Varghese, Joint Director, Technical Consultancy Division, RRII proposed a vote of thanks. Retired Officials of RRII, Heads of Departments and Divisions of the Rubber Board and the students from nearby schools attended the function. Dr. Tessy Thomas interacted with the students attended the meeting.

### Cultural Practices during November

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.

White washing using lime or china clay can be practised, from second year of planting till canopy closes, for protecting brown bark from sunscorch during the year of planting, the young plants should be protected by shading. Plaited coconut leaves or bamboo baskets can be used for this purpose. Care should be taken to use bamboo baskets of adequate size, so that it does not hinder the growth of the plants. In 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.

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

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

### 1. Training in Pest and Disease Control on 6 November 2023

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/- + 18% GST

### 2. Short term training in Latex Goods Manufacture from 6-10 November 2023

Entrepreneurs/interested persons from latex product manufacturing industries 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/-(Non-residential) + 18% GST. Medium of instruction is English

### 3. Training in Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable rubber production from 9-10 November 2023

Training is on enhancing production, productivity and reducing cost through Good Agricultural Practices in rubber plantations. Farmers and persons from estate sectors can apply for this course. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.1500/-+18% GST .

### 4. Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPS from 13-14 November 2023

This two days sponsored training impart 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

### 5. Online training in intercropping in Rubber on 14 November 2023

This 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



**6. Short term training on Marketing and Export Management of Natural Rubber from 15-16 November 2023**

The course content includes NR market, futures trading, opportunities for export, price factors, licensing, exim policies of the government, market development and export promotion measures. Members of Rubber marketing co-operative societies, industrialists and rubber dealers can participate in this course. Fees: Rs. 2000/- + 18% GST Extra.

**7. Short term training on Dry Rubber Goods Manufacture from 20-24 November 2023**

The course include compounding ingredients, principles of rubber compounding, moulded, extruded and calendared goods, Process control tests and vulcanisates testing, production, planning and control etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.5000/- + 18% GST. Medium of instruction is English. Entrepreneurs/interested persons from dry rubber product manufacturing industries can apply.

**8. Training on Production of planting materials and clones on 21 November 2023**

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/- + 18% GST

**9. Online training on Planting & upkeep on 28 November 2023**

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.100/- + 18% GST.

**10. Training on Testing of DRC for Skill Development from 28-30 November 2023**

This 3 day 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. Those who are interested may register in the link <https://bit.ly/3feCcVj> 25% fee concession is applicable for RPS members on production of RPS membership certificate. SC/ST participants are eligible to get 50% concession in course fee on production of caste certificate. For board & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra.

For details of the on-going/upcoming training programmes of NIRT

A) Please follow the Facebook page of NIRT  
<https://www.facebook.com/Rubber-BoardofIndia>

B) Contact WhatsApp numbers 04812353201(Industrial programmes) and 04812351313(Plantation programmes)

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - OCTOBER 2023 [Price/Rs/Qtl]							
DATE	DOMESTIC					INTERNATIONAL	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
02/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	13115	13047
03/10/2023	14650	14250	11150	14650	14250	13065	12998
04/10/2023	14650	14300	11200	14650	14300	12979	12912
05/10/2023	14650	14300	11200	14650	14300	13011	12943
07/10/2023	14650	14300	11150	14650	14300	13115	13047
07/10/2023	14650	14300	Holiday	14650	14300	Holiday	Holiday
08/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
09/10/2023	14700	14300	11095	14700	14300	13205	13137
10/10/2023	14700	14300	11095	14700	14300	13225	13157
11/10/2023	14750	14350	11150	14750	14350	13384	13317
12/10/2023	14850	14450	11305	14850	14450	13906	13837
13/10/2023	14950	14500	11410	14950	14500	Holiday	Holiday
14/10/2023	15000	14550	Holiday	15000	14550	Holiday	Holiday
15/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
16/10/2023	15100	14650	11625	15100	14650	14315	14246
17/10/2023	15200	14800	11835	15200	14800	14552	14483
18/10/2023	15250	14900	11890	15250	14900	14741	14673
19/10/2023	15250	14950	11890	15250	14950	14858	14789
20/10/2023	15250	15000	11890	15250	15000	14748	14679
21/10/2023	15200	14950	Holiday	15200	14950	Holiday	Holiday
22/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
23/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
24/10/2023	15200	14950	11835	15200	14950	14528	14460
25/10/2023	15200	14950	11730	15200	14950	14539	14470
26/10/2023	15200	15000	11675	15200	15000	14441	14372
27/10/2023	15200	15000	11675	15200	15000	14315	14247
28/10/2023	15200	15000	Holiday	15200	15000	Holiday	Holiday
29/10/2023	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
30/10/2023	15200	15000	11675	15200	15000	13982	13913
31/10/2023	15150	14950	11570	15150	14950	13844	13775
Average	14992	14667	11502	14992	14667	13893	13825