



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

Rubber Board signs MOU with Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat



Sharing of MOU between, Dr. Jessy, M.D. Director (Research) i/c, Rubber Board and Dr. T.R. Ahlawat, Director of Research, Navsari Agricultural University in the presence of Dr. KN. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, Dr. Z.P. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University and Dr. Lalit Mahatma, Associate Director of Research, NAU are also seen (from left)

An MOU has been signed between Rubber Board and Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat on 5th July 2022 to evaluate the feasibility of cultivating rubber in south Gujarath region. MOU was signed by Dr. Jessy, M.D., Director (Research) i/c, Rubber Board and Dr. T.R. Ahlawat, Director of Research Navsari Agricultural University (NAU), Gujarat in the presence of Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board and Dr. Z.P. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University. One hectare of rubber plantation will be established in Peria farm of the University and pilot trials will be initiated in 13 research farms of the University for evaluation in the different agro-climatic conditions of the region.

Planting has been initiated at Peria farm of the University by Dr. Z.P. Patel, Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Dr. T.R. Ahlawat (Director of Research, NAU), Dr. Jessy M.D. Dr. D.K. Sharma (Head, Agricultural Experiment Station, Peria), Dr. Meena Singh, Officer in Charge, RRS, Dapchhari and Dr. Thomson Abraham (Scientist, RRII).

Rubber Board under Ministry of Commerce, Government of India is in a concerted effort to increase the area under natural rubber in the country to increase the production of rubber to make India Atmanirbhar in Natural Rubber. Natural rubber (NR) is a critical industrial raw material with substantial strategic significance from the national point of view. NR finds application in the manufacturing of about 40,000 products, which are indispensable to economic and commercial development of the nation. The consumption of natural rubber has been steadily increasing in the country during the past decade and the growth of NR consuming industry, espe-

contd. on page 2

Highlights

- **Grower's Corner**

- Keep cups inverted
- Cultural operations
- Seedling nursery
- Field planting
- crop protection

- **India Rubber Meet 2022**

- **And more**

Keep cups inverted after latex collection



rupted for longer periods, leading to proliferation of mosquitoes. Rainwater may also get collected in the folds of plastic rainguards fixed on the trees, in the old and damaged collection cups, other utensils and old plastic sheets lying discarded in the plantations. The Board requests all rubber growers and tappers to be careful to avoid such circumstances.

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cially the tyre manufacturing sector has created a big gap between NR produced and consumed in India. The short-fall caused by the gap between production and consumption is bridged by imports of NR which was valued at Rs. 7500 Crore during 2021-22.

Rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is the only commercially viable source of natural rubber. Latex, which contains rubber is harvested by controlled wounding of the tree, which usually starts seven to eight years after planting. During the non-yielding phase of rubber trees, other annual and short term crops can be cultivated with rubber as intercrops for generating income as well as for meeting part of the food requirement of the farm family. The tree has a life span of about 30-35 years under cultivated conditions. In India, 8.27 lakh hectares is under rubber in the states of Kerala, parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya,



Dr. Z.P. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University planting rubber at Peria farm of the University

Assam, Meghalaya,

Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Rubber is a crop of small growers, approximately 90 per cent of the area under rubber in the country is under small holdings. Growers can harvest latex throughout the year,



Dr. KN. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board planting rubber at Peria farm of the University

process to get dry rubber and market through a network of dealers.

India is the 2nd largest consumer of natural rubber globally with a current consumption of around 1.2 million tonne annually, which is expected to increase over the years. A special scheme 'NE Mithra' to plant 2 lakh hectares with rubber within 5 years in Northeastern states with the financial assistance from Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) is under implementation and planting in this region commenced in 2021. A National Rubber Mission to extend rubber plantations in further 5 lakh hectares in various other parts of the country also is on the anvil.

Grower's Corner

Rainy season is to begin in Kerala soon. In this context the Rubber Board requests all rubber growers to ensure that the latex collection cups in their holdings are kept in inverted position after collecting latex in the rainy season. This is because rainwater getting collected in the cups is a good medium for breeding of mosquitoes.

When tapping is carried out uninterruptedly, at least once every week, there is little chance for the water to remain in the cups for long. But as the monsoon sets in, tapping operations may be dis-

Important farm activities in July

Grower's Corner

Raising seedling nurseries

In South India, the fruits of *Hevea* ripen by the end of July and the dry fruits dehisce and the seeds are collected. The rubber seeds have shorter viability, however, the viability can be prolonged up to two months by mixing with moist charcoal powder and then packed in gunny bags lined with perforated polythene sheet or double gunny bags. Germination beds may be prepared in advance so that seeds can be sown for germination without much delay. The seeds are washed thoroughly and then sown in single layer touching one another and pressed firmly into the sand, with the surface of the seeds just visible above. Germination starts within six to seven days after sowing.

Seeds sprouted each day should be picked and planted in the nursery or in the fields as the case may be. Delay in transplanting may cause damage to the tender roots. Seeds which do not germinate within 2-3 weeks may be discarded.

Field planting



If weather is favourable, planting can be carried out during this month also.

Seedlings and budded stumps

Planting of seedling stumps and budded stumps should be done immediately after pulling out. While planting budded stumps, the bud patch should be just above the ground level to reduce the effects of elephant foot and infection by soil-borne pathogens.

Polybag plants

At the time of planting, the top whorl of leaves of the plant should be fully mature. A planting hole slightly bigger than the size of the polybag is made. The tip of the tap root, if grown out of the bag, should be removed. The bottom of the bag is cut and the bag along with the plant is placed in the hole, gradually filling the hole while keeping the soil core intact. The cut is continued as the bag is slit open and carefully removed. The soil is then packed firmly around the plants.

Root trainer plants

At transplanting, the root plug can be separated from the container without any damage by inverting it and giving a gentle tap of the rim of the root trainer cup to any hard surface. A planting hole can be made in the refilled planting pit by pressing the empty root trainer cup into soil. The root plug is carefully inserted into the planting hole and the soil around it is compacted. The root trainer plants show early establishment due to its well developed root system.

Weed control

Weeding should be carried out by adopting either manual methods or by use of herbicides in the rubber plantations. The weeds removed manually may be kept in plant rows which when dried can be used for mulching the plant base.

Disease control

Spraying Bordeaux mixture (1%) may be carried out at fortnightly intervals to protect young plants in the nursery as well as in the field against shoot rot disease.

Periodic inspection for detecting pink disease affected plants may be undertaken on sunny days as the disease is prevalent during southwest monsoon period. The main seat of infection is usually the fork region. Initially white



or pink coloured cobweb mycelial growth on the bark surface may appear with streaks of latex oozing out from the lesions. Rotting, drying up and cracking of the affected bark will follow. In the early stages of infection Bordeaux paste has to be applied on the infected parts extending up to 30 cm above and below the affected areas. When the infection is in its advanced stage cracks are formed in the bark and exudation of latex occurs. In such cases Bordeaux paste may be applied initially and after drying, the affected region may be scraped to remove all the rotting bark and mycelium and then the paste is applied again as done earlier. Dried branches after disinfection should be pruned off and burnt. Application of fungicides like Thiride was found effective in containing the disease when incorporated (10g/kg) in a petroleum wound dressing compound.

If tapping is continued during the rainy season use of an effective panel protectant is essential to protect the tapping panel from bark rot which may occur during the season. If any leakage is found in the rainguards it should be rectified and if necessary it may be replaced with new ones.

Fungicide like Indofil M-45/Dithane M-45 (5 gm/l of water) or Akomin/Phosjet (2ml/litre) may be applied at weekly intervals on the tapping cut against bark rot disease. In trees where the infection is advanced and the panel is rotten, the surface may be scraped to remove the decaying tissues and washed with effective fungicide solution and then any of the wound dressing compounds like Rubberkot, Sopkot, Treseal etc. may be applied to the panel.

India Rubber Meet 2022 in Kochi on 22 & 23 July



India Rubber Meet 2022, the sixth edition of the biennial event, will be held at Le Meridien, Kochi, Kerala on 22 and 23 July 2022. India Rubber Meet (IRM) is organized by the Rubber Board in partnership with stakeholder associations in rubber and related sectors. The Meet is a major initiative of Indian rubber industry to organise a regular forum for interaction, networking and exchange of information. Mr. Satish Sharma, Chairman, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), New Delhi will inaugurate the Meet. Dr. Sawar Dhanania (Chairman, Rubber Board & President, All India Rubber Industries Association) will speak on the occasion. Dr. K.N. Raghavan IRS (Executive Director, Rubber Board), Chair-

man of the Organising Committee will welcome the gathering and Mr. Vinod Simon (Vice-Chairman, Organizing Committee, IRM 2022), Vice - Chairman, Organising Committee, IRM 2022 will propose a vote of thanks in the inaugural function. The function will begin at 09.30 am.

The theme of India Rubber Meet 2022 is 'Natural Rubber for Sustainable Future' and is expected to address the challenges and opportunities of rubber sector and also to stimulate innovative ideas and strategic planning for a more sustainable future. There will be invited talks by internationally renowned speakers on topics such as 'Sustainability

in rubber sector', 'Avenues in speciality applications', 'Challenges and opportunities in rubber product manufacturing', 'Supply chain strategies', 'Sustainable farming practices' etc. IRM 2022 has a combination of invited talks and panel discussions, with ample time set for networking. Topics of invited talks and panel discussions cover global economic outlook, rubber industry outlook, global and domestic NR scenario, synthetic rubber developments, trends in auto and tyre sectors. Speakers are internationally renowned experts in the respective fields and represent major industry bodies and key enterprises.

IRM 2022 is organized under the aegis of India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), a society formed jointly by Rubber Board and the stakeholder associations in rubber and related sectors. A national level organizing committee under the chairmanship of Dr. K.N. Raghavan IRS (Executive Director, Rubber Board) with the representation of all segments of the rubber industry has been constituted to organize the event. The committee includes representatives of small and large rubber growers, rubber processors and traders, tyre and non-tyre sectors, auto component manufacturers, rubber product exporters, synthetic rubber and reclaimed rubber manufacturers, rubber research and skill development institutions and media dealing with rubber. More details can be had from www.indiarubbermeet.in.

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - JUNE 2022							
[Price/Rs/Qtl]							
DATE	Domestic					International	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-06-2022	17400	17150	12045	17400	17150	17366	17298
02-06-2022	17450	17200	12045	17450	17200	17371	17303
03-06-2022	17500	17250	12045	17500	17250	Holiday	Holiday
04-06-2022	17550	17250	Holiday	17550	17250	Holiday	Holiday
05-06-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
06-06-2022	17600	17300	12100	17600	17300	17388	17321
07-06-2022	17600	17350	12205	17600	17350	17311	17244
08-06-2022	17650	17400	12205	17650	17400	17243	17175
09-06-2022	17750	17500	12260	17750	17500	17345	17278
10-06-2022	17800	17600	12260	17800	17600	17341	17274
11-06-2022	17800	17600	Holiday	17800	17600	Holiday	Holiday
12-06-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
13-06-2022	17750	17550	12260	17750	17550	16839	16771
14-06-2022	17650	17450	12150	17650	17450	16420	16353
15-06-2022	17600	17350	12100	17600	17350	16247	16180
16-06-2022	17600	17300	12045	17600	17300	16225	16159
17-06-2022	17600	17300	12045	17600	17300	16237	16170
18-06-2022	17600	17300	Holiday	17600	17300	Holiday	Holiday
19-06-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
20-06-2022	17600	17300	12045	17600	17300	15960	15893
21-06-2022	17600	17300	12045	17600	17300	15764	15697
22-06-2022	17600	17300	12045	17600	17300	15624	15558
23-06-2022	17650	17350	12045	17600	17350	15533	15466
24-06-2022	17700	17350	12045	17650	17350	15573	15507
25-06-2022	17700	17400	Holiday	17700	17400	Holiday	Holiday
26-06-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
27-06-2022	17700	17450	12045	17700	17450	15461	15395
28-06-2022	17750	17500	12150	17700	17500	15441	15374
29-06-2022	17800	17550	12150	17750	17550	15601	15534
30-06-2022	17800	17600	12205	17750	17600	15743	15675
Average	17646	17383	12115	17637	17383	16383	16315