



# The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

JANUARY 2023

## Rubber growers should turn to entrepreneurship in product making

- DR. SAWAR DHANANIA

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Farmer Producer Organisations in Rubber Sector**
- **Grower's Corner**
  - Drought
  - Sun Scorch
  - Fire damage
- **Training Programmes**
  - Testing of DRC for Skill Development
  - Good Agricultural practices for Sustainable Rubber production
  - Manuring in Rubber
  - RSS Processing and Grading
- **Rubber Price**



The Rubber Producers' Societies (RPSs) should turn to entrepreneurship in rubber product making with the cooperation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) said Dr. Sawar Dhanania, Chairman of the Rubber Board. He was addressing the rubber growers in connection with a seminar on the 'Scope of Farmer Producer Organizations in the rubber sector', held at Kottayam. The RPSs have succeeded in the collectivization of unorganized rubber farmers and now it is a need of the hour to find a space in the product-making sector. The entry of RPSs to product manufacturing with the support of FPOs is essential for the survival and sustainability of the rubber farming sector, he said.

The FPOs in the natural rubber (NR) sector should find opportunities to develop new rubber-based products and to start initiatives for entrepreneurship in the non-tyre sector, said Mr. T.K. Jose, Chairman of Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission, who spoke in the seminar. If the FPOs can take the

advantage of the potentials of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M.S.M.E.) sector, many of the present issues will be solved, he added.

In the present scenario, the farmers cannot find solutions for the losses owing to the low rubber prices depending on the financial support alone from the governments. They should utilize all possible income-generating sources from the rubber farming sector itself, said Dr. K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, while answering the queries of rubber farmers. The carbon trading and sustainability certification etc., are the new areas which can generate extra income for the rubber farmers in the near future and the Board has started an initiative to explore such opportunities in the rubber farming sector, Dr. Raghavan said.

Mr. K.A. Unnikrishnan (Vice-Chairman, Rubber Board), Mr. N. Hari, T.P. George Kutty, Mr. Korah C. George, Mr. P. Raveendran (Board Members) and Mr. Jacob Mathew (Joint Director- ret'd., Rubber Board) also spoke in the meeting.

## Insurance Scheme for Rubber Tappers

The Rubber Board implements an Insurance scheme for rubber tappers working in the small holding sector. The workers engaged in sheet making in the Group Processing Centers of Rubber Producers' Societies and the small growers with a rubber area up to one hectare and practicing self-tapping in a minimum of a hundred rain-guarded trees can also join the scheme. The applicants should be between 18 to 59 years old, and they must have a work experience of a minimum of one year.

The beneficiaries of the scheme will get

Rs. 80000/- for normal death and Rs. 1.8 lakh for accidental death as insurance coverage. The beneficiary will get an amount on maturity of the scheme, proportional to the total premium paid during the period. The minimum premium amount is Rs.300, and those who want higher coverage under this scheme can pay more. The Rubber Board will remit Rs. 600/- per beneficiary as the Board's share for this scheme. The last date to apply for the scheme is 24 February 2023. For more details, contact the nearest offices of the Rubber Board.

## Rubber Board to announce mRube Accolades 2023



The Rubber Board plans to announce 'mRube Accolades 2023' the best performer award to the registered members of the 'mRube' in March 2023. 'mRube' is the electronic trade platform of the Rubber Board. The Board intends to give the best performer awards for seven categories of the members of the 'mRube', viz., Tyre Sector, Non- Tyre Sector, Manufacturers in Small scale sector, Rubber Dealers, Rubber Processors, Rubber Producers' Societies from NE Region and Rubber Producers' Societies in other than NE Region. The Board will give Rupees one lakh and a citation to the best performer from each category.

'mRube', the electronic market promoted by the Rubber Board, has made great strides in developing an alternative market system for rubber. Despite being engulfed with bearish sentiments in the domestic rubber market, the mRube portal is a blessing, as many sellers could realize the best available price in the market. In the first 100 trading days since inception, 4,000 tonnes of rubber worth 50 crores was traded through mRube. The impressive performance of mRube has enticed many buyers and sellers to this electronic platform.

Though Rubber Producers' Societies and other grower collectives in the rubber sector have a strong footing in trade, the scope for integration with the



downstream segment needs to be expanded. mRube, the electronic market initiated by the Rubber Board, opens new vistas in commodity trade. Board gainfully used technological innovations in setting this 'B2B' market. Creating a robust electronic market could bring better price discovery and convergence with the spot market. mRube has opened up new vistas for growers and dealers, especially in the non-traditional belts where supply chain infirmities persist owing to geographical disadvantages. Dealers in the traditional belt also find mRube as a cost-effective strategy to connect with suppliers in far-off places rather than setting up their collection centres in such areas.

A simple and user-friendly web solution and mobile application for mRube is perfecting, matching the needs of the market participants. Market participants are sensitized to using the mRube portal online and offline by the mRube team. Impressive trade volumes in a short stint of 100 days justify efforts put in by the Board in propagating mRube among its stakeholders.

Detailed notification on mRube Accolades 2023 is available on mRube portal [www.mrube.org.in](http://www.mrube.org.in)



## Drought



Drought results in wilting and drying of seedlings in nurseries and young plants in field besides yield decline in tapped trees. Thick mulching and, if warranted, life-saving irrigation with soil injector during peak summer may be practiced to mitigate the effects. Providing artificial shade or contact shading by spraying China clay (10%) on to leaves are effective for protection of young plants in the field.

## Sun scorch



Damage due to sun scorch is more in nursery plants and also in young plants in field. Girdling consequent to drying of bark at collar region and subsequent mortality of plants are the main effects of sun scorch. Plants on south and southwest slope are more affected, so also the bark facing same direction. The dried-up bark remains addressed to the wood and sometimes falls off leaving a 'spear-head' shape. The affected region may be scraped off and washed with mancozeb 0.75% solution and coated with a thin layer of wound dressing compound. The treated surface may be white-washed. Mulching the plant basins and white washing brown portion of main trunk using lime or china clay till the canopy closes are effective measures against sun scorch. .

## Fire damage



The thick dried mulch in immature plantations with cover crop and accumulation of dried leaves following wintering in mature fields enhance the risk of fire outbreak during summer. Fire may originate due to personal carelessness or by accident or from neighboring forest. The extent of damage varies from superficial scorching to deep injury of bark portions. Exudation of latex is often noticed. Colonization of damaged bark by borer beetles is also observed. Preparing firebreaks along the border and putting up warning boards are effective preventive measures. . In the case of partially affected plants, the damaged bark should be scraped off, the exposed area washed/cleaned with mancozeb 0.75% solution and after drying, a wound dressing compound applied. If exposed to direct sunlight, treated portions may be whitewashed.



# TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

## 1. Training in Testing of DRC for Skill Development from 16-18 January 2023

The three day training is on testing of DRC of field latex/concentrated latex as per standards. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.3000 + 18% GST. Medium of instruction is English. Those who are interested may register in the link <https://bit.ly/3feCcVj>

## 2. Training in Good Agricultural practices for Sustainable rubber production from 17-18 January 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 .

## 3. Training in manuring in rubber on 20 January 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+ 18% GST.

## 4. Training in RSS Processing and Grading from 19-20 January 2023

Rubber dealers, rubber growers, processors and consumers in 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.2000 + 18% GST.

## 5. Training in Latex Harvest Technology from 24-25 January 2023

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.

## 6. Training in Production of planting materials and clones on 27 January 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.

## 7. Training in Intercropping in Rubber on 31 January 2023

This one day course content includes different intercrops practiced in rubber plantations, guidelines for their planting and maintenance. Farmers, Estate managers, nursery owners.

### DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - DECEMBER 2022 [Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	DOMESTIC					INTERNATIONAL	
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-12-2022	14600	14300	9720	14600	14300	12949	12880
02-12-2022	14550	14250	9615	14550	14250	13011	12942
03-12-2022	14550	14200	Holiday	14550	14200	Holiday	Holiday
04-12-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
05-12-2022	14500	14100	9405	14500	14100	Holiday	Holiday
06-12-2022	14400	14000	9300	14400	14000	13197	13127
07-12-2022	14350	13950	9300	14350	13950	13286	13216
08-12-2022	14300	13900	9195	14300	13900	13342	13271
09-12-2022	14250	13900	9300	14250	13900	13466	13395
10-12-2022	14250	13900	Holiday	14250	13900	Holiday	Holiday
11-12-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
12-12-2022	14250	13950	9350	14250	13950	Holiday	Holiday
13-12-2022	14200	13900	9300	14200	13900	13566	13495
14-12-2022	14150	13850	9300	14150	13850	13638	13566
15-12-2022	14050	13750	9245	14050	13750	13696	13624
16-12-2022	14050	13700	9195	14050	13700	13627	13556
17-12-2022	14000	13700	Holiday	14000	13700	Holiday	Holiday
18-12-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
19-12-2022	13950	13650	9140	13950	13650	13543	13472
20-12-2022	13900	13600	9035	13900	13600	13540	13469
21-12-2022	13850	13550	8980	13850	13550	13492	13421
22-12-2022	13800	13500	8930	13800	13500	13567	13496
23-12-2022	13750	13450	8875	13750	13450	13549	13477
24-12-2022	13700	13400	Holiday	13700	13400	Holiday	Holiday
25-12-2022	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
26-12-2022	13600	13200	8875	13600	13200	13359	13287
27-12-2022	13550	13100	8875	13550	13100	13392	13321
28-12-2022	13550	13150	8930	13550	13150	13444	13372
29-12-2022	13600	13200	8930	13600	13200	13536	13464
30-12-2022	13650	13200	8980	13650	13200	Holiday	Holiday
31-12-2022	13700	13200	Holiday	13700	13200	Holiday	Holiday
Average	14039	13687	9172	14039	13687	13432	13361