



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

2023 December

ANRPC urges the European Union to establish practical approaches and measures on NR regulations

The ANRPC (Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries) is an international organization of natural rubber-producing countries established in 1970. 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 inter-governmental association. ANRPC's Member Countries (AMC) represent 84% of world production and 70% of the world's natural rubber consumption. The 54th executive committee of the ANRPC, held in Guwahati from 09 to 13 October 2023, has jointly arrived at various announcements to ensure an economically viable, socially and ecologically sustainable natural rubber industry.

The ANRPC has released a joint communiqué to the European Union (EU) to ensure the sustainability of the natural rubber (NR) sector in its 54th meeting of the Executive Committee held in Guwahati. The communiqué is based on the mission of ANRPC to improve the productivity of rubber holdings, reduce cost, increase value addition in the downstream rubber sector, explore sources of ancillary income, capitalize on eco-friendly credentials of natural rubber, and thereby improve the well-being of rubber farmers.

ANRPC, in principle, supports any activity that promotes sustainability and protects our natural resources fairly, clearly, and sustainably without creating unneces-

sary trade barriers and harm to the local community. The role of natural rubber as an essential raw material that is used in the creation of many products and contributes to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of all stakeholders, including farmers/smallholders, communities, and the planet.

NR production for smallholders holds the potential to propel us closer to the achievement of the targets set by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the call for no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, responsible consumption and production, climate action and life on land.

Rubber plantations, as assessed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), constitute a distinct form of forest that seamlessly integrates commercial and ecological aspects. These plantations contribute to biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods. Their integration into landscapes promotes responsible land use and supports rural economies, aligning with our collective vision of sustainable development.

At the same time, the AMC have an ongoing sustainability program and is in the process of creating a comprehensive guideline relating to Sustainable Natural Rubber (SNR). In tandem with this endeavour, ANRPC fosters collaborative partnerships with relevant parties

to facilitate knowledge exchange and disseminate best practices to promote SNR.

Most rubber smallholders have been suffering from low NR prices for more than a decade; most of the time, NR was traded below the cost of production, plant pests and diseases, climate change and more, and will now face a new potential challenge from the implementation of the EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR), as they will be required to comply with some administrative procedures, such as Due Diligence and risk assessment mechanisms. ANRPC will continue enhancing collaboration within the AMC with the relevant international parties to ensure that production cost and sustainability factors are integral to the rubber trade.

ANRPC is deeply concerned by the enactment of the EUDR, which can create unnecessary trade barriers, which may lead to catastrophic outcomes to the NR global supply chain disruption, especially to the smallholders.

ANRPC reiterates that trade policies should align with the rules and regulations in the multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. Trade policies should also promote an inclusive, equitable, transparent, non-discriminatory, and mutually supportive approach to environmental policies, extending their scope beyond the interactions between factories

and operators. They should aim to deliver advantages to farmers, who are fundamental stakeholders within the trade ecosystem.

The Association urges the EU to look further into the role of the NR sector and its invaluable role in sustainable development everywhere. By acknowledging rubber as a forest tree, the EU can facilitate creating regulations that ensure the continued availability of NR while upholding the balance factors of SDGs' economic, social, and environmental pillars that can fulfil the whole concept of sustainability.

ANRPC also requests the EU to establish practical approaches and measures to ensure the smallholders' inclusivity in the supply chain aligns with the spirit of 'leaving no one behind' of the United Nations SDGs and minimize the risk of smallholders' exclusion in the EU market.

The Association is making a collective effort to call upon EU authorities to acknowledge and address the concerns of AMC and look forward to having a substantial, genuine, and constructive dialogue on the issues of the EUDR.

The AMC will continue the close cooperation between members and reaffirm its commitment to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Rubber Board celebrates National Library Week



Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, inaugurated the National Library Week Celebrations organized by the Library and Documentation Centre of the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII). He also released the 'Library Brochure' prepared by the RRII Library. Dr. M.D. Jessy (Director-Research in-charge), Dr. Sherin George (Principal Scientist, RRII), Mrs. N. Latha (Documentation Officer, RRII) and Mrs. A.S. Ajitha (Senior Librarian, RRII) spoke on the occasion.

As part of the National Library Week, the Library and Documentation Center at RRII will remain open for the public from November 14 to 20 on weekdays except Saturday and Sunday. The RRII Library started in 1963, has a wide range of collections, including academic and research books, bound volumes of periodicals, publications on Indian and British standards, theses and research papers, reference books for competitive examinations, etc. As part of the weeklong celebrations, book exhibitions and sales, lectures and webinars, etc., have been organized at the RRII Library Hall. Visitors can purchase books from the leading publishers at discounted prices.

The Indian Library Association initiated the National Library Week celebrations in 1968 to highlight the role of libraries in educating the masses and ensuring social empowerment.

DECEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Online training on bee keeping in rubber plantations on December 2023

This one day course imparts training on beekeeping to farmers/SHG members for additional income generation. Rubber growers, farmers, RPS, SHG members can apply for this course. Fees prescribed for this course is Rs.100/- + GST 18%.

Training on RSS Processing and Grading from 14-15 December 2023

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%.

Training on spraying and maintenance of sprayers on 19 December 2023

This one day training is to impart knowledge on spraying and maintenance of sprayers. Rubber growers, RPS/SHG members can apply for this course.

Fees: Rs.500/- + (18% GST extra)

Training on Testing of DRC for Skill Development on 27-29 December 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>

Online training on Intercropping in Rubber: 28 December 2023

The 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

Growers corner

Drought

Moisture stress and consequent drought effects are more pronounced in northern districts of Kerala and non-traditional areas like Odisha, Maharashtra and North Karnataka. Besides yield decline in tapped trees, drought results in wilting and drying of seedlings in nurseries and young plants in field. Thick mulching and, if warranted, life-saving irrigation with soil injector during peak summer may be practised 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 adpressed 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

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE NOVEMBER 2023

[Price/Rs/Qtl]

DATE	Domestic					International Bangkok	
	Kottayam			Kochi			
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
1/11/2023	15150	14950	11465	15150	14950	13909	13839
2/11/2023	15150	14950	11410	15150	14950	13917	13848
3/11/2023	15150	14950	11305	15150	14950	14203	14133
4/11/2023	15200	15000	HOLIDAY	15200	15000	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
5/11/2023	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
6/11/2023	15200	15000	11200	15200	15000	14347	14277
7/11/2023	15250	15050	11200	15250	15050	14210	14139
8/11/2023	15350	15150	11200	15350	15150	14045	13975
9/11/2023	15350	15150	11200	15350	15150	14058	13987
10/11/2023	15400	15200	11200	15400	15200	14066	13996
11/11/2023	15450	15250	HOLIDAY	15450	15250	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
12/11/2023	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
13/11/2023	15500	15300	11255	15500	15300	13907	13837
14/11/2023	15500	15300	11255	15500	15300	13898	13829
15/11/2023	15450	15250	11255	15450	15250	14061	13992
16/11/2023	15450	15250	11255	15450	15250	14369	14298
17/11/2023	15400	15200	11200	15400	15200	14230	14160
18/11/2023	15400	15200	HOLIDAY	15400	15200	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
19/11/2023	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
20/11/2023	15400	15200	11150	15400	15200	14406	14335
21/11/2023	15400	15150	11095	15400	15150	14274	14202
22/11/2023	15400	15150	11095	15400	15150	14143	14072
23/11/2023	15400	15150	11095	15400	15150	14095	14024
24/11/2023	15400	15150	11045	15400	15150	14186	14115
25/11/2023	15400	15100	HOLIDAY	15400	15100	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
26/11/2023	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
27/11/2023	15400	15100	10990	15400	15100	14259	14189
28/11/2023	15350	15050	10990	15350	15050	14483	14412
29/11/2023	15350	15050	10885	15350	15050	14607	14535
30/11/2023	15300	15000	10780	15300	15000	14579	14507
Average	15352	15125	11160	15352	15125	14193	14123

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