



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

Production and consumption of domestic NR gains momentum

India's natural rubber (NR) production during 2023-24 was 857000 tones, marking a significant growth of 2.1 per cent compared to 839000 tones in 2022-23. This positive trend was mirrored in the domestic consumption of NR, which saw a robust growth of 4.9 per cent, reaching 1416000 tonnes compared to 1350000 tonnes in the previous year. The future looks promising, with the projected production and consumption of NR for 2024-25 at 875000 tones and 1425000 tones respectively. These encouraging figures were shared at the 187th Board meeting of the Rubber Board held at Kottayam, where Dr. Sawar Dhanania, Chairman of the Rubber Board, presided over the meeting and Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, presented the report on the current status of the Indian NR sector.

According to the data published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the cumulative import and export of NR during 2023-24 were 492682 tones and 4199 tones, respectively. The total stock of NR held with growers, processors, traders, and manufacturers at the

end of March 2024 is estimated at 372085 tones as against 442602 tones in March 2023. In 2023-24, the country imported 169820 tones of compounded rubber. The export of compounded rubber during the same period was 18069 tonnes.

Under the 'INROAD' project, a collaborative effort between the



Rubber Board and four major tyre companies represented by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), rubber planting has been successfully managed in 69307 hectares. As a testament to the industry's commitment to the sustainability of NR sector, the ATMA have committed a significant contribution of Rs.1000 crores for rubber plantation development in

two lakh hectares in the north-east within five years.

Mr. K.A. Unnikrishnan (Vice-Chairman), Mr. N. Hari, Mr. Prasenjith Biswas IFS (Retd.), Mr. K. Viswanathan, Mr. P. Raveendran, Mr. C.S. Soman Pillai, Mr. Korah C. George, Mr. G. Anilkumar, Mr. Kallol Dey and Mr. G. Krishnakumar, Mr. Biplav Kar, Mr. M.P. Rajeevan,

Mr. Kesava Bhat Muliya, Dr. Siju T. (Rubber Production Commissioner) are the members attended in the Rubber Board meeting. The Horticulture Commissioner of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare participated in the meeting online. Dr. Binoi K. Kurian (Secretary-in-charge) and other officers of the Board also attended the meeting.

Cultural operations during in the month of July

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. As far as possible, level lands with good drainage and moderate shade should be selected for raising germination beds. Level beds of 90 cm width with a layer of river sand of about 5cm in thickness and of convenient length are generally made for seed germination. The surface of the beds may be raised to 10-15cm above soil surface to avoid waterlogging.

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. The beds may be covered with loosely

woven coir mats or plaited coconut leaves. The germination bed should be maintained in moist condition by evenly sprinkling water in the morning and evening.

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.

The land selected for raising the nursery may be dug to a depth of 75cm and all the stumps, stones and brushwood may be removed before leveling. Beds should be prepared with 60 to 120cm width and convenient length. Pathways may be laid in between the beds to facilitate manuring, watering, weeding etc.

Manuring the seedling nurseries

Two and a half tonnes of compost or well-rotten cattle manure and 350kg powdered rock phosphate for every effective hectare may be incorporated to the nursery bed as

a basal dressing. If the same beds are used repeatedly, application of rock phosphate is needed only once in three years. If the nursery is established in a newly cleared forest area, compost or cattle manure is not necessary during the first year and rock phosphate alone is sufficient.

Planting distances

Spacing varies according to the type of planting material to be raised in the nursery. If the nurseries are laid for brown budded stumps, the common spacings adopted are 30'30cm (12" '12") or staggered pairs of rows 60cm apart and 23cm between plants (24" '9"). To provide green-budded stumps 23 x 23 cm spacing is ideal. For bud wood nurseries a planting distance of 60'90cm (24" '36") or 60'120cm (24" '48") with wider spacing between rows is to be adopted.

Field Planting

If weather is favourable, planting can be carried out during this month also. The lateral roots of the budded stumps should not be trimmed too close to the tap root since these roots are vital for the early establishment and growth of young rubber plants.

Lateral roots may be trimmed about 7.5 to 10cm from the tap root. The stumps having more than one or twisted tap roots should not be used for field planting.

Cover crop

For the proper growth and establishment of cover crops in plantations, monthly removal of weeds in and around the patches for four to five months is necessary. Application of 150 kg of powdered-

rock phosphate per hectare in two equal installments is recommended. In areas where the soils are deficient in potassium, application of a mixture of 150 kg of rock phosphate and 50 kg of Muriate of potash may be used. The wild legume, *Mucuna bracteata*, which grows very fast and is not eaten by cattle can also be used as cover crop.

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. Cover crop should not be allowed to grow in a circle of about 6 feet diameter around the plants or along the terraces for 3-4 years to prevent competition with the young rubber.

Training - JULY 2024

1. Training in bee keeping in rubber plantations on 8 July 2024

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.500/- + GST 18%.

2. Training in Laboratory Accreditation (NABL) from 9-12 July 2024

It serves to meet the pre-requisites of NABL accreditation. This course will be applicable to all organizations performing tests and/or calibrations including, first-, second- and third-party laboratories, and laboratories where testing and/or calibration forms part of inspection and product certification. The fee prescribed for the course is Rs.3000/- + 18% GST.

3. Online training in manuring in rubber on 11 July 2024

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.100/- + GST 18%.

4. Training in Production of planting materials and clones on 16 July 2024

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.

5. Training in RSS Processing and Grading from 18-19 July 2024 (Technology)

Rubber dealers, rubber growers, processors and consumers in non-tire 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%.

6. Online training in Intercropping in Rubber on 24 July 2024

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

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/RubberBoardofIndia>

B) Contact WhatsApp numbers 0481235320 (Industrial programmes) and 0481235131 (Plantation programmes)

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE JUNE 2024

[Price/Rs/Qt]							
DATE	Domestic			International			
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60%LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01/06/2024	19200	18900	HOLIDAY	19200	18900	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
02/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
03/06/2024	19300	19000	13735	19300	19000	NA	NA
04/06/2024	19300	19000	13735	19300	19000	NA	NA
05/06/2024	19400	19100	13735	19400	19100	20691	20622
06/06/2024	19500	19200	13790	19500	19200	20397	20328
07/06/2024	19600	19300	13845	19600	19300	20804	20735
08/06/2024	19700	19400	HOLIDAY	19700	19400	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
09/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
10/06/2024	19900	19600	14055	19900	19600	20971	20902
11/06/2024	20100	19800	14055	20100	19800	20401	20333
12/06/2024	20200	19900	14105	20200	19900	20492	20424
13/06/2024	20300	19900	14160	20300	19900	20267	20199
14/06/2024	20300	19900	14160	20300	19900	19963	19895
15/06/2024	20300	19900	HOLIDAY	20300	19900	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
16/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
17/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	19549	19481
18/06/2024	20300	19900	14160	20300	19900	19112	19043
19/06/2024	20300	19900	14160	20300	19900	18677	18609
20/06/2024	20300	19900	14160	20300	19900	18504	18435
21/06/2024	20400	20000	14215	20400	20000	18303	18234
22/06/2024	20400	20000	HOLIDAY	20400	20000	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
23/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
24/06/2024	20400	20000	14320	20400	20000	18021	17953
25/06/2024	20400	20000	14530	20400	20000	18415	18346
26/06/2024	20500	20100	14690	20500	20100	18265	18197
27/06/2024	20500	20200	14900	20500	20200	18243	18175
28/06/2024	20500	20200	15005	20500	20200	17912	17844
29/06/2024	20500	20200	HOLIDAY	20500	20200	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
30/06/2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Average	20067	19721	14185	20067	19721	19388	19320