

Plantation Development in Traditional region

I. Objective

The rubber production in India will be increased by accelerating planting and replanting of rubber in rubber growing areas. This will be achieved through providing financial assistance (traditional region) and technical advice to the growers. The technical advice includes pre-planting advice, information on suitability of clones for the area, scientific management practices, proper advice for land preparation, rain water harvesting/soil protection etc. The Board shall also extend necessary advisory and extension support to the rubber growers at the time of field visit/group meeting at RPSs and through other extension tools, including print and electronic media.

II. Eligibility

In addition to the General modalities/guidelines, the following will be required.

1. Growers who own rubber growing area not exceeding 4.00 hectare in traditional region are eligible to apply for planting assistance.
2. The growers who undertake new planting/ replanting of rubber in any one year in a minimum area of 0.10 hectare of contiguous land will be eligible for assistance under the Scheme.
3. The planting grant shall be extended to the beneficiaries who are using certified planting materials.

III. Conditions

In addition to the General modalities/guidelines, the following will be required

1. Replanting is to be undertaken after removal of existing old / uneconomic rubber trees from the area.
2. The land selected for planting, suitable in all respects, for economic cultivation of rubber as specified in the Rubber Board website (www.rubberboard.org.in) under Agro-climatic requirements, will only be eligible for assistance.
3. The applicant should have absolute ownership over the land in respect of which assistance is sought.
4. Selection of land, planting and maintenance of plantation shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the owner of the holding, whereas eligibility for assistance or granting of assistance under the scheme will be the sole discretion of the Board and will not create any liability whatsoever for the Board in respect of the holding.
5. Areas notified / certified in the land documents should not be a paddy field or forest land

6. Sloppy lands with gradient steeper than 1 in 2 should be protected from soil erosion by contour terracing or construction of contour bunds or digging silt trenches or silt pits and by planting of cover crops.
7. Inter planting with crops is accepted, if such crops do not affect the growth of rubber or do not result in considerable loss of soil through erosion and run off. The intercrops shall be raised only after taking care that they are confined to inter-row areas and at least 1.5 metre away from the rubber rows.
8. The number of trees other than rubber trees (non-rubber tree), which already exist on the land for new planting/ replanting can be retained in a proportion of 20 trees or 40 coconut palms or 80 areca nut palms per ha, in a well distributed manner. If the non-rubber trees are concentrated at a location, the area where they are concentrated will be excluded for consideration of assistance. If the trees fall under two or more of the above categories, they may be retained in the proportion of one coconut tree equal 2 Areca nut trees and one fruit/timber tree equals 2 coconut trees.
9. Tea and coffee plants already existing in the area can be retained provided they are at least 1 meter away from the rubber plant rows.
10. Pepper vines trained on existing top-cut soft wood trees may be allowed to stand, provided they are at least one meter away from the rubber plants in a single line between two rows of rubber plants and not affecting the growth of rubber trees. In such cases, maximum number of such pepper climbed top-cut soft wood trees shall not exceed 50% of number of rubber plants in the area for which acceptance is recommended.
11. Planting and maintenance operations in areas coming under the scheme shall be carried out satisfactorily as per the specifications given in Schedule (XI). Fertilizer application, disease and pest control etc. shall be adopted as per the Board's recommendations.
12. Tapping shall normally be commenced in any area planted under the scheme when 70% of the trees have attained a girth of 50 cm at the height of 125 cm from the bud union. However, grant of permission for tapping can be considered as a special case for trees which have attained girth for tapping specified above even if the percentage of such trees are less than 70%. Tapping shall be commenced in the acceptance area only after obtaining required tapping certificate from the Board and in the manner specified in the certificate.
13. In case of any dispute, the decision of the Executive Director, Rubber Board will be final and binding on the applicants.
14. Rubber Board reserves the right to alter or withdraw any of the rules and add new rules during the implementation of the scheme, if required.

IV. Submission of Application

1. The application for planting assistance shall be submitted online on Service plus Portal and the following documents should be uploaded along with the applications.

- a. Sketch of the applied area, showing descriptions of boundary on all sides with names of the owners.
- b. Aadhaar linked bank pass book showing name of the Account holder, account number and IFS Code of Bank.
- c. Aadhaar Card
- d. Valid Certificate from competent authority on ownership of the total rubber area owned by the applicant.
- e. Proof of planting material such as bills/ receipts of purchase from certified nurseries.
- f. Nomination, if applicable

V. Scrutiny of Application and issuance of sanction

In addition to the General modalities/guidelines, the following will be required.

1. Application will be scrutinised for the eligibility conditions and required documents.
2. Field inspections will be completed by the Rubber Board Field officers within 45 days of receipt of application.
3. The inspecting officer shall verify that the plants are of good growth, vigour and quality and is brought / raised from certified source.
4. On receipt of the inspection report, fulfilment of eligibility conditions and scrutiny of documents submitted, the status of application will be updated online.
5. Upon submission of inspection report, the next level officer will scrutinize the report. If the report is satisfactory and there are funds for this component, sanction will be accorded and the status will be uploaded online.
6. The applicant can verify the status of the application online.

VI. Disbursement of assistance

All payment shall be made electronically as per guidelines of Government of India. No payments shall be made in cash.

VII. Scale of assistance & Schedule of disbursement of assistance

The assistance for replanting and new planting under the scheme is envisaged as follows:

Region	Scale of Assistance
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Traditional area	(a) Rs. 30,000 per ha limited to 1.00 ha in total in first year of new planting/replanting. Out of which, Rs 15,000 per ha for the use of certified planting material (Polybag/ Root trainer plants) of advanced growth. The assistance will be @ Rs 30 per plant limited to 500 plants per ha. (b) An additional amount of Rs. 10,000 per ha as planting assistance during the third year of plantation [subject to the condition that such an amount is sanctioned as part of subsequent Government Scheme related to Natural Rubber sector (post FY 2025-26).]
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1. a) A planting assistance of Rs 15,000 per ha and Planting material cost of Rs 15,000 per ha will only be disbursed during the first year of new planting/replanting.
b) An additional amount of Rs. 10,000 per ha as planting assistance shall be provided during the third year of plantation subject to the condition that such an amount is sanctioned as part of subsequent Government Scheme related to Natural Rubber sector (post FY 2025-26). This amount thereafter shall be payable after satisfactory report on field inspection by Rubber Board. The amount to be released in third year is conditional as per the above and not a matter of right to the beneficiaries.
2. Planting assistance shall be paid only after completion of the stipulated items of work specified in the schedule for that year and subject to the condition that plants have attained minimum required / average growth specified in the schedule. The prescribed minimum stand of rubber plants should be maintained and growth should be satisfactory as assessed by the inspecting officer.
3. If the work at any stage is not considered satisfactory, the grower will be advised to rectify the defects within a specified time. Payment will be sanctioned only if those defects are rectified within the time allowed.

VIII. Stoppage of payment of assistance and other benefits for violation of conditions or failure to achieve minimum results.

1. Violation of any of the conditions or failure to conduct planting or upkeep or failure to maintain prescribed minimum stand per ha or minimum prescribed average girth in accordance with the schedule will entail complete stoppage of payment of planting assistance and other benefits and cancellation of acceptance.
2. The decision of the Executive Director shall be final in the above circumstance.

IX. Recovery of assistance and other amounts in case of wilful destruction of the plantation or acquisition of land for public purpose

1. If any plantation or part of a plantation in respect of which planting grant or any other amount has been paid under the scheme is wilfully destroyed by the beneficiary or by anyone else with or without the knowledge of the beneficiary, the Board shall have the right to recover the entire amount of financial assistance paid with interest at the prevailing rate from the date(s) on which the same has been paid.
2. If any land in respect of which assistance have been paid under the scheme is surrendered to Government as excess land, the beneficiary shall be bound to refund the same to the Board.
3. If any person is found to have obtained any financial assistance from the Board by fraud or by misrepresentation, the Board shall have the right to recover the entire amount of financial assistance paid with interest at the prevailing rate from the date(s) on which the same has been paid.

X. Planting Assistance for SC growers in NT region (subcomponent 1.2.1.3.)

Objective: For the economic uplift of resource poor growers of Scheduled Caste community, financial assistance at enhanced rate of Rs. 2.00 lakh per ha will be provided upto 5 ha.

In addition to the scheme rule for planting assistance applicable for subcomponent 1.1.1.1, the following shall also to be observed.

The applicant growers from Scheduled Caste (SC) communities shall upload a community certificate from competent authority to prove that they belong to 'SC' category along with documents uploaded while submitting application specified under IV. Submission of Application.

The financial assistance envisaged after 2025-26 is subject to the approval of the scheme by the Government of India and subject to the outcome of the field inspection. The amount to be released in subsequent years is conditional and not a matter of right to the beneficiaries.

The year-wise split up of financial assistance for SC communities in NT Region is envisaged as below.

Year	Year-wise split up of financial assistance planned for SC communities in NT Region (Rs. per ha)		
	Planting Assistance	Reimbursement of cost of planting material	Total
1 st	35,000	50,000	85,000
2 nd	40,000	0	40,000
3 rd	40,000	0	40,000
4 th	35,000	0	35,000
Total	150,000	50,000	200,000

XI. SCHEDULE OF WORKS

The applicant shall be entitled for assistance in the following scale per hectare, provided the eligibility conditions are satisfied:

Sl. No.	Items of Work	Release of Instalment	Assistance (Rs /ha)	
1	To be given after completion of the following items of work:	1 st Year of planting	Replanting/New planting in Traditional area up to 1 ha	For SC growers only Replanting/New planting in Non-Traditional area up to 5 ha
a.	Felling or removal of existing rubber trees/other trees.			
b.	Clearing, lining and in the case of gradient steeper than 1 in 2 contour terracing or construction of contour bunds or digging silt trenches or silt pits			
c.	Cutting not less than 420 and not more than 500 pits per ha for planting bud grafts. The dimensions of the pits should be at least 75 cm x 75 cm with a minimum depth of 75 cm. In areas with loose soil conditions, the dimension of the pits could be reduced to 60 cm x 60 cm with a minimum depth of 75 cm. In soils with a depth of one metre or more, planting can be done in small pits dug to accommodate polybag plants. (Note: The number of planting points lost for estate roads and paths and on account of small rocky patches, other than extensive sheet rocks, both underground and on surface will be taken into account while counting the minimum number of pits).			
d.	Refilling of the pits with good top soil.			
e.	Weeding - as many rounds of strip weeding/ring weeding/or general slash weeding, as are required, in order to provide proper weed control.			
f.	Manuring top 20 cm of soil in the filled pits as advised and applying recommended dose of fertilisers two to three months after planting.			
g.	Fencing (no separate fencing is necessary if the area planted is protected otherwise by fencing of any surrounding area in the holding or of the whole estate).			
h.	Planting and establishing satisfactorily at least 420 high quality plants, of approved high yielding variety, per ha.			
I.	Planting and satisfactory establishment of leguminous cover crops, subject to constraints of inter cropping, if any.			
j.	Pruning low side shoots and false shoots, if any.			
k.	Plant protection (shading, mulching, disease and pest control, fire control etc).			

Sl. No.	Items of Work	Release of Instalment	Assistance (Rs /ha)	
	1st Year Total		30,000	85,000
a.	Weeding -as many rounds of strip weeding, ring weeding and or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide proper weed control.	Second Year of planting		
b.	Supplying vacancies in the original stand of rubber plants of approved clones and establishing the minimum recommended initial stand of plants of approved clones.			
c.	Application of recommended dose of fertilizers in two split doses before and after the monsoon.			
d.	Repair to fence or ensuring boundary protection otherwise			
e.	Plant protection (shading, mulching, white washing, disease and pest control, fire control etc.)			
f.	Planting and satisfactory establishment of leguminous cover crops subject to constraints of intercropping, if any.			
g.	Pruning of low side shoots and false shoots if any.			
h.	Maintenance of minimum stand of 420 bud grafted plants per ha under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 10 cm.			
	2nd Year Total		0	40,000
		Third Year of Planting		
a.	Weeding – two rounds of strip weeding, ring weeding and or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide proper weed control.			
b.	Supplying vacancies in the original stand of rubber plants of approved clones and establishing the minimum recommended initial stand of plants of approved clones.			
c.	Application of recommended dose of fertilizers in two split doses before and after the monsoon.			
d.	Repair to fence or ensuring boundary protection otherwise			
e.	Plant protection (shading, mulching, white washing, disease and pest control, fire control etc.)			
f.	Maintenance of minimum stand of 420 bud grafted plants per ha under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 18 cm.			

Sl. No.	Items of Work	Release of Instalment	Assistance (Rs /ha)	
	3rd Year Total		10,000	40,000
a.	Weeding – two rounds of strip weeding, ring weeding and or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide proper weed control.	Fourth year of Planting		
c.	Application of recommended dose of fertilizers in two split doses before and after the monsoon.			
d.	Repair to fence or ensuring boundary protection otherwise			
e.	Plant protection (disease and pest control, fire control etc.)			
f.	Maintenance of minimum stand of 400 bud grafted plants per ha under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 25 cm.			
	4th Year-Total		0	35,000
	Grand Total		40,000	200,000