

2024 Aug



## The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN



### Rubber growers should focus more on RSS grades

Sri. M. Vasanthagesan, IRS, Executive Director, Rubber Board urged rubber growers to concentrate more on sheet processing than selling field latex. This is because, over the years there is a rapid growth rate in consumption of RSS grades than latex concentrates. The consumption growth rate shot up between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 from 5.37 per cent to 8.34 percent. This signals that the demand of RSS grade is on the rise. Auto tyre sector and general rubber goods sector registered a positive growth rate of 0.4 per cent and 15.4 percent respectively during 2023-2024. Auto-tyre manufacturing sector accounted for 67.3 per cent of the total quantity of NR consumed in the country and out of this 41.6 per cent were of RSS grades and 7.7 per cent latex concentrates in 2023-2024.

Indian economic growth is

poised to increase at the rate of 6.5%, and is focused on infrastructural development, especially on surface transport. This will trigger the demand for dry rubber products in the automobile sector. In rubber plantation industry we can witness a hike in the area of planting tapping, and consumption of NR during 2024-2025 than in the previous year. The increase in tappable area signals more rubber availability. The rise in consumption of sheet rubber than latex implies the requirement of domestically produced RSS grades in the tyre manufacturing industry and its demand implies its quality and market acceptability.

The projected production of NR during 2024-2025 is expected to touch 8,75,000 tonnes. This data is on account of anticipated rainguarding in more areas in NE region and Northern Kerala due to

improved weather conditions and the disease control measures taken. Moreover, after a long gap of 12 years, rubber price crossed rupees 200 per kg and that boosted that boosted the confidence of rubber growers. Present price of RSS IX ranges from Rs.245 to 250 per kg. IX. So in the present market situation rubber growers can potentially earn higher profits by processing sheet rubber giving key focus on RSS grades.



The statistics on import of NR in India during the last two years underscore our potentiality of achieving self reliance. Imports declined from 5,46,369 in 2021 to 4,92,682 tonnes in 2023-2024. Achieving self reliance and minimising high dependence on import should be our main goal. Only rubber growers can contribute to achieve this and it is by way of tapping all untappable area and there by increasing production.

Eventhough a negligible loss of production ( 1000 metric tonnes) occurred from April to May 2024 as compared to previous year, due to early monsoon ,Board is fully supportive to improve the condition in the coming days to boost up production. Since Indian growers are currently securing 90-95 percent of

the terminal market share on account of sheet making and facing less challenges in the rubber market on grounds of depreciation on import the Board reiterates its support

and guidance giving emphasis on tapping all untapped areas and focusing more on processing rubber as RSS grades.



## Cultural Operations during the month of August

### Planting

Planting can be done if weather is conducive. Before planting, the fertility status of the field should be ensured through soil analysis. Manuring for the initial four years can be based on this soil analysis. Leaf and soil samples can be analysed during the fourth year and fertilizer recommendation for the fifth year can be obtained. From fifth year, it is recommended to analyse the leaf sample every year and soil sample once in three years.

### Disease control

Spray 1% Bordeaux mixture on the tender shoots and leaves of young rubber plants to protect them from diseases like shoot rot and other leaf diseases. To protect the tapping panel from bark rot disease, fungicide solutions may be applied as a spray or brushed on tapping cut and just above. Mancozeb (Dithane/

Indofil M-45) 0.375 per cent (5g/L of water) or phosphorous acid (Akomin/ Phosjet) 0.08 per cent (2ml/L) is effective in controlling bark rot

### Pink disease

Pink disease usually occurs during south west monsoon period, but severe incidence and drying up of the plant/branches are noticed from August to November. Weekly inspection for disease is to be carried out on sunny days, especially on young plants.

In the initial stages of infection, white or pink-coloured cobweb mycelial growth on the bark surface may appear with streaks of latex oozing out from the lesions. Then Bordeaux paste may be applied on the infected parts and 30 cm above and below. When the infection advances pathogen penetrates in to the bark exudation of latex occurs through the cracked portion. The

affected region may be scraped to remove all the decayed tissues and then the paste is applied again as done earlier.

One kg of powdered copper sulphate is dissolved in 5 L water. In another vessel, 1 kg of fresh quick lime is slaked by sprinkling water and volume of lime solution is made up to 5L by adding water. Bordeaux paste is prepared by pouring the copper sulphate solution in to the lime solution, vigorously stirring the mixture during mixing. Instead of Bordeaux paste, organic sulphur fungicides, Thiride, mixed in petroleum wound dressing compound at the rate of 10g/kg of compound can also be applied on the affected region, to control the disease.

### Propping

The main stem of young plants may be damaged or broken due to

strong wind. If necessary, the plants may be provided adequate support using wooden or bamboo poles.

### **Cover crop**

For the quick establishment of the newly planted leguminous cover crops in plantations, application of powdered-rock phosphate at the rate of 150 kg per ha. in two equal installments is recommended. The

first application can be made one month after sowing the cover crop seed and the second to be made two months after the first application. In areas where the soils are deficient in available potassium, application of a mixture of rock phosphate and muriate of potash in 3:1 proportion at the rate of 200 kg per ha. is recommended. Cover crop should

not be allowed to grow in a circle of about 2 meters diameter around the plants or along the contour terraces.

### **Weed control**

Weeding has to be carried out since its growth is fast in monsoon. Removed weeds when dried can be used for mulching the plant base.

## **TRAINING IN AUGUST 2024**

### **Training in Intercropping in Rubber on 01 August 2024**

This one day 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.500/- + 18% GST

### **Short term training in Latex products manufacturing from 5-9 August 2024**

Entrepreneurs/interested persons from latex product manufacturing industries can apply for this course. The course content includes latex collection, preservation and concentration, compounding ingredients, latex compounding etc. The fee prescribed for the course is Rs.3750/-(Non-residential) + 18% GST. Medium of instruction is English

### **Skill development training for DRC testing from 7-9 August 2024**

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%.

### **Training in Pest and Disease Control :8 August 2024**

Training is on diseases and pests

affecting rubber and methods to control them. Farmers, interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + 18% GST

### **Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPSs from 8-9 August 2024**

This 2 days sponsored training impart managerial skills to Director Board Members of RPSs towards capacity building of the Societies. Director Board members of RPS selected by the Rubber Board can participate in this programme by contacting their corresponding RPS. Fees: Nil

### **Training in Latex Harvest Technology from 12-13 August 2024**

Course content includes 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**

Online training in spraying and maintenance of sprayers on 22 August 2024

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.100/- + (18% GST extra)

### **Training in Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable rubber production from 27-28 August 2024**

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

### **Online training in Entrepreneur Development in Rubber Industry on 30 August 2024**

The training programme focuses on investment scope in RSS Processing, Latex and Dry Rubber Products Manufacture. The fee prescribed for this course is 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 boarding & lodging Rs.300/- per day per participant will be charged extra.

## DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE JULY 2024

DATE	[Price/Rs/Qtl]						
	Domestic			International			
	Kottayam			Kochi		Bangkok	
	RSS-4	RSS-5	60% LATEX	RSS-4	RSS-5	RSS-3	RSS-4
01-07-2024	20500	20200	15110	20500	20200	17763	17695
02-07-2024	20550	20250	15165	20550	20250	17487	17419
03-07-2024	20600	20300	15165	20600	20300	17091	17023
04-07-2024	20600	20400	15270	20600	20400	16749	16681
05-07-2024	20600	20400	15320	20600	20400	16530	16462
06-07-2024	20600	20400	HOLIDAY	20600	20400	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
07-07-2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
08-07-2024	20650	20450	15535	20650	20450	16146	16077
09-07-2024	20650	20450	15640	20650	20450	16115	16046
10-07-2024	20650	20450	15745	20650	20450	16183	16114
11-07-2024	20700	20500	15850	20700	20500	16309	16240
12-07-2024	20700	20500	15955	20700	20500	16481	16412
13-07-2024	20700	20500	HOLIDAY	20700	20500	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
14-07-2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
15-07-2024	20700	20500	16060	20700	20500	17218	17149
16-07-2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	17197	17128
17-07-2024	20800	20500	16275	20800	20500	17414	17345
18-07-2024	20900	20600	16590	20900	20600	17683	17614
19-07-2024	21000	20700	16905	21000	20700	17794	17725
20-07-2024	21000	20700	HOLIDAY	21000	20700	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
21-07-2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
22-07-2024	21200	20800	17120	21200	20800	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
23-07-2024	21300	20900	17120	21300	20900	17803	17734
24-07-2024	21400	21000	17120	21400	21000	18040	17970
25-07-2024	21600	21100	17120	21600	21100	18354	18284
26-07-2024	21800	21300	16905	21800	21300	18534	18465
27-07-2024	21900	21400	HOLIDAY	21900	21400	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
28-07-2024	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
29-07-2024	22000	21500	16905	22000	21500	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
30-07-2024	22200	21700	17015	22200	21700	18671	18601
31-07-2024	22400	21900	17225	22400	21900	18849	18779
<b>Average</b>	<b>21065</b>	<b>20746</b>	<b>16233</b>	<b>21065</b>	<b>20746</b>	<b>17353</b>	<b>17284</b>