



# The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025

## The valedictory function of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Rubber Act and Rubber Grower's Conference inaugurated



Mr. George Kurian, hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Minority Affairs, inaugurated the valedictory function of Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Rubber Act 1947 and the Rubber Grower's Conference at Mammen Mappillai Hall, Kottayam. He also brought off the rollout of iSNR, the eco-friendly, sustainable EUDR-complied Indian Natural Rubber. Mr. Thiruvanchur



### HIGHLIGHTS

- The valedictory function of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Rubber Act and Rubber Grower's Conference inaugurated
- Engineer Trainees in Rubber Board
- Grower's Corner  
Cultural operations- February
- Training Programmes  
Training on Planting & upkeeping on 19 February 2025  
Skill development training for DRC testing from 19-21 February 2025  
Short term training on Dry Rubber Products Manufacture from 24-28 February 2025  
Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPS from 6-7 February 2025
- Rubber Price

Radhakrishnan, Member of the Legislative Assembly, presided over the function. Mr. G. Anil Kumar (Vice Chairman, Rubber Board) and Mr. N. Hari (Member, Rubber Board) gave felicitations in the meeting. Mr. M. Vasanthagesan (Executive Director of the Rubber Board) delivered the welcome speech, and Dr. T. Siju (Rubber Production Commissioner) proposed a vote of thanks. The awards for the best performers of





session.

Mr. Prasad P., Deputy Director, Publicity & Public Relations (I/C) presented the concluding remarks on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Rubber Act 1947.

M/s. Balkrishna Industries Ltd (tyre sector), M/s Rubfila International Ltd (non-tyre sector), Manimalayar Rubbers (P) Ltd (rubber dealer category), M/s Lissy Rubbers P Ltd (Latex Processing sector), M/s Kavanar Latex Ltd (rubber processor category), Jalebasa RPS –North Tripura (RPS sector from North Eastern Region), Puliyanam RPS (RPSs in areas other than NE region) and Classic Industries and Exports Limited (non-tyre sector) were the winners of highest volume traded through 'mRube' during 2023-24. M/s. Ceyenar Associates and M/s. Soniya Rubbers won the 'mRube' loyalty awards. Thunchath Ezhuthachan Rubbers (P) Ltd, M/s Vembanadu Rubbers (P) Ltd were the winners of the 'mRube' Innovation awards.

The event had participation from Rubber Board members, growers, representatives of rubber stakeholders, labourers, technical experts, policymakers, Rubber Board officials, etc.

'mRube', the digital marketing platform of NR, were also distributed at the meeting.

In the technical session, Mr. M. Vasanthagesan, Executive Director of the Board, spoke on developing a digital platform for the untapped area by connecting the growers and the agencies interested in adopting rubber plantations for harvesting. Mr. Manoj Vembu, Director of 'TRST01', the technological partner of the Rubber Board to implement EUDR in the country, explained the readiness of the EUDR process for the Indian NR exporters, a topic of significant importance. A talk on Socio economic impact of rubber in the country was delivered by Dr. Joby Joseph.

Following the inaugural session, there were panel discussions on the 'Handholding stakeholders through schemes & policies' and 'Sustainable farming practices'. Mrs. Sheela Thomas (Chairperson & Managing Director of Kerala Rubber Limited and former Chairman of the Rubber Board) and Dr. James Jacob (Managing Director, Plantation Corporation of Kerala), respectively, were the moderators of the panel discussions. Mr. Tomson Francis (Joint Director, Engineering), Mr. Vincent V.A. (Development Officer), Mr. Binu Mathew (Assistant Director, Labour Management), Mr. A.J. Jose (Development Officer, NIRT), Mr. B. Sreekumar (Publicity Officer, P&PR Division) and Mrs. Chandralekha K. (Assistant Development Officer) were the panelists of the first session. Dr. Shaji Philip (Principal Scientist), Dr. Mohammed Satik (Principal Scientist), Dr. Ambily K.K, Senior Scientist; Mr. Reju (Scientist) and Dr. Phebe Joseph (Scientist) were the panelists of the second

## ENGINEER TRAINEES IN RUBBER BOARD

The Rubber Board proposes to engage 'Graduate Engineer Trainees' in Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering in its Engineering & Processing Division, Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) in Kottayam on a Temporary basis through Walk-in interview on 19th February 2025 at 10.00 AM. Candidates must hold a B Tech Degree in Civil Engineering or Electrical Engineering with minimum 60% marks with 1 year experience in supervision and estimation of works. Knowledge in CAD is desirable. Age should not exceed 27 years as on 01 January 2025. Interested candidates may report before the Joint Director (E&P), Engineering & Processing Division, RRII, Kottayam - 686009 at 10.00 AM on 19 February 2025 with their original certificates showing proof of age, qualification and experience. For details visit [www.rubberboard.org.in](http://www.rubberboard.org.in). or phone: 0481-2353311. (Ext-236)

**Cultural operations- February**

Severe summer may affect leaves and basal bark tissue of small plants, resulting in their drying up. This has to be prevented by appropriate protection measures. In the case of budded stumps, shade has to be given by using shade baskets and also by mulching using dry leaves and plant parts. Usually shade baskets made of bamboo or plaited coconut leaves are used, the baskets having 45-60 cm height and 30-45cm diameter. Plants raised in polybags may not require this type of shading.

Mulching is usually done using dried leaves, grass, cover crops etc. Mulching is ideal for maintaining soil moisture and soil temperature, to increase the organic matter content in the soil and to prevent weed growth.

**Whitewashing**

White washing should be adopted from the second year of planting till the canopy closes in order to protect the stem portion of the plants from sunburn. For this the brown stem portion between the bud union and the first branch is whitewashed using lime. This is done based on the principle that white surfaces will not absorb too much of heat. For whitewashing using quick lime, copper sulphate need not be added. Using china clay, mud etc will not serve the purpose.

**Fire belt**

Precautions have to be taken, as the chance of fire is very high in rubber plantations during summer and hence fire belts have to be made around the plantation. This is done by removing all vegetation like bushes and also removing all dried leaves in an area of 5-7 m width around the plantations, in the form of a belt, so that even if a fire occurs outside the plantation, it will not spread into the plantation. All other possible precautions against fire should be taken, as it will always be beneficial. The fire belt has to be cleaned frequently of dried leaves, which may accumulate in this area. It is advisable to insure plantations against natural hazards like fire and storm.

**OTHER PROTECTION MEASURES**

Cattle should not be allowed into rubber plantations. Cattle may feed on rubber plants and also cover crops thus destroying them besides damaging the superficial root system of rubber plants. Fencing around the plantations or constructing retaining walls can be useful.

The most important aspect to be taken care of while establishing a new plantation is the protection of young rubber plants especially in the initial two to three years. Anything that may suppress the growth of the rubber plants during this period may adversely affect its growth in future and will consequently affect the economic stability of the crop in later stages. However better care is given in later situations for such plants, they may not improve from the setback that occurred in the initial growth phases.

**Shading for polybag plants**

In order to protect the young polybag plants kept in open spaces, from drying in severe summer, shade has to be necessarily given. Plaited coconut leaves that permit passage of sufficient light can be used to partially cover

the sides and top portions of the polybag nursery.

**Irrigation**

To ensure vigorous growth of the young rubber plants in the nursery, in summer season, regular irrigation is recommended. Irrigation should be given only in the morning and evenings. For nurseries spread over large areas it is advisable to divide the area into blocks and then irrigate the blocks by rotation depending on the availability of water. For irrigating polybag plants in the nursery the ideal time is evenings.

**Controlling leaf diseases**

Incidence of leaf spot and bird's eye spot on the leaves of young plants in the nursery is common in summer season. These diseases are caused by fungi and can be controlled effectively by application of 1% Bordeaux mixture.

**Powdery mildew disease**

If refoilation of trees in the plantations extends over a long time, there is the possibility of repeated incidence of powdery mildew in the young developing foliage and also in the polybag plants. During the period of refoilation in plantations, it is advised to apply Sulphur dust (325 mesh size) at the rate of 11-14kg per hectare. This can be applied 3-6 times during this period, at an interval of 7-14 days.

A mixture of 70% Sulphur and 30% talc is recommended and this should be applied using a dusting machine. For young plants and polybag plants, wettable sulphur (Sulfex) at the rate of 10 g in 4 liters of water should be applied once at an interval of 7-10 days using sprayers.

Spraying of wettable sulphur and Bavistin on alternate days at an interval of 7-14 days and application of 5g Bavistin and 1.25 g wettable Sulphur together in one liter of water also is very effective.

**THE RUBBER BOARD  
KOTTAYAM****ADVT.NO.2025-01**

**Online applications are invited for  
the post of Field Officer (Anywhere  
in India). Last Date : 10.03.2025.**

**For details, visit website**

**[recruitments.rubberboard.org.in](https://recruitments.rubberboard.org.in)**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY (P&A)**

**Kottayam**

**Date : 08-02-2025**



# TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE RUBBER BOARD

## 1. Training on Planting & up-keeping on 19 February 2025

Farmers and interested persons from plantation sector can apply for this course. The course content includes methods of planting, up keeping, maintenance, intercropping, weeding etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + 18% GST.

## 2. Skill development training for DRC testing from 19-21 February 2025

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 Malayalam. Those who are interested may register in the link given below:  
<https://bit.ly/3feCcVj>

## 3. Short term training on Dry Rubber Products Manufacture from 24-28 February 2025

Entrepreneurs/interested persons from dry rubber product manufacturing industries can compound ingredients, principles of rubber compounding, moulded, extruded and calendared goods, Process control tests and vulcanisates testing, production, planning and control etc. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.5000/- (Non-residential) + 18% GST. Medium of instruction is English

## 4. Training in Capacity building for Director Board Members of RPS from 6-7 February 2025

This two day 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 RPSs. No course fee

## DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE - JANUARY 2025 [Price/Rs/Qtt]

| DATE       | DOMESTIC |         |           |         |         | INTERNATIONAL |         |
|------------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|
|            | Kottayam |         |           | Kochi   |         | Bangkok       |         |
|            | RSS-4    | RSS-5   | 60% LATEX | RSS-4   | RSS-5   | RSS-3         | RSS-4   |
| 01-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13210     | 19100   | 18700   | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 02-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13315     | 19200   | 18800   | 19991         | 19915   |
| 03-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13315     | 19200   | 18800   | 19444         | 19369   |
| 04-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | HOLIDAY   | 19100   | 18700   | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 05-01-2025 | HOLIDAY  | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY   | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 06-01-2025 | 19000    | 18600   | 13315     | 19000   | 18600   | 18919         | 18844   |
| 07-01-2025 | 18900    | 18500   | 13210     | 18900   | 18500   | 18564         | 18489   |
| 08-01-2025 | 18800    | 18400   | 13105     | 18800   | 18400   | 18670         | 18596   |
| 09-01-2025 | 18800    | 18400   | 13210     | 18800   | 18400   | 19127         | 19052   |
| 10-01-2025 | 18900    | 18500   | 13315     | 18900   | 18500   | 19785         | 19710   |
| 11-01-2025 | 19000    | 18600   | HOLIDAY   | 19000   | 18600   | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 12-01-2025 | HOLIDAY  | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY   | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 13-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13525     | 19100   | 18700   | 20411         | 20337   |
| 14-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13735     | 19200   | 18800   | 20959         | 20885   |
| 15-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13845     | 19200   | 18800   | 21692         | 21617   |
| 16-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13950     | 19200   | 18800   | 21923         | 21848   |
| 17-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 14055     | 19200   | 18800   | 21638         | 21563   |
| 18-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | HOLIDAY   | 19200   | 18800   | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 19-01-2025 | HOLIDAY  | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY   | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 20-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 14055     | 19100   | 18700   | 21264         | 21188   |
| 21-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 14055     | 19100   | 18700   | 20981         | 20905   |
| 22-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13950     | 19100   | 18700   | 21099         | 21022   |
| 23-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13950     | 19100   | 18700   | 21018         | 20941   |
| 24-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13845     | 19100   | 18700   | 20769         | 20692   |
| 25-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | HOLIDAY   | 19100   | 18700   | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 26-01-2025 | HOLIDAY  | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY   | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY       | HOLIDAY |
| 27-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13735     | 19100   | 18700   | 20843         | 20766   |
| 28-01-2025 | 19100    | 18700   | 13735     | 19100   | 18700   | 21045         | 20968   |
| 29-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13735     | 19200   | 18800   | 21194         | 21117   |
| 30-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13845     | 19200   | 18800   | 21434         | 21357   |
| 31-01-2025 | 19200    | 18800   | 13845     | 19200   | 18800   | 21692         | 21615   |
| Average    | 19093    | 18693   | 13646     | 19093   | 18693   | 20566         | 20491   |