

2024 March



The Rubber Board NEWS BULLETIN



The Rubber Board announces an incentive for the export of sheet rubber

The Rubber Board announced an incentive of five rupees per kilogram for the export of sheet rubber. The scheme will be in operation from 15 March to 30 June 2024. The Board has constituted an Export Promotion Cell to address the various issues and handholding

support to the exporters. Natural Rubber (NR) exporters having a valid Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) issued by the Board and registration for using the Indian Natural Rubber Logo are eligible to avail of the benefit of the incentive scheme. The Board will

give the incentive as reimbursement to the exporters on the production of documents prescribed under the scheme. The incentive will also offset the additional cost involved in branding.

The international price of sheet rubber surpassed Indian prices

since January 2024. Even though there is a price difference, exporters are not able to export due to the lower price quotes from various producing countries like Vietnam. On the global front, sheet rubber consumption accounts for hardly 10 per cent. China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, etc., are the major consumers of RSS grades. These consuming nations have long-term contracts for procurement of sheet rubber which was hindering exports from India.

The price hike in the international market (Bangkok) is on account of tight supply conditions due

to wintering in Southeast Asian countries, unfavourable weather conditions in the November-December period in Thailand, and leaf fall on account of fungal disease and lean production period. From last week onwards, Indian prices have also risen on account of the enthusiasm shown by the exporting fraternity for fetching export orders supplemented by keeping track of developments happening in international markets, too.

Dr. Sawar Dhanania (Chairman, Rubber Board), Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS (Executive

Director, Rubber Board), Mr. N. Hari (Member, Rubber Board), Mr. George Vally (President, Indian Rubber Dealers Federation), etc. spoke on the occasion. Executive Director urged exporters and Rubber Board Companies to explore the present export opportunities to the fullest in the days to come. This will also help to stabilize natural rubber prices in the domestic market. Sixty exporters, including Rubber Board companies, attended the meeting.

Training in recent developments in molecular biology and biotechnology begins at the Rubber Research Institute of India



Mr. M. Vasanthagesan IRS, Executive Director of the Rubber Board, inaugurated the faculty training programme in the recent developments in molecular biology and biotechnology in a function held at the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII). He also released the 'Lab Manual' of the training programme. The RRII has arranged the training programme with the funding of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment. Dr. Jaya Mary Jacob (Scientist, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment), Dr. Shaji Jacob (Princi-

pal Scientist, RRII), Dr. Mohammed Sathik (Principal Scientist, RRII), Dr. C. Bindu Roy (Principal Scientist, RRII) and Dr. R.G. Kala (Principal Scientist, RRII) spoke at the inaugural session.

The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, in partnership with the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), has recognized RRII and granted funds to conduct the DBT Skill Vigyan Programme in Life Science and Biotechnology.

The objective of the training Program is to provide high-quality, hands-on training ranging from the

very basic to cutting-edge techniques and technologies, which is made accessible to the entire spectrum of biotechnologists ranging from technicians to faculty and aspiring entrepreneurs. The program will help with fresh skilling/upskilling and enable faculty to be better equipped for biotechnology research. This program will impart extensive knowledge relevant to current industry needs, thus bridging the gap between Academia and Industry.

Growers Corner

CULTURAL OPERATIONS DURING MARCH.



Shading

Ensure that the shades provided to the young plants are intact and sufficient, to provide enough shade during the summer season.

Irrigation

If necessary, provide irrigation to the nursery plants in the morning and evening. If enough irrigation to drench the nursery beds can be given, watering may be limited to once a week. Very large nurseries can be divided into several plots and irrigated in cycles to cover each plot at least once a week.

Pruning

Pruning of young shoots from the main stem on budded plants should be done using a sharp knife. All off-shoots arising within 2.4 meters from the ground level in both seedlings and budded plants have to be pruned taking care not to affect the growth of the plants by removing too many leaves.

When pruning is done in the early stages there is no need to apply wound dressing compound. No branches should be allowed to grow in the stem region where tapping panel has to be opened later.

Cover Crop

Dried seeds of cover crop (Pueraria) is collected during this period.

Rainguarding

Rainguarding enables tapping of the rubber trees in the rainy season. Fixing rain guards on rubber trees should be initiated before the commencement of rainy season during the month of March-April, so as to enable tapping in the following rainy season. The most popular and cheapest method of rain guarding is use of polythene sheets. Polythene sheets of 300 gauge, 45 cm wide cut to size to cover the tapping panel and the cup used for collection of latex are fixed to the trees using pins

and paste just above the tapping panel. Leaving 10 cm on either side of the panel, scrape the bark in a 4 cm wide band, 10 cm above and parallel to the tapping panel to make it smooth. Apply the paste (Bitubest or Polystik) thickly on the scraped area. Then fix the polythene sheets of sufficient length, over the bitumen paste. Press a rough cloth band cut 2 cm wide with sufficient length onto the top of the polythene sheet and fix it to the bark using stapler pins. Apply another coat of the paste over the cloth band in order to prevent entry of water inside the polythene sheet and into the tapping panel.

Disease Control

In order to control the leaf spot disease on the seedlings in nurseries, Bordeaux mixture 1% or Indofil / Dithane M 45 (2.5g / l) may be applied.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES - MARCH

1. Online training in spraying and maintenance of sprayers on 03 March 2023

This one day online 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)

2. Online training in bee keeping in rubber plantations on 06 March 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%.

3 Training in Low Frequency and controlled upward tapping on 07 March 2023

Training is to impart knowledge on low frequency and controlled upward tapping. Farmers/ tappers/supervisors/interested persons can participate in this programme. The fee prescribed for this course is Rs.500/- + 18% GST.

3. Online training in Good Agricultural practices for Sustainable rubber production on 09 March 2023

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.375/-+18% GST .

4. Short term training on Rubber Cultivation for Small Growers(in Malayalam) from 13-17 March 2023

The course content includes modern planting materials, planting techniques, manuring, pest and disease control, tapping and latex processing. The medium of instruction is in Malayalam. The training fee is Rs.2000/- + 18% GST . Medium of instruction is Malayalam.

DAILY NATURAL RUBBER PRICE February 2024

[Price/Rs/Qtl]

| DATE | Domestic | | | | | International | |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Kottayam | | | Kochi | | Bangkok | |
| | RSS-4 | RSS-5 | 60%LATEX | RSS-4 | RSS-5 | RSS-3 | RSS-4 |
| 2/1/2024 | 16500 | 16050 | 12045 | 16500 | 16050 | 18493 | 18423 |
| 2/2/2024 | 16500 | 16050 | 12045 | 16500 | 16050 | 18264 | 18194 |
| 2/3/2024 | 16500 | 16050 | HOLIDAY | 16500 | 16050 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/4/2024 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/5/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 12100 | 16500 | 16100 | 18406 | 18336 |
| 2/6/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 12150 | 16500 | 16100 | 18047 | 17977 |
| 2/7/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 12150 | 16500 | 16100 | 17882 | 17812 |
| 2/8/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 12150 | 16500 | 16100 | 17799 | 17729 |
| 2/9/2024 | 16450 | 16100 | 12150 | 16450 | 16100 | 17642 | 17572 |
| 2/10/2024 | 16450 | 16100 | HOLIDAY | 16450 | 16100 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/11/2024 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/12/2024 | 16400 | 16050 | 12150 | 16400 | 16050 | 17541 | 17472 |
| 2/13/2024 | 16400 | 16050 | 12150 | 16400 | 16050 | 17595 | 17526 |
| 2/14/2024 | 16400 | 16050 | 12100 | 16400 | 16050 | 17765 | 17695 |
| 2/15/2024 | 16400 | 16050 | 11995 | 16400 | 16050 | 17837 | 17768 |
| 2/16/2024 | 16450 | 16050 | 11995 | 16450 | 16050 | 18103 | 18034 |
| 2/17/2024 | 16450 | 16050 | HOLIDAY | 16450 | 16050 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/18/2024 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/19/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 11995 | 16500 | 16100 | 18355 | 18286 |
| 2/20/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 11995 | 16500 | 16100 | 18545 | 18476 |
| 2/21/2024 | 16500 | 16100 | 11995 | 16500 | 16100 | 18389 | 18320 |
| 2/22/2024 | 16600 | 16200 | 11995 | 16600 | 16200 | 18785 | 18716 |
| 2/23/2024 | 16600 | 16200 | 12045 | 16600 | 16200 | 19000 | 18930 |
| 2/24/2024 | 16600 | 16250 | HOLIDAY | 16600 | 16250 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/25/2024 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/26/2024 | 16650 | 16250 | 12100 | 16650 | 16250 | HOLIDAY | HOLIDAY |
| 2/27/2024 | 16700 | 16300 | 12205 | 16700 | 16300 | 19109 | 19040 |
| 2/28/2024 | 16700 | 16300 | 12310 | 16700 | 16300 | 19095 | 19026 |
| 2/29/2024 | 16700 | 16300 | 12365 | 16700 | 16300 | 19057 | 18988 |
| Average | 16518 | 16126 | 12104 | 16518 | 16126 | 18285 | 18216 |
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Dy. Director (P&PR)

Dy. Director (Marketing)

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