

Executive Summary Report Of Minor Research Project

On

**“A STUDY ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY RUBBER PLANTERS
IN KOTTAYAM DISTRICT “**

Submitted by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The economic development of most of the developing countries depends upon their development in the agriculture sector . Most of the developing economy in the world depends on agriculture as their primary occupation. India is a country where more than 70% of the population mainly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture sector of Indian economy contributes around 17% of total GDP of the country .Natural Rubber is considered as atmost valued raw material from ancient times. Rubber is used for a variety of purposes from the simple use of erasing pencil marks to manufacturing of tyres, tubes and a large number of industrial products.

In India the plantation history started with coffee and cardamom plantations and then moved into tea and finally entered into rubber. The geographical and agro climatic suitability proved that Kerala is congenial for rubber cultivation .The rubber growing regions in India can be classified on the basis of agro-climatic conditions into two major zones, traditional and non-traditional, Kerala and the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. The traditional region accounts for 80 per cent of the total area and 93 per cent of the production of rubber in the country.

Kerala has very long tradition in the cultivation of plantation crops like tea, coffee cardamom and rubber. In India rubber plantation had its beginning in Kerala. At present Kerala has more than 93% of the total production of natural rubber in India. Most of the Malanaadu and Idanaadu areas of Kerala state are growing rubber. Due to the increase in demand rubber plantations are spreading across many districts in Kerala. The major reason for the boom in rubber industry is only because of the increase in number of cars each and every day. Expanding services of transportation and communication urge Rubber industries to aware of the demand and supply which is increasing every day.

RUBBER PLANTATION IN KOTTAYAM :

Kottayam occupies the first position in the production of rubber .Rubber plantation provide a stable income for the farmers and climate is ideal for rubber plantations. Though highlands are more suitable, the cultivation has spread to almost everywhere. And this region is known as 'Land of latex'.Around 15% of the total industrial units of Kottayam are involved in rubber production only.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Many contractors have backed from their contracts, demanding relaxation of the norms of the binding contract, due to the fall in rubber prices – by 100 over the past 30 months. The price fall has left a telling impact on the planters in the districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Malapuram, which have the largest concentration of small rubber planters, apart from from several big and medium sized plantations. Another main problem is that the non-availability of land for expanding the cultivation and also the tariff less unrestricted import of rubber from other countries is growing as a great challenge for the rubber planters.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To find out the various problems faced by rubber planter in Kottayam district.
2. To provide valuable suggestions for reducing the problems of rubber planters.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The present study reveals the following.

- 42% of the respondents have additional sources of income and a majority 58% respondents does not have additional sources of income.
- 43% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture, 10% of the respondents have family owned business, 33% respondents having rental income, and 14% respondents having rental income as additional income source from a total of 63 respondents having additional sources of income.
- Analysis of the study reveals that only 22% of the respondents actually using borrowed source of finance, 40% respondents are using their on source of finance and 38% use both the sources of finance.
- Majority of the respondents borrowed money from banks that is 43%, 39% of the respondents borrow money from friends and relatives, 12% from unorganized financial institutions and only 6% borrow money from money lenders.
- 50% of the respondents who sell their output in the form of sheet are stating it is more profitable, 38% respondents states it has stock holding p52% respondents sell in the form of latex because to reduce labour, 31% to reduce processing cost, 10% for easiness and 7 % due to absence of processing facilities.
- 50% of the respondents who sell their output in the form of sheet are stating it is more profitable, 38% respondents states it has stock holding power and 12% states that there is lack of latex selling facilities.
- The respondents opined that unavailability of skilled labour was the major problem faced by them.

SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Government or the Rubber Board shall provide additional aids to the rubber planters for acquiring land in their ownership.
- ❖ All the respondents constituting the study rely on additional sources of income, which shows that the planters are not earning an attractive rate of return from rubber plantation. Hence it is important that measures are taken to improve this situation by increasing the price of raw rubber, reducing their cost of production etc.
- ❖ Financial institutions shall provide the required assistance at low costs to the planters so that borrowings from the unorganized sectors can be reduced.
- ❖ The latex selling facilities need to be improved to ensure more profitability to the planters.
- ❖ The educational institutions and universities should provide proper training to the upcoming youth so that unavailability of skilled labour shall not serve as a major problem faced by the planters.
- ❖ Government shall also take measures to maintain the price stability by fixing a statutory price for their produce.
- ❖ Government should also take measures to restrict the import of rubber by the way of charging high tariffs so as to promote domestic rubber.
- ❖ There should be measures from the Government to avoid the frequent fluctuations of price.