

## **A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF RUBBER BOARD TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUBBER TAPPERS**

### **1. R. Chandra Somu,**

Reg.No (18133151011035), Part Time Research Scholar in Commerce, PG & Research Centre in Commerce, S. T. Hindu College, Nagercoil - 629002. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012, Tamilnadu, India.

### **2. Dr. A. Thangaswamy, ( Guide)**

Assistant Professor (Rtd.), Department of Commerce, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012, Tamilnadu, India

### **3. Dr. Singh, (Co Guide)**

Assistant Professor in Commerce, PG & Research Centre in Commerce, S. T. Hindu College, Nagercoil-629002. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012, Tamilnadu, India.

## **INRODUCTION**

The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted under Section (4) of the Rubber Act, 1947 and functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government and has 28 other members including the Executive Director, Members of Parliament (two from House of People and one from Council of States) and representatives of various interests of natural rubber industry such as rubber growing sector, rubber manufacturing industry, labour interest, representatives of Governments of principal rubber growing states. Executive and administrative powers of the Board are vested with the Executive Director. The Board's headquarter is located at Kottayam in Kerala. Developmental and regulatory functions pertaining to the entire value chain of the Indian rubber industry are discharged by the Board by way of assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to natural rubber (NR).

The Chairman who is the administrative head of the Board exercises control over all the nine departments. viz. Administration, Rubber Production, Research, Processing & Product Development, Finance & Accounts, Statistics & Planning, Training, Licensing & Excise duty and Market Promotion. Publicity & Public Relations, Planning, Internal Audit and Vigilance Divisions function directly under the Chairman. The services and timeframe shall be treated as indicative as actual realisation would depend on availability of resources in terms of funds and personnel. The timeframe shown is subject to submission of all necessary documents and fulfilment of other requirements. Information on public services which are general to all departments is shown in the following table.

Sl No.	Main public service components	Timeframe (from the date of application unless specified)
1	Citizens receiving service	Instant
2	Answers to telephone queries	Any person / institution Within one month of request
3	Advisory visits	Any person 1 week to 1 month

Information on public services rendered by the Departments of Rubber Board is provided in the following sections along with timeframe.

## **IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

The vision of the Board is a well developed, sustainable and globally competitive natural rubber (NR) industry, capable of supplying processed rubber of international standards to domestic and world markets that enhances welfare of the entire stakeholder community and contribute substantially to national economic progress. For achieving the vision, its function as the national level body responsible for the overall development of the Indian rubber industry through the formulation and implementation of schemes for the development of rubber industry in India, promotion of green credentials of NR and ensure environmental sustainability, utilization of rubber plantation development for reclamation of

barren and degraded waste lands, supporting rubber based community development, making India a major rubber manufacturing hub in the world and serving as the interface among different segments of rubber industry stakeholders.

The functions of the Board also include collection of statistics of rubber, promoting marketing of rubber and undertaking labour welfare activities. The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), established in 1955, is situated at Kottayam and has nine Regional Research Stations (RRS) located in various rubber growing states of the country. RRII conducts research activities for ensuring biological and technological improvement of NR in the country. The Board has a training department; National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) located at Kottayam and acts as the link between research and extension activities for technology transfer and has the mandate for human resource development in all sectors of the NR industry.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Training is one of the major functions envisaged under the Rubber Act. An exclusive Department for training was established in 1994 to undertake the growing need for training and skill development of all stake holders of the rubber sector, on account of the development of rubber industry in the country. Subsequently in 2000, the Rubber Training Centre with full infrastructure was established under the World Bank Project and later in 2010 the Centre was elevated to the status of Rubber Training Institute (RTI). The mandate of the Rubber Training Institute is human resource development by providing state of the art technological training and developing adequate skill in all segments of the rubber industry comprising of rubber production, processing, product manufacture, marketing and consuming sectors. Updating technical knowledge and acquiring adequate skill are hence very essential for the sustainability each of these sectors. The Department has thus a significant role in the development and sustainability of the Indian rubber industry and aims to meet the growing training and skill development requirements of all segments of the rubber industry value chain in the country. Special scheme also implemented for enhancing domestic natural rubber production through the Rain guarding, Spraying, Tool kits to the women tappers, and promoting intercropping facilities to the small growers

### **THE FUNCTIONS OF THE RUBBER BOARD**

To promote by such measures as it thinks fit the development of the rubber industry.

- Undertaking, assisting or encouraging scientific, technological or economic research.
- Training students in improved methods of planting, cultivation, manure and spraying.
- The supply of technical advice to rubber growers
- Improving the marketing of rubber.
- The collection of statistics from owners of estates, dealers and manufacturers.
- Secure better working conditions and improvement of amenities and incentives to workers.

### **TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

Training Department of Rubber Board (Rubber Training Institute) is located close to the Rubber Research Institute of India at Kottayam. The institute conducts various training programmes for the development of all sectors of the Indian rubber industry. More than 50 different training programmes are conducted by the Institute. Besides the scheduled programmes, tailor made programmes with specific focus are also arranged on request. 6 The annual calendar (published in March every year) providing details of all training programmes offered, course content, scheduled dates, fee etc. are available on the training link of Rubber Board Website [www.rubberboard.org.in](http://www.rubberboard.org.in). Application forms can be downloaded from the above mentioned website. Requests through email to [training@rubberboard.org.in](mailto:training@rubberboard.org.in) giving details of programme and contact phone number are also acceptable. Training fee shall be remitted directly or by bank transfer to the A/c No. 1450300184 with Central Bank of India, IFS Code CBIN 0284156 and copy of the remittance slip attached to the email. Limited hostel facility is available. Admission to training programme and hostel are on first come first serve basis. Outstation training programmes are arranged on request based on mutually agreed terms. The Rubber Training Institute is an ISO 9001: 2008 Certified Institution.

The Department has plays a significant role in the development and sustainability of the Indian rubber industry. Rubber Board through its R & D activities has been developing expertise on all aspects

of rubber cultivation, processing and product manufacture since its inception. The consistent efforts made to improve on-farm and shop-floor technology besides supporting the rubber sector have provided the Board with confidence to train the personnel involved in the upstream, mid-stream and downstream activities of the industry on scientific techniques to achieve cost-quality competitiveness. The new technologies are delivered to the clientele through the Rubber Training Institute.

The mandate of the National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) is updating technical knowledge and skill of each segment of the rubber industry value chain which are essential for its sustainability and growth. The Institute focuses human resource development by providing state of the art technological training and skill to personnel involved in the Indian Natural Rubber Industry comprising of rubber plantation, processing, product manufacture, marketing and consuming sectors. Entrepreneurship development and employability enhancement are also prioritised areas of the Institute.

### **TRAINING FACILITIES**

Following Rubber Plantation development Programs offered by the National Institute of Rubber Training

- ❖ Short term training on rubber cultivation for small growers (in Malayalam)
- ❖ Short term training on rubber cultivation for estate sectors
- ❖ Short term training on rubber cultivation for estate sectors from North East and Non Traditional regions – regional training.
- ❖ Advanced training on rubber cultivation and rubber plantation management
- ❖ Online - Training on Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Rubber Production
- ❖ Training on beekeeping in rubber plantation
- ❖ Training on spraying and maintenance of sprayers
- ❖ Training on latex harvest technology
- ❖ Training on Nursery Management
- ❖ Training on pests and disease control
- ❖ Training on Production of planting materials and clones
- ❖ Training on rainguarding
- ❖ Training on low frequency and controlled upward tapping
- ❖ Training on manuring in rubber
- ❖ Training on manuring in rubber
- ❖ Training on intercropping in rubber
- ❖ Online – Training on intercropping in Rubber
- ❖ Training on planting and up-keep
- ❖ Training on plant science/Biotechnology
- ❖ Sastradarsan for UG/PG students of Agriculture/Basic sciences/Rubber Technology/Life Sciences/VHSC students
- ❖ Advanced training on rubber cultivation and plantation management
- ❖ Overseas training on rubber cultivation
- ❖ Post Graduate Diploma in rubber Plantation management.

### **OBJECTIVES OF NIRT**

- Update the technical and managerial competitiveness of all stakeholders of the rubber industry.
- Improve cost-quality competitiveness in all sectors.
- Transfer of location specific farming technologies through regional programmes.
- Improve business skills of various clusters in the unorganized sector like Rubber Producers Societies, Rubber Marketing Co-operative Societies, Rubber processing and Product manufacturing groups, industry clusters, MSMEs, SHGs, Tappers Bank, and Kudumabasree through capacity building/leadership development programs.
- Address the skill shortage/skill gap in various job roles under the rubber plantation, processing and product manufacturing sectors through massive launching of skill development/capacity building programs.
- Promotion of additional income generation activities in rubber plantations.

- Empowerment of weaker community and women engaged in rubber sector.
- Employability enhancement and entrepreneurship development through curriculum linked training/skill development of academic students.
- Promotion of value addition through EDPs focusing unemployed youth/interested persons.
- Improve global competitiveness of MSMEs by providing training in advanced areas and technologies.
- Develop adequate resource personnel in each sector through To programs.
- Faculty improvement programs through deputation in reputed national and international Institutions.
- Update the technical/managerial competence of RB employees.
- Sharing of knowledge and skills through international training programs.

#### Reference

1. <https://training.rubberboard.org.in/>
2. <https://training.rubberboard.org.in/facilities-for-plantation-training>
3. <http://rubberboard.org.in/rbfilereader?fileid=235>