

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An executive summary of the final report of the work done on the minor research project of Rojer K M entitled “ **A Study on Cost benefit analysis and Future perspective of rubber cultivation in Dakshina Kannada**” sanctioned by UGC, vide sanction letter no. MRP(H)-0822/13-14/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO, dated 28/3/2014.

Natural Rubber cultivation and taking its yield and benefit is an accepted way of socio economic activity in Dakshina Kannada District. The study was conducted to know the cost involved for the rubber cultivation and the benefit that the rubber planter is able to generate from the plantation over the life time of the Rubber tree. The farmers who have natural rubber fields/ plantations/Rubber tappers and small households who primarily depend up on the Natural rubber growing are chosen as the respondents of the study. A large part of respondents are small households who planted rubber trees and takes yield out of it just like a family occupation. They employ one or two laborers as Rubber tappers depend up on the land distributed for the rubber cultivation.

The cost involved for the rubber plantation is more in the initial years of planting. It involves the site preparation, digging; purchase of rubber plants from the Rubber Nursery, planting the rubber trees in a calculated distance of ten feet depends up on the landscape of the region. Initial years of rubber plantation will consume lots of other expenses like manuring, time to time medication for leaf falling and fungus formation up to seven years. The additional costs are involved for plantation development and an annual removal of unwanted plants and grass shoots from the rubber platform. Once the rubber tree is grown up to seven years of growth or approximately 29 cm round tree then the rubber tree can be tapped in alternative days. Now rubber trees need to be marked for tapping and a small mug like vessel should be tied to the rubber trees to collect the natural rubber extract or the milk latex. In initial years for the better health of the rubber tree the taping is done only in alternative days. Out of four season present in Dakshina Kannda region the respondents preferred for the period from June to January for tapping the tree. It is true to say that after the Monsoon the yield will be good as the region is cool and experience less humidity in the tropical region. Majority of farmers do not prefer to tap the trees during summer or heavy monsoon. During monsoon they need to incur an additional cost of plastic covering to each of the trees in the tapping area. It allows the rubber milk to flow correctly to the vessel. Grown up

tress are considered are the trees which are above fifteen years of age. It gives maximum yield to the farmer so the planter can tap the tree by removing its skin from upper and lower markings of the skin bed for the rest of life of the tree. At this period the tapping will go mostly five days in a week and eleven months in a year.

The respondents opine that the better yielding and safe type of rubber plant is R105, it gives the highest return on investment. During the life time of a rubber tree it faces the many fungus related diseases, powerful wind and few issues related to climate change like abnormal leaf falling etc. Here the most accepted type of rubber tree type is R105. This type is comparatively long lasting and able to give a fare return on your investment.

The study titled “A Study on Cost benefit analysis and Future perspective of rubber cultivation in Dakshina Kannada” had brought out its entire objectives very well. This study was aimed at to know the cost involved in the rubber cultivation and what are the possible benefits that the farmers are able to get from this. This study shows that the cost is mainly involved in the initial years and at yielding stage only the running expenses are incurred like wages to the rubber tappers, one time roller expenses, processing and drying the rubber sheets. Respondents holds the view that it is really suitable for the house hold who can look after the trees and tap them they can get a good source money from rubber cultivation for the market price below Rs. 150/- . If the market price stabilizes between Rs. 175 to Rs.225. then the rubber plantation yield will be above the normal return where farmers can employ rubber tappers. The study also bring out the other objectives as well the different types of products manufactured from natural rubber and its uses etc. It also paved the attention to know the marketing of natural rubber produce here I found that majority of respondents are selling their dry rubber sheets to the Rubber Board itself or the Rubber Merchants in their villages. This project also research into the different problems faced by the rubber growers like labor scarcity, lack of subsidy and lower import duty imposed on rubber import etc.

This project makes its clear suggestions to the government that as the natural rubber cannot be avoided from the industry because the synthetic rubber cannot be a replacement for the natural rubber. As it is a good source of income for many of the rural population it is the duty of the Government to regulate the price or influence the demand and supply by imposing higher import duty on the rubber import from other countries. If it is done then the rubber price will be high

and the rubber growers in Dakshina Kannada will enjoy the rubber cultivation with pride and dignity in the society.