



## SKILLING FOR LIVELIHOOD, EMPOWERING FOR A LIFETIME

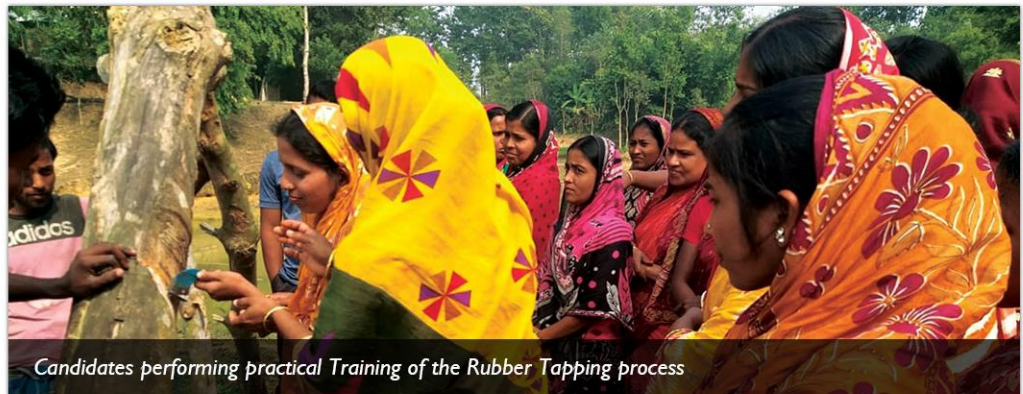


### From COO's desk:

Tripura is the 2nd largest rubber producing state in India with over 85,038 hectares of land under plantation. There are various challenges faced by the growers which is responsible for less productivity and low quality of rubber sheet such as lack of properly trained tappers, absence of rain-guarding of rubber plants, market Linkage through cluster Development and smoke house setup for industry specific rubber sheet making. To address such issues, RCPSDC has made various interventions and also initiated skill development programs in north eastern states including Tripura. One of the recent project getting initiated is Implementation of Entrepreneurship Development Programme and Distribution of tools to the Rubber Growers of OBC Community to improve their skills and provide better livelihood with market linkages.

*Ms Shewani Nagpal*

### RCPSDC inks MOU with Tripura OBC Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd



*Candidates performing practical Training of the Rubber Tapping process*

RCPSDC has joined hands with The Tripura OBC Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd, Government of Tripura to improve the livelihood of the rubber growers belonging to OBC community through a project involving skill training in rubber tapping and processing besides creating a necessary infrastructure.

The project is aimed at introduction of rain guarding, skilled tapping and scientific latex processing to produce quantitatively higher and qualitatively better natural rubber. The project will undertake skilling of 100 rubber workers. Women will account for over 21% of the total 100 rubber growers to achieve gender equality.

“Lack of properly trained tappers, absence of rain-guarding of rubber plants, lack of focus on quality and lack of Industry linkages have stifled the growth of the Natural Rubber sector in Tripura. We aim to make a difference to the lives of the OBC community through skill training under the aegis of Tripura Government”.

*Ms Shewani Nagpal, COO, RCPSDC*

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*Student performing the process of converting Rubber Latex to Rubber Sheets*

Currently a large potential in Tripura is untapped both in terms of production and quality of rubber. The state produces less than 1200 Kg per hectare of rubber planted area as compared to national average of 1500 kg per hectare. Currently, only 30-40% of the rubber produced in Tripura is in the form of quality rubber sheet which matches the requirements of the industry. A large percentage of rubber produced is a low quality 'lot' rubber or 'ungraded' rubber. With skills training and support to the rubber growers, 60-70% of the rubber produced can be graded sheet rubber – mostly RSS 3 and RSS 4.

“With skill development and handholding support, it is expected that the efficiency of the Rubber Tappers shall improve with better quality yield and increase in production volumes. Better market linkage along with the production of improved rubber sheet as provisioned in the project shall improve the livelihoods of the rubber growers particularly the women rubber growers leading to significant socio economic improvement”.

*Ms Kuntal Das, TCS, MD, Tripura OBC Development Corporation Ltd.*

Every year approximately 50-60 days of production is lost due to non-availability of rain guarding (20% of the tapping days in a year), to eliminate this problem, RCPSDC will be giving training for rain guarding which will result in the increment of productivity of Latex up to 1500kg/hectare from 1200kg/hectare leading to 16% increase in monthly incomes of the growers. Skilful tapping (without harming the tree) will ensure yield from rubber trees for a prolonged period of 30 years which lasts only 12-18 years if done unskilfully. Moreover, through scientific latex processing growers can upgrade their rubber sheet quality up to RSS4 fetching them an extra Rs. 40/kg. So, as a project outcome, the overall increase in monthly incomes of the rubber growers is estimated at 32%.



For this, rubber growers will undergo intensive skill training in the job role of Latex Harvest Technician (Tapper) for 240 hours lasting two months. RCPSDC will undertake training through its training partners and also conduct assessment of the students. Successful students will be certified by RCPSDC.

## Rubber skill trainings on stream as pandemic wave ebbs



Group Picture of students being trained & assessed for the job role of Lab Chemist- Rubber at Kerala

Pandemic induced restrictions had severely hampered the training drive ever since the outbreak of Covid. However, with the lifting of the restrictions, trainings have gone on stream in right earnest.

Recently RCPSDC carried out the assessment and certification exercise for a batch of 30 students who had undergone intensive training for the job role of Lab Chemist in the Rubber sector. The training with a duration of 380 hours was organised by the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) of Kerala and imparted by Rubber Training Institute, Kottayam under the Rubber Board of India.

After successful completion of the training, the assessment and certification exercise was done in end-January 2022. “It goes to the highest standards of training provided by Rubber Training Institute that out of 30 students, 29 successfully completed the rigorous assessments by RCPSDC”.

*Ms Shewani Nagpal, COO RCPSDC*

“ASAP’s association with Rubber Board and RCPSDC has been very synergetic in the sense that the ultimate aim of skill courses is to find suitable placements for the students for making a living” states Commander Vinod Sankar, Head (HR, Admin & Certification). He reiterated that this association over the years was very fruitful that a number of students could be trained through ASAP in the special skill of Lab Chemist-Rubber enabling several female students to find suitable placements with good remuneration enabling women empowerment.

The job role of Lab Chemist – Rubber offers a good opportunity for B.Sc or M.Sc passed students who wish to build a career in the Rubber sector. Out of the 29 students who cleared the assessments, 11 students got placements within one week of the batch completion.

The Lab Chemist course aims to equip the students with the knowledge and skills essential to test raw materials used during the processing of rubber. Trainees learn to conduct tests as per laid down methods and specifications, maintain the work area, undertake reporting and documentation, conduct quality checks, identify problems and resolve issues in the specified field.

Skills Covered in the course include Grades of natural rubber, synthetic rubber and reclaimed rubber, compounding ingredients used in rubber compounding, Awareness of different rubber products, Testing of raw materials, Interpretation of results and documentation and Safety precautions.

To make the rubber ecosystem more competitive, RCPSDC has long partnered with the Rubber Board of India and the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) of Kerala. Both the organisations have been setting new standards in imparting relevant skills as per the National Operating Standards (NOS) devised by RCPSDC. ASAP Kerala is an



Practical Training of Student for the job role of Lab Chemist

undertaking of the Higher Education Department of the Kerala Government that focuses on training students and the general population with skills that improve their employability.

Ever since RCSDC's association with ASAP and National Rubber Training Institute in 2012, more than 800 students have been trained for the job roles of Lab Chemist- Rubber and Junior Rubber Technician.

We look forward to many more years of association with ASAP and Rubber Training Institute and help strengthen the competitiveness of the Rubber sector through skill training, added Ms Shewani Nagpal.

## Student Testimonials

### Nimmy Scaria

*Lab Chemist- Rubber*

My name is Nimmy Scaria and I am from Idukki, Kerala. I undertook training for the job role of Lab Chemist. During the training, I learned about the Latex Test, Dry Rubbing Tests, Physical Tests & Moulding Techniques. The course has helped me to attain a level of excellence in the field of rubber industry. After the training, I also received a certificate from the Government of India & RCPSDC. Now I'm placed as a Lab Chemist at a glove manufacturing industry - St.Mary's Rubbers Pvt. Ltd, Koovappally, Kanjirappally.



### Arathy Ponnappan

*Lab Chemist- Rubber*

My name is Arathy Ponnappan and I belong to Thiruvalla, Kerala. I have completed my Bachelors in Chemistry and always wanted to make a career in the Rubber sector, so I started searching for programs and got to know about this course through the Ernakulam district collector's Facebook page. This Lab Chemist Course helped me to develop new skills in the Rubber sector and I also obtained a wide range of Knowledge about the various Rubber Tests & Moulding Techniques. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of India, RCPSDC & ASAP.



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