

Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Telawala Rd, Ratmalana

Brief History

The origin of research on rubber goes back to 1909 when a group of planters in the Kalutara district met and agreed to engage a chemist to study the coagulation of rubber. This was later expanded to form a Rubber Research Scheme in 1913, with Government providing 60 percent of the funds, the balance coming from private subscribers.

The Rubber Research ordinance was incorporated on 30th August 1930 and the laboratories of the scheme were moved to its present location at Dartonfield, Agalawatta in 1934. The Rubber Research Scheme was named the Rubber Research Institute of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1951, by an amendment of the original Act of Parliament. The ordinance has been amended from time to time and the most recent amendment has been the Rubber Research Amendment Act No. 28 of 2003.

Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka is the oldest research institute on rubber in the world and is the nodal agency in Sri Lanka charged with the statutory responsibility for research and development on all aspects of rubber cultivation and processing for the benefit of the rubber industry.

Main Departments

Main Station – Dartonfield, Agalawatta

Sub Stations

Kuruwita Substation, Kuruwita, Ratnapura

Nivitigalakele Substation, Matugama

Alawwa Substation, Polgahawela

Monaragala Substation, Monaragala

Objectives

1. Increase productivity to Potential levels of the crop
2. Increase national production of Natural Rubber to meet the increasing demand
3. Optimal and sustainable utilization of land, labour and other resources
4. Maximize domestic value addition to rubber
5. Transfer the developed technologies through training and advisory services.

Activities

1. Refining available technology and developing novel technologies to cater to the needs of the industry.

2. Offers around 15 promising clones, developed by Sri Lankan Scientists with more than five fold yields compared to the productivity of rubber trees in their original habitat.
3. Soil and foliar analysis for site specific fertilizer recommendations.
4. A special diagnostic team for trouble shooting in agricultural practices and raw rubber processing aspects.
5. Planting materials from latest clone introductions to establish source bush nurseries and issue quality certification of all planting materials issued to stakeholders.
6. Plant protection systems for all maladies of the rubber tree and provide early warning on disease epidemics and advice on mitigating unforeseen disasters.
7. Testing processing and waste water quality, dry rubber and latex quality, fertilizer quality, latex products and rubber compounds and issue certificates recognized by local authorities.
8. Providing training and extension services in all aspects of rubber cultivation, post harvest technology, and plantation management for corporate sector & small holders.
9. Guidance to solve and manage environmental issues connected with discharge of wastewater generating from raw rubber, latex processing and rubber product manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka
10. Development of value added natural rubber based materials and also rubber compounds for latex and dry rubber products to suit the end user requirements or in compliance with the standard specifications.

Contact persons

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