

PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN INTRODUCED CLONES OF *HEVEA BRASILIENSIS* IN INDIA

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Twelve clones of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) introduced from Malaysia and Thailand were evaluated in a large-scale trial in comparison to the popular clone RRII 105 in India. The performance of these clones with respect to yield, girth, girth increment, bark anatomical features, incidence of tapping panel dryness, wind damage and pink and powdery mildew diseases are presented. Significant clonal variations existed for all the characters. Clone PB 314 recorded the highest mean yield (79.08 g/t/c) over the first four years followed by PB 255 (76.16 g/t/c). Eight clones yielded significantly higher than RRII 105. The trunk girth in the immature phase was the highest for PB 235 (61.33 cm) followed by PB 280. High girth and uniform growth coupled with high yield of these clones indicate their potential as latex timber clones.

Key words: Clone evaluation, *Hevea*, Secondary characters, Yield.

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation and selection of clones for yield, girth and desirable secondary characters under local agroclimatic conditions is important for choosing the right clones for large scale planting in any region. The present study reports the performance of certain selections introduced to India from

Malaysia and Thailand in comparison with the popular clone RRII 105.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The materials used in this study included nine clones from Prang Besar, Malaysia and three from Thailand (Table 1). These clones were evaluated in a large scale

Table 1. Details of clones evaluated

Clone	Parentage	Country of origin	Year of introduction
PB 217	PB 5/51 x PB 6/9	Malaysia	1962
PB 235	PB 5/51 x PB 5/78	Malaysia	1964
PB 255	PB 5/31 x PB 32/36	Malaysia	1985
PB 260	PB 5/51 x PB 49	Malaysia	1979
PB 280	Primary clone	Malaysia	1985
PB 310	PB 5/51 x RRIM 600	Malaysia	1979
PB 311	RRIM 600 x PB 235	Malaysia	1979
PB 312	RRIM 600 x PB 235	Malaysia	1985
PB 314	RRIM 600 x PB 235	Malaysia	1983
KRS 25	Primary clone	Thailand	1984
KRS 128	PB 5/63 x KRS 13	Thailand	1984
KRS 163	PB 6/ 63 x RRIM 501	Thailand	1984
RRII 105	Tjir 1 x GI 1	India	-

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