

## EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION IN GROUP PROCESSING CENTRES OF TRIPURA

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Various technologies developed in rubber processing are being transferred to the group processing centres of Tripura. The extent of adoption of the technologies by these centres is discussed. Most of the group processing centres process latex into Ribbed Smoked Sheets (RSS) and some are selling latex to other entrepreneurs. Even though good infrastructure and trained personnel are available in all the centres, some deviations in processing from the recommended practices like dilution and sieving of the latex, dosage and mixing of the acid, thickness of the RSS, temperature of the smoke house, etc. were noticed in all group processing centres. Full capacity utilisation was found only in pre-winter months. The infrastructure made for making RSS remains unutilised in centres which are selling latex. Many centres are not grading the sheets before sale and most of them sell the sheets locally. The study underlined the necessity of refresher trainings and awareness programmes to follow the correct processing techniques involved in RSS processing.

**Keywords:** Evaluation, Group processing centres, Latex processing, North East

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### INTRODUCTION

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natural rubber (NR) sector are focused mainly on the development of the rubber plantation industry and they are being transferred to the grass root-levels. One such grass root-level organisation in the Indian rubber plantation industry is Rubber ??•????? ???•????? ????•??? ?•  
Group Processing Centres (GPC) in Tripura to enable better processing at minimum individual cost. Though various technologies are being transferred to the group processing centres, no attempt has been made to evaluate the extent of their adoption.

Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is generally cultivated in India in the hinterlands of the south west coast comprising Kerala State and the adjoining districts of Tamil Nadu. However, the agroclimatic conditions in North East India are unique and suitable for rubber cultivation (Cyriac, 1987). The rubber plantation in Tripura extends to 50070 ha with a production of 23280 t as on 2008-09 (Rubber Board, 2010). Tripura occupies first position in respect of area as well as production of NR among the north-eastern states and hence the present study was undertaken in Tripura with the objective of evaluating the extent of scientific processing techniques by the GPCs.