

## EVALUATION OF THE YIELD PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED RUBBER PLANTING MATERIALS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PLANTING POLICY

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The yield performance of selected planting materials over three time periods was assessed. Among the 32 planting materials for which data are available, 15 popular ones are selected for the purpose of analysis. The analysis of yield data shows that PB 28/59, RRIM 605, PB 5/51 and GT 1 are found to be superior compared to others in terms of yield ( $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$ ) during the first ten years of tapping. During the fifteen year period of exploitation among the 8 planting materials, RRIM 605, PB 5/51 and RRIM 623 had relatively higher yield compared to others. Among the four planting materials for which data are available, during the twenty year period, GT 2 topped the list. A multiple regression analysis of the available data suggests that the variation in yield can be explained from 64 to 87 per cent (in 20 year period), 76 to 98 per cent (in 15 year period) and 74 to 100 per cent (in 10 year period except in the case of PB 235) depending on the planting material. The observed and estimated yield are comparable except for the first year of tapping for the three time periods and for the twentieth year of tapping. The planting policy of the company (1970-1980) appears to be in tune with the yield performance of the selected planting materials during the ten year period. During the period 1960-1980 (except for the first sub-period) the clones such as GT 1, PB 28/59, PB 217 and PB 235 have received maximum attention.

**Key words** - Yield performance, Rubber planting materials, Planting policy, Year of tapping, Density. Multiple regression equation.

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### INTRODUCTION

Natural rubber (NR) production in India is insufficient to meet the internal consumption and very often the country has to depend on imports which range from 15 to 20 per cent of the total requirement. Though the Government of India made earnest efforts to achieve self sufficiency in NR production the increase in production is nullified by a relatively faster rate of growth of consumption on account of a growing and diversifying domestic rubber goods

manufacturing sector. Among the various schemes launched by the Government to achieve self sufficiency, the popularisation of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of planting materials deserves special mention. Even though the response to the promotional efforts initiated by the Rubber Board was positive from both the estate and the small holding sectors, there exists considerable difference between the two with regard to the adoption of HYV materials. For instance, at present 99 per cent of the total area in the estate sector is under HYV