

PINK DISEASE OF *HEVEA BRASILIENSIS* IN NORTHERN WEST BENGAL AND NORTH EAST INDIA

G.C. Mondal, H.K. Deka, Shammi Raj* and Sabu P. Idicula**

Rubber Research Institute of India, Regional Research Station,
Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati - 781006, Assam, India

*Regional Research Station, Rubber Research Institute of India, Agartala -799 006, Tripura, India

**Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam - 686 009, Kerala, India

Received: 02 September 2013 Accepted: 10 February 2014

Mondal, G.C., Deka, H.K., Raj, S. and Idicula, S.P. (2014). Pink disease of *Hevea brasiliensis* in northern West Bengal and North East India. *Rubber Science*, 27(1): 91-97.

A survey was carried out in 180 locations covering in northern West Bengal and North East India, from August to November, during 1990-2011, on pink disease of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) caused by *Corticium salmonicolor* (Berk. & Br.). The incidence of pink disease on rubber was higher in northern West Bengal than Meghalaya and Assam. Maximum incidence of pink disease was observed on four to six-year-old rubber plants at Rango (7.5%) followed by Jiti rubber estate (3.0%) in northern West Bengal. The disease was noticed on the main trunk of five-year-old rubber plants at Rango and Jiti rubber estates during September, 2001 for the first time in northern West Bengal and caused a total loss of the affected trees. Weather factors like monthly rainfall (mm), number of rainy days, maximum temperature (°C) and relative humidity (%) from July to September during 1996-2011 are also reported. The monthly rainfall above 500 mm and more than 17 continues rainy days were the major predisposing factors influencing the development of pink disease.

Keywords: Climatic factors, North West Bengal, North East India, Pink disease

Pink disease of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg.) caused by *Corticium salmonicolor* (Berk. & Br.) is prevalent in South India during south west monsoon period. Though the incidence of pink disease is noticed on rubber plants of all age groups, the adverse effects due to infection were found to be more damaging for two to twelve-year-old plants (Ramakrishnan and Pillai, 1962). The pink disease occurs in almost all rubber growing locations in Kerala and causes considerable loss of canopy that ultimately

retards the growth resulting in extension of immaturity period (Ramakrishnan and Pillai, 1962). The incidence of pink disease in north east region of India was first reported by Mondal *et al.* (1994) from Assam and Tripura and from Meghalaya by Deka *et al.* (1998). As the detailed scientific report on the occurrence of pink disease on different parts of rubber trees of various clones in northern West Bengal and North East India and its management is not available, this study was carried out in