IMPACT OF RUBBER PRODUCERS SOCIETIES ON RUBBER PLANTATION INDUSTRY IN KASARAGOD DISTRICT

By

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Dissertation

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the

PG Diploma in Natural Rubber Production

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1991

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled "**Impact of Rubber Producers Societies on Rubber Plantation Industry in Kasargod District**" is a bonafide record of original work done by me during the course of placement/training and that this dissertation has not formed the basis for award of any degree, diploma, associateship or other similar titles or any other University or Society.

Vellanikkara,
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CERTIFICATE

Certified that this dissertation entitled "Impact of Rubber Producers Societies on Rubber Plantation Industry in Kasargod District" is a record of research work done independently by Sri.M.J. JOSE under our guidance and supervision and that it has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma to him.

We the undersigned members of the Advisory Committee of Sri.M.J. JOSE, a candidate for the Post Graduate Diploma in Natural Rubber Production, agree that the dissertation entitled "Impact of Rubber Producers Societies on Rubber Plantation Industry in Kasargode District" may be submitted by Sri.M.J.JOSE in partial fulfilment of the requirement of the diploma.

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CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

Natural rubber occupies a proud place in the economy of Kerala. Though initially there were only large estates, rubber plantation gradually emerged as a small holders crop, as many a farmer chose to go in for this, obviously motivated by its lucratic nature and the liberal institutional support enjoyed by it. At present there are over 4.5 lakh hectares under rubber in India out of which 90 per cent is located in the small State of Kerala. Over 6 lakh holdings share the area under rubber and more than 98 per cent among them are small in size, the average extent being less than one hectare.

The Rubber Board, a statutory body constituted by the Government of India as early as 1947, which looks after the developments of the rubber plantations in this country, has played its due role in lifting the Rubber Plantation Industry to such a big height. With the proliferation of small holdings, the Board had been delibrating upon some ideal device of its own to reach out to the small holding fraction of the Rubber Plantation Industry in order to deliver appropriate technology for maximising the production and productivity of these holdings in a bid to meet the ever increasing need for natural rubber.

As the earlier attempts to cater the needs of small growers through co-operatives failed, the Rubber Board thought of organising them at the grass root level to ensure total involvement and participation. The small holders thus organised at the village level led to the formation of Rubber Producers Societies. These were formed in the lines of Anand Milk Union Ltd., Gujarat (AMUL) to promote group approach among rural small holders. The result was encouraging due to the high credibility of the Board. With a starting number of 200 in 1986, the total number of Rubber Producers Societies formed went up to 1200 by 1990-91. Idea was to steadily increase the number and services of the Rubber Producers Societies until majority of the small holders were brought under this and to cater their needs in all aspects of rubber cultivation, processing and marketing.

"Rubber Producers Society is conceived largely as a non-profit, non-political, secular, democratic, socialist fraternity of the rubber growers, for the rubber growers and by the rubber growers". The main objectives of Rubber Producers Society include,

a) to improve the production and productivity of rubber,
b) to improve the processing and quality of rubber,
c) to improve the marketing of rubber,
d) to promote Village level rubber based industries, and

e) to promote, group approach among small rubber growers for new planting and replanting and to make the transfer of technology more easier to rural small rubber growers.

Being a pioneer effort to organise and render better services to rubber growers, the entire functioning of Rubber Producers Society is based on certain assumptions formulated with the past experiences. Hence it is imperative to conduct a scientific investigation into the functioning of these societies and to assess the impact among the beneficiaries. Under these circumstances a project was designed to study the impact of Rubber Producers Societies, with the following objectives:

(1) to study the impact of the Rubber Producers Societies on the rubber plantation industry in Kasargode District.

(2) to study the constraints of Rubber Producers Societies and to suggest remedial measures.

(3) to obtain suggestions from the beneficiaries to improve the functioning of Rubber Producers Societies.

The findings of the study would help to have a preliminary assessment of the impact of Rubber Producers Society among the rubber growers. Another important contribution of the study might be the identification of certain constraints and the suggestions to solve them as perceived by the beneficiaries.

CHAPTER-II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The launching of Rubber Producers Society primarily meant to organise the small growers, to facilitate adoption of improved cultural practices and making better returns, has taken place only very recently. So far no attempts has been made to study the efficiency or impact of these societies in any part of the State as it is only in the establishing stage. Hence it was imposible for the investigator to locate and review enough literature on the working of Rubber Producers Society. However an attempt was made to gather and present the available related literature in relation to the working of farmers groups and factors influencing the adoption of improved practices by farmers.

As in the case of other agriculturist the rubber small holders are a highly disorganised weak lot. It is needless to say that the cultivation of rubber, production, processing and marketing require fairly high levels of skillful management in agronomic practices, input procurement and application, post harvest technology and marketing. After experimenting different approaches in organising the small growers, the Rubber Board is now promoting locally organised small groups called Rubber Producers Society. It is expected that these bodies will adequately

facilitate the flow of technical informations to the small growers in time as a strong link between the extension and client systems and provide necessary support and services in the area of input procurement, incentives, processing, storage, establishing rubber based small scale industry units and marketing, giving higher returns to the cultivator (Menon, 1989).

Though these societies are necessarily voluntary associations of rubber growers they have a definite organisational structure. It is envisaged to hold general body meetings at least once in three months in addition to the demonstrations, seminars and group meetings. Narayanan (1990) has opined that such meetings would enable to foster an intimacy between the members and smooth functioning of the Rubber Producers Society with a sense of belongingness.

Primary processing of the latex, if done scientifically and skillfully would fetch increased returns to the cultivator. With the purpose of equiping the members of Rubber Producers Societies, the Board has planned to train them in improved primary processing technology. This is also considered to be a worthwhile fulfilment of the objectives of Rubber Producers Society (Lalithambika, 1991).

2.1. Role of Rubber Producers Societies in adoption of improved technologies

As already mentioned elsewhere, organising the small rubber growers under the umbrella of Rubber Producers Societies is expected to enhance the adoption of improved farming technologies along with providing necessary support system facilities. The adoption of improved technology is always influenced by various factors attributable to the technology as well as the service systems, as evidenced from some of the related previous research studies.

After reviewing several research studies in diffusion and adoption of innovations, Rogers and Shoemaker (1971) observed that knowledge of the improved technology might necessarily act as a strong motivation for its adoption among farmers.

While studying the soil conservation measures by farmers in the scheme areas of Trivandrum District. Pillai (1978) observed that the level of knowledge in the subject matter was significantly related to the level of improved practices by the farmers.

Balakrishna et al. (1982) identified that farmers gave prime importance to infrastructure facilities for improvement of their agricultural practices.

Haraprasad (1982), after studying the impact of agricultural programmes implemented by Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) among the farmers in Trivandrum District reported that higher levels of awareness of the activities and higher levels of knowledge helped the adoption of improved practices in live-stock rearing.

In another study on the impact of 'SADU' on the agricultural development of rural areas Vijayakumar (1983) found that the beneficiaries of the programme had improved levels of knowledge and attitude towards all the selected practices and there by better adoption levels. The non-beneficiaries of the programme were significantly lower in the levels of these three aspects.

2.2. Constraints in the functioning of producers co-operatives

With all the accepted tasks, many agricultural co-operatives face serious constraints in the real working situations. Needless to say these lacunae may remain as the serious setbacks for such organisations in fulfilling their objectives.

In the study, Vijayakumar (1983) pointed out that lack of supply of good quality seedlings and supply of necessary inputs at the appropriate time were some of the severe constraints

significantly influencing the agricultural productivity. In the field of rubber cultivation, Cyriac (1989) has opined that in capability of procurement and marketing of rubber at village level by the Rubber Marketing Societies was the important draw back faced, which needed immediate corrective measures.

These observations may act as indicators of some the important functions of an efficient farmers group movement to cater to their basic needs to increase the net returns and provide necessary support.

Methodology

CHAPTER-III

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter the location of the study, procedure followed for selection of respondents, method of data collection and the statistical techniques used are presented.

3.1. Location of the study

This study aims at studying the impact of Rubber Producers Society, which is of recent origin and which strengthened the extension and support systems. Kasaragod District was selected for conducting the study for the following reasons:

(1) The extension efforts of Rubber Board are relatively less in Kasaragod District as evidenced by the Single Regional Office unlike most of other districts.

(2) The rubber cultivation in this district is coming up only recently and thus the impact of Rubber Production Society may become much evident.

3.2. Selection of samples

There are 60 Rubber Producers Societies in Kasaragod District at present. Each Rubber Producers Society has a well defined service area of 2-9 KMs radius. The membership of each Rubber Producers Society varies from 50-200. Out of this 60 Rubber Producers Societies, 10 were randomly selected for the inclusion

in the study (Annexure I). From each of the selected Rubber Producers Society, approximately 10 per cent of its members were randomly selected as the respondents of the study (Annexure II). According to the list of members there are 1180 members in all the 10 selected societies and thus the sample size came to 118, following the proportionate random sampling method.

3.3. Method of data collection

The data were collected from the respondents by conducting personal interviews using a structured interview schedule (The schedule is given in Annexure III). Out of 118 respondents, eight could not give correct responses to some questions and hence those were eliminated from the sample, thus making the sample size 110.

3.4. Categorisation of respondents

The respondents were categorised into three according to selected personal and socioeconomic characteristics. This was done using mean and standard deviation as the yardsticks. Accordingly, the high category included all the respondents, who obtained the scores above Mean + S.D. and the medium category included all the respondents who obtained the scores between Mean ± S.D. The low category included all the

respondents whose scores were less than Mean - S.D. Based on the grades obtained the respondents were grouped into three categories as shown below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Scores		
		High	Medium	Low
1	Education Score 0-6	> 5.00	3.12 - 5.00	< 3.12
2	Experience (years)	> 15.72	4.62 - 15.72	< 4.62
3	Total area (hect.)	> 3.64	1.16 - 3.64	< 1.16
4	Total area under rubber cultivation (hect.)	> 1.73	0.33 - 1.73	< 0.33
5	Production of rubber (kg)	> 1796	332 - 1796	< 332
6	Social participation Score 0-2	> 2.63	0.87 - 2.63	< 0.87

3.5. Method of analysis

The data collected were analysed using simple statistical procedures such as percentage analysis, means and standard deviations.

Results & Discussions

CHAPTER-IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter describes the major findings of the study including the profile of the respondents in terms of their personal and socioeconomic variables, the benefits they obtained through the function of the Rubber Producers Societies, the extent of involvement of respondents in the activities of the Rubber Producers Societies and suggestions for improvement of Rubber Producers Societies.

4.1. Profile of the respondents in terms of personal and socio-economic variables

The data presented in Table 1 indicate the results of distribution of the respondents into three categories namely high, medium and low using means and standard deviations. It was evident from the table that the respondents were relatively good in the case of education, experience in rubber cultivation and social participation. It was also observed that the number of respondents having very low acrage under rubber cultivation and lower level of rubber production were notably less (four and three respectively).

The results revealed that the sample included the typical representation of rubber growers in the State, moderate levels

Table 1

Profile of the respondents in terms of personal and socio-economic variables

Sl.No.	Variable	Category		Frequency	Percentage
1	Education	High	=> 5.00	13	11.8
		Medium	= Between 3.12-5.00	84	76.4
		Low	= <3.12	13	11.8
2	Experience in rubber cultivation	High	=> 15.72	21	19
		Medium	= Between 4.62-15.72	80	72.8
		Low	= <4.62	9	8.2
3	Total area	High	= >3.64	13	11.8
		Medium	= Between 1.16-3.64	84	76.4
		Low	= <1.16	13	11.8
4	Total area under rubber cultivation	High	= >1.73	14	12.8
		Medium	= 0.33-1.73	92	83.6
		Low	= <0.33	4	3.6
5	Production of rubber	High	= >1976	14	18
		Medium	= 332-1976	61	78.2
		Low	=< 332	3	3.8
6	Social participation	High	= > 2.63	21	19.1
		Medium	= Between 0.87-2.63	66	60
		Low	= <0.87	23	20.9

of education, medium levels in social participation and experience in rubber cultivation. However, fairly good levels of the respondents in terms of acrage and rubber production were also typical to the crop. Unlike other crops, a small holding of rubber will be more than 0.20 ha and hence it is quiet natural to get the above findings.

4.2. Source of persuasion to join the Rubber Producers Society

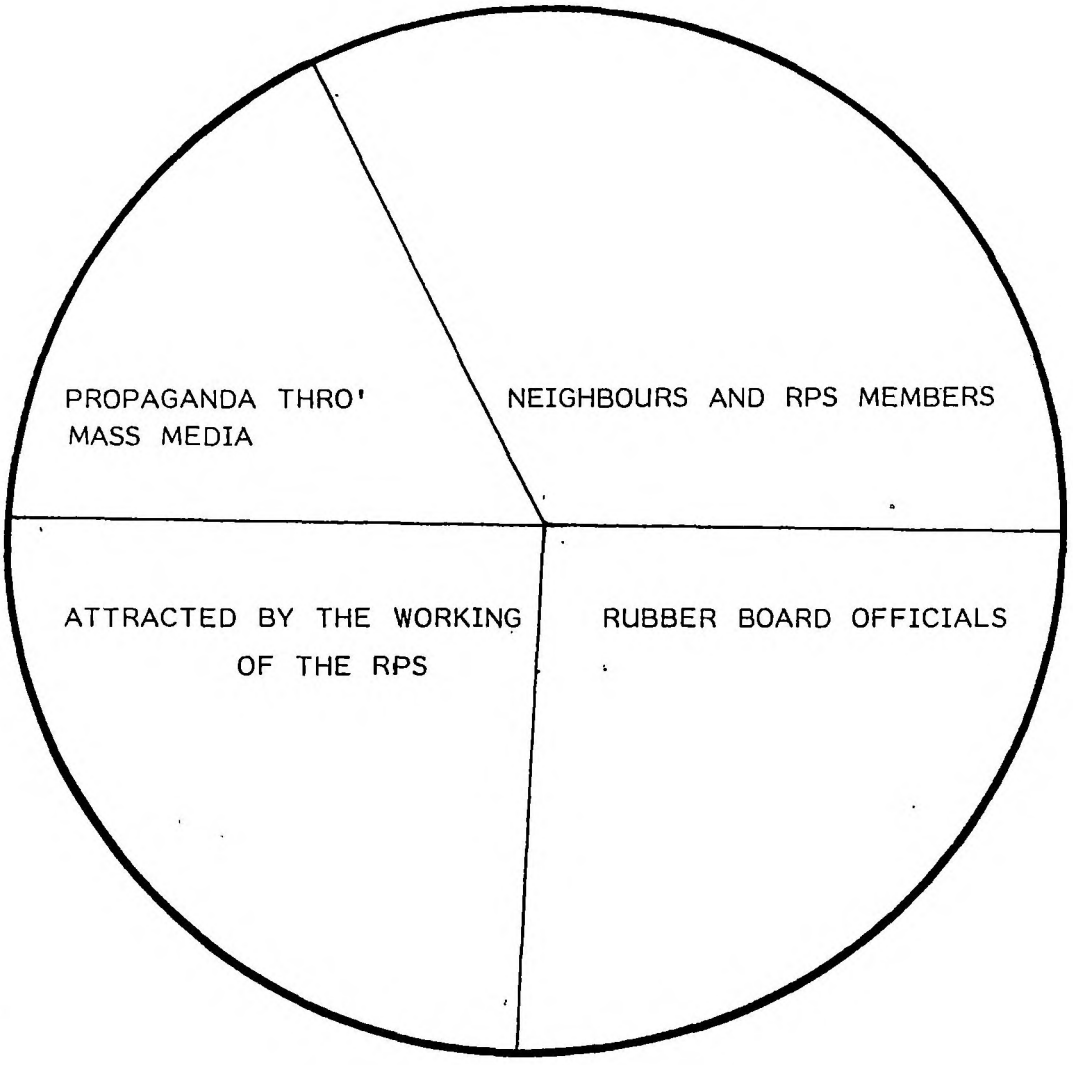
The results presented in Table 2 indicate the source of motivation of the respondents that prompted them to join the Rubber Producers Society. It could be observed from Table 2 that the neighbours and Rubber Producers Society members were the most important source of motivation that helped them to join the Rubber Producers Society, followed by Rubber Board officials. The way of functioning of the Rubber Producers Society and propaganda through mass media also gave inspiration to be rubber growers to join Rubber Producers Society. Farmers always attach much credibility to direct personal experience and opinions of experienced in group members. An element of avoidence of risk might have contributed to this behaviour. More over attaching more credibility to the members of their own social system is a typical characters of the rural Indian life. This might be the probable reason for neighbours and Rubber Producers

Table 2

Source of persuasion to join the Rubber Producers Society

Sl.No.	Source	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rubber Board Officials	29	26.4
2	Neighbours and Rubber Producers Society members	35	31.8
3	Propaganda through mass media	19	17.3
4	Attracted by the working of the Rubber Producers Society	27	24.5

Fig. 1. Source of persuasion to join the RPS



Society members turning out to be the most important source of persuasion for the respondents to join the Rubber Producers Society.

It is only natural to see a relatively good influence by the Rubber Board officials as a source of persuasion to the respondents because they are the extension links between the Rubber Board and the cultivators. All the schemes for rubber promotion are implemented through the efforts of the Rubber Board officials and naturally they have a considerable amount of influence on the farmers.

A well functioning Rubber Producers Society will naturally attract the nearby farmers because of the adventages and additional facilities and this might be the probable reason for its higher influence as a source of persuasion.

4.3. Benefits obtained through Rubber Producers Society

There are various benefits and services which are supposed to be rendered to the members of the Rubber Producers Society. The Table 3 illustrates the extent of such benefits or facilities received by the farmers as perceived by the respondents.

It was interesting to note that maximum number of respondants (94.5 per cent) were getting knowledge regarding

Table 3

Benefits obtained through Rubber Producers Society

Sl.No.	Benefits	Frequency	Percentage
1	Material benefits/inputs	83	75.5
2	Knowledge regarding rubber cultivation	104	94.5
3	Good quality planting materials	6	5.5
4	Beekeeping subsidy	15	13.6
5	Better marketing facilities	3	2.7
6	Soil and leaf analysis	31	28
7	Rain guarding materials	27	24.5
8	Correct method of tapping and processing	45	41

Fig. 2. Benefits obtained through RPS

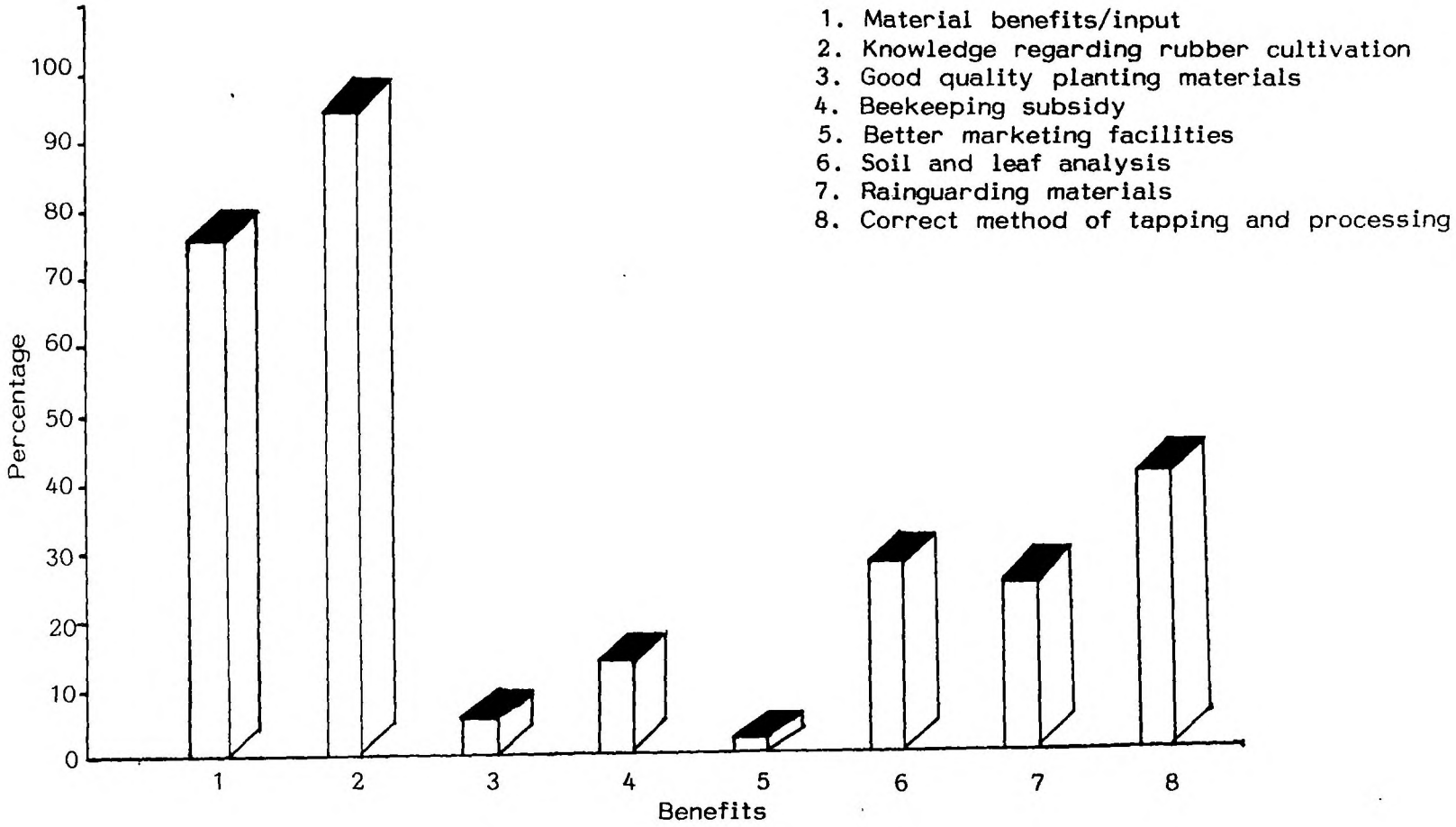


Plate 1. Technology transfer under the Rubber tree

Plate 2. Beekeeping in a small holding

Plate 1.

Plate 2

rubber cultivation through Rubber Producers Society. Nearly three fourth of the respondents agreed that obtaining material benefits/ inputs at subsidised rate to be another advantage of joining the Rubber Producers Society. A considerable number of respondents also pointed out that they could learn about the correct method of tapping and processing through their association with Rubber Producers Society.

It is also to be seriously noted that most of the respondents did not perceive the availability of good quality planting materials or facilities for marketing their produces through the Rubber Producers Society.

Establishment of Rubber Producers Society has opened a new avenue for the extension efforts of the Rubber Board through systematic and scheduled monthly meetings, quarterly general body meetings and frequent technical seminars. More over in these group sessions sharing of experiences and reinforcement of the technical knowledge would be facilitated. The Rubber Board officials could establish close linkage with the individual members and good liaison with the group as a whole as various schemes and trainings are always implemented through Rubber Producers Society. Thus it is only natural to observe the respondents to percieve knowledge regarding rubber cultivation as the most important benefit they obtained through Rubber Producers Society.

Plate 3. Polybag nursery of Ennappara RPS

Plate 3.

As stated earlier, after inception of Rubber Producers Society, most of the schemes for input supply and subsidy by the Rubber Board are being channelised through Rubber Producers Societies. For a farmer who has not joined any Rubber Producers Society, availability of inputs and other material benefits in time in this locality might become a difficult task. This is a fundamental advantage of group management principle now being widely adopted in various farming enterprises. Besides, the leaders of the Rubber Producers Society can make need based indents to various supporting agencies or organisations for the timely and adequate supply of material inputs, which might have contributed to the above findings.

The short term training sessions and technical seminars frequently arranged on behalf of Rubber Producers Society might have contributed to their perception of gaining correct method of tapping and processing through the Rubber Producers Society.

Though the Rubber Producers Society started functioning in 1987, most of them could not so far achieve the objectives of supplying good quality planting materials and arranging better marketing facilities. It is expected that in the near future these facilities will also come into existence along with installation of primary processing and manufacturing units at the grass root level. In fact, ultimate aim of the establishing the Rubber

Producers Society is to make the cultivator get the full profit of his enterprise. By acquiring suitable area and trained personnel for the maintenance of nursery, sufficient planting materials could be supplied to the farmers by the Societies. The constraints existing at present with regard to raising of polybag nursery and establishing processing and marketing units might be the reason for the above results of the study.

4.4 Cultural practices followed by the respondents

The sample included respondents having only immature crop or only mature crop or both. The results presented in Table 4, throw lime light to the extent of adoption of certain important recommended practices by the respondents.

It is evident that the manuring was done by all the respondents for the immature area and most of the respondents for the mature area. The extent of spraying done in the immature area was also appreciable. But the results regarding spraying and rainguarding in the case of mature area were not encouraging.

The probable reason for this trend of non-adoption of spraying and rainguarding for mature crop might be the non-availability of adequate inputs and equipments for these operations. More over, there was a commen belief among the cultivators that

Table 4

Cultural practices

(a) N = 38 (b) N = 78

Sl.No.	Item	Frequency	Percentage
(a) Immature area			
1	Manuring	38	100
2	Spraying	29	76
(b) Mature area			
1	Manuring	75	96
2	Spraying	42	54
3	Rainguarding	29	37

the fungicidal spraying against Abnormal leaf fall could be avoided in the case of RRII 105 clone, in which some degree of tolerence against this disease is expected. Majority of the area under study was occupied by RRII 105.

In the case of rainguarding many of the cultivators do not expect much increase in their net returns through rainguarding. The extra expenditure to be incurred for rainguarding and the bumper yield in September-October from unguarded area after the rest period might be responsible for this inference.

4.5. Participation of members in the Rubber Producers Society meeting

Though the Rubber producers Society are formed for the farmers and by the farmers, it is not obligatory on the part of any member to attend all the meetings without fail. The functioning is purely democratic and voluntary. The data presented in Table 5 reveal the extent of participation of the respondents in the Rubber Producers Society meetings.

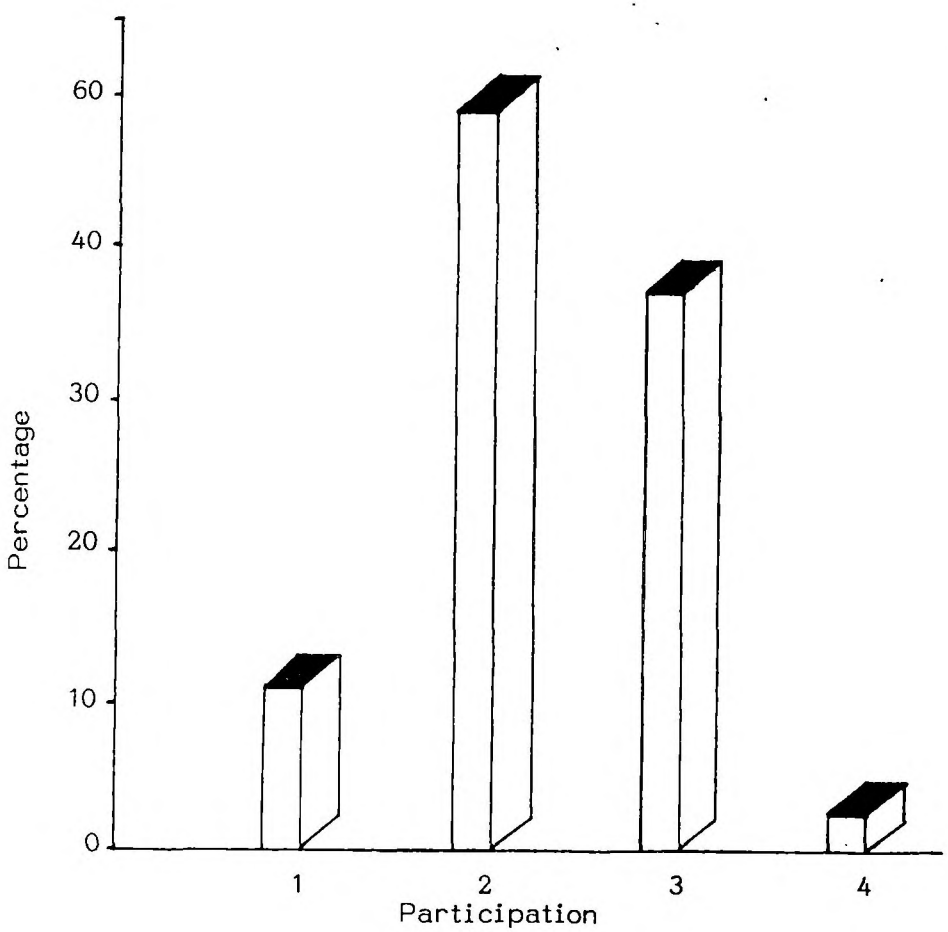
It could be observed that nearly half of the respondents were attending the meetings very often, while a sizeable number (37 per cent) were attending them occassionally. The number of respondents attending all the meetings was only 12 (11 per cent).

Table 5

Participation of members in Rubber Producers Society meetings

Sl.No.	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1	Attending all the meetings	12	11
2	Attending the meeting very often	54	49
3	Attending the meetings occassionally	41	37
4	Not at all attending	3	2.7

Fig. 3. Participation of RPS members in group meetings



1. Attending all the meetings
2. Attending very often
3. Attending occassionally
4. Not at all attending

These results showed that most of the members were serious about attending the meetings of the Rubber Producers Society though it was voluntary. The probable reason might be the benefits they achieve through Rubber Producers Society particularly the knowledge about technical subject matter. Moreover, the joint decisions regarding cultural operations and marketing made in the meetings might affect each and every individual member, which again becomes an inspiration to attend the meetings.

The meetings invariably provide opportunities for the members to interact with each other, share their experiences and to establish a rapport with the Rubber Board Officials. This also might be another probable reason for the higher degree of participation in the meetings.

4.6. Common suggestions of the respondents

Being a new attempt, the functioning of Rubber Producers Society has got several initial constraints felt by the beneficiaries for which they have certain valid suggestions. Table 6 enlist the major suggestions putforth by the respondents of the study.

Majority of the respondents (69 per cent) suggested that the Rubber Producers Society would become more efficient and decisive if they arrange timely supply of all inputs. Nearly one

Table 6

Common important suggestions of the respondents

Sl.No.	Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Timely supply of all inputs/ materials	76	69
2	Entrusting the procurement of input materials with the company and arrange distribution on payment of cash	36	32.7
3	Rubber Producer Society should deal in rubber	32	29
4	Rubber Producers Society should start small manufacturing unit	18	16.4
5	Restrict the membership size and service area	15	13.6
6	Reducing the work load of Rubber Producers Society Presidents	10	9
7	Restricting the active politicians in holding responsible positions in Rubber Producers Society	7	6.4

third of the respondents opined that the procurement of all estate inputs should be entrusted with the Trading Company (Kanhangad Rubbers) and arrange the supply on cash payment, through the Rubber Producers Societies.

There was a strong suggestion that the Rubber Producers Society should start the marketing of the produce also. Still another important suggestion that has come up was regarding the unwieldy area of operation of a single Rubber Producers Society. Many of them suggested that the service area and the number of members to be included in each society was to be restricted to 50 to 75.

There was an appeal from many respondents to reduce the work load of the Rubber Producers Society Presidents who are doing the job purely on voluntary basis inspite of their personal responsibilities.

It can be concluded from the observations that the members of the Rubber Producers Society give much thrust to the timely supply of inputs and the easiness of the procedure for the services.

The functioning of the Rubber Producers Society which could help to identify the real beneficiary for each and every

scheme should be considered as a basis for simplifying the official procedures as suggested by the respondents. Many of the members pointed out that the small manufacturing units, if started, would help to realise better returns by the cultivators and thus to industrialise the farming enterprise.

Summary and Conclusion

CHAPTER-V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Rubber Producers Societies were formed among small rubber growers to improve their rubber production, productivity, processing and marketing facilities. The survey was conducted to evaluate the impact of Rubber Producers Society on rubber plantation industry in Kasargod District. 110 Rubber Producers Society members in the district were contacted for this purpose. Using a structured interview schedule the data were collected from the respondents and analysed by simple statistical procedures such as percentage, means and standard deviations. The major findings of the study could be summarised as follows.

Neighbours and Rubber Producers Society members were the most important source of persuasion for the growers to join the Rubber ber Producers Society, followed by Rubber Board officials.

A good majority of the respondents agreed that they have gained knowledge regarding scientific method of rubber cultivation through the Rubber Producers Society. Nearly three forth of the respondents pointed out that they were getting material benefits through Rubber Producers Societies.

The study revealed that a considerable number of members could learn about correct method of tapping and processing through the Rubber Producers Societies.

Nearly 14 per cent of the respondents could fetch additional income by doing apiculture in their holdings, for which they obtained subsidy through the Rubber Producers Soieties.

Twenty eight per cent of the respondents could do systamatic manuring in their holdings as a result of soil and leaf analysis arranged by the Rubber Producers Societies.

The study also revealed the necessity for arranging supply of good quality planting materials and better rubber marketing facilities through Rubber Producers Societies.

It was observed from the study that growers resorted to manuring and spraying promptly in immature area where as so much care was not given to mature area especially in carrying out spraying.

Rainguarding was found to be practiced only in 37 per cent of the cases, mainly due to the non-availability of the required materials in time.

There were various suggestions put-forth by the respondents for improving the functional efficiency of the Rubber Producers Societies.

The most important suggestion was regarding the timely supply of materials/inputs to the members in adequate quantities at subsidised rate. For this the suggestion was to entrust the trading company *'Kanhangad Rubbers (P) Ltd.' with the work of procuring the inputs and supplying the same to the Rubber Producers Societies on cash payment.

Other important suggestions include procurement of the produce from the members to ensure better price. Respondents have also suggested to initiate action for establishing small scale rubber goods manufacturing units at village level.

Membership and service area of the Rubber Producers Society have to be restricted as pointed out by many respondents so that accessibility to each member is made easy. Reduction in the number of members would reduce work load of the Presidents of Rubber Producers Societies. Another important suggestion was to keep away active politicians from becoming office bearers of the Rubber Producers Society.

Limitations of the study

Though the study has attempted to make an overall asessment of the impact created by Rubber Producers Societies in

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*A private limited company formed in Kasargod District under the joined share participation of Rubber Producers Society and Rubber Board.

modernising small rubber holdings through group approach, it had several limitations caused due to a variety of factors.

1. The study had to be completed with in a short period of 60 days due to the limited resources and time at the disposal of the investigator.
2. The Rubber Producers Society movement has not yet stabilised and assumed a concrete shape as it is totally new, and hence several inherent limitations are involved.
3. The physical distance between the academic study centre at Trichur and the survey area at Kasargod also contributed to the limitations.
4. This study did not use any specific scale standardised to measure the gain in knowledge, change in behaviour and acquisition of skills, due to the constraints of the project design.

Still the results of the study are found to be useful in pinpointing some of the felt needs of the respondents in improving the functional efficiency of the Rubber Producers Societies and make them effective forums of change. Once the movement comes to stay as a cohesive and stable force, more indepth investigations to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving the laid out objectives would be necessary.

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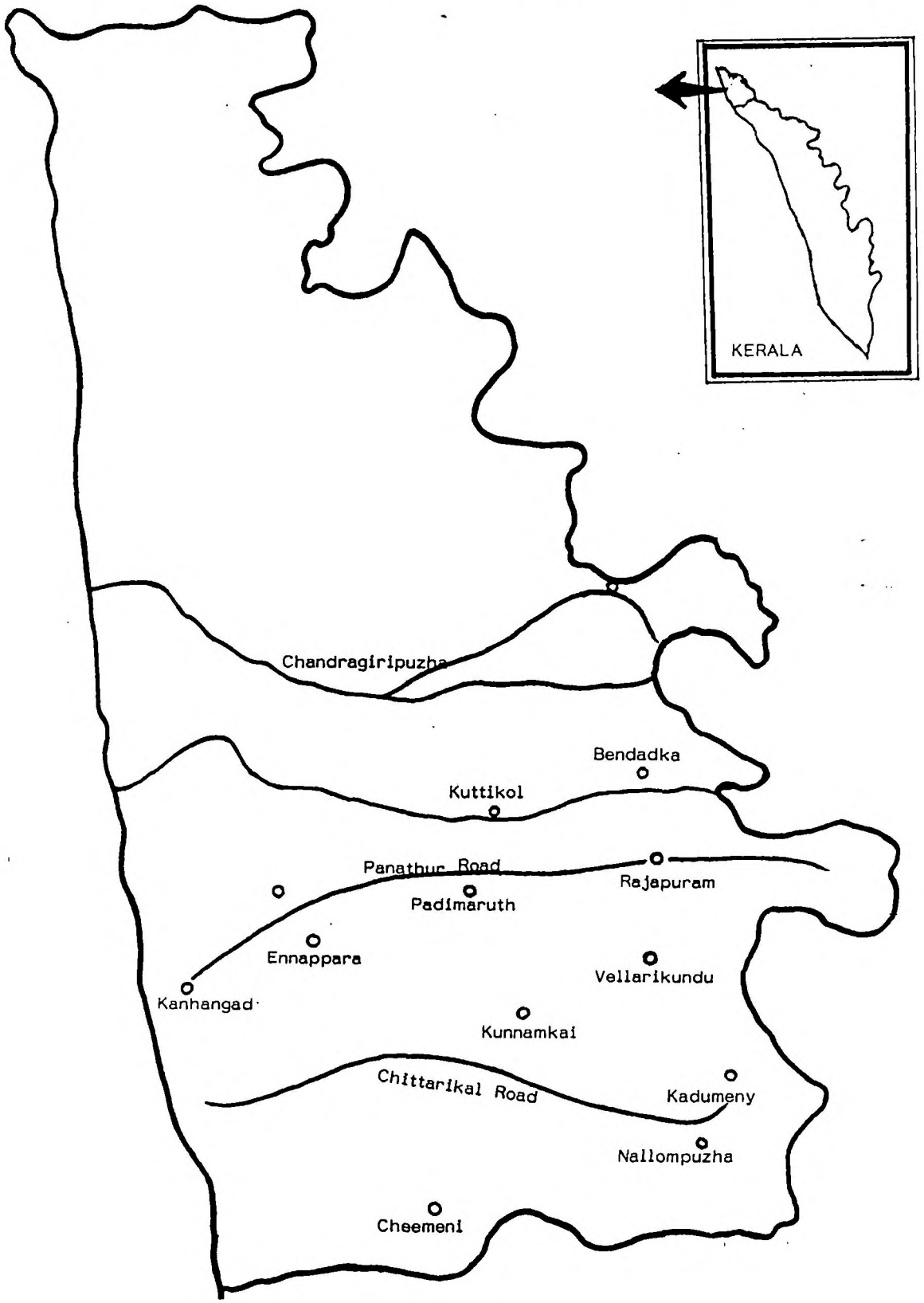
Annexure

ANNEXURE-I

Map of Kasaragod Dist. showing details of RPS selected for the study



ANNEXURE-II

List of Rubber Producers Society selected for the study

Sl. No.	Name of RPS	Total membership	No. of members selected for study
1	Kadumeny RPS	116	11
2	Nallompuzha RPS	118	12
3	Vellarikundu RPS	145	11
4	Kunnamkai RPS	111	10
5	Padimaruth RPS	118	10
6	Rajapuram RPS	123	10
7	Ennappara RPS	160	12
8	Cheemeni RPS	113	11
9	Kuttikol RPS	83	11
10	Bendaduka RPS	93	12
		1180	110

ANNEXURE-III

Questionnaire for evaluating the impact of R.P.S.

1. Name and age

2. Address

3. Educational qualifications* (See page No.4)
   (Score 0 to 6)

4. Total land area possessed

5. Total area under rubber cultivation

6. Area under other crops

7. Details of area under rubber

Year of planting	Planting material	Area	RP/NP	Mature/immature

8. Production of rubber

Sheet (kg)	Scrap (kg)	Latex (kg)	Total (kg)

9. Tapping system Daily/Alternate/one in 3 days

10. Cultural practices during '90-91

	Manuring	Spraying	Rainguarding	Stimulation
Immature area	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
Mature area	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

11. Are you a member of any R.P.S. Yes/No

12. If yes, what is the name of the R.P.S.

13. Who persuaded you to join the R.P.S.?
    (1) Rubber Board officials (2) Neighbours
    (3) Propaganda through mass media
    (4) Attracted by the working of RPS
    (5) Any other (specify)

...2.

14. What are the benefits that you are getting through R.P.S.

(1) Material benefits/inputs

(2) Knowledge regarding rubber cultivation

(3) Better quality planting materials

(4) Beekeeping subsidy

(5) Better marketing and processing facilities

(6) Soil and leaf analysis facility

(7) Rainguarding materials

(8) Any others (specify)

15. Details of inputs received during 1990-91

Item	Quantity	Price
Urea		
M. Phosphate		
M.O.P.		
Polythene		
Adhesive		
Sieves		
Plastic cup		
Tapping knife		
Template		

16. Have you attended any group meetings of the R.P.S. organised to focuss the attention in the following:

(1) Scientific method of rubber cultivation

(2) Rainguarding

(3) Improved tapping methods

(4) Any other (specify)

...3.

17. What is your present method of sale of rubber

    (1) Through R.P.S. (2) Co-op. R.M.S. (3) Pvt. dealers

18. Quantity sold through R.P.S. and price realised

19. What is the reason for not effecting sale through R.P.S.?

20. Have you availed of Bee keeping subsidy through R.P.S.?

    Yes/No

21. Quantity of honey sold and price realised

    _____ kg; Rs._____

22. Have you received polybag plants from R.P.S., Yes/No

23. If yes, what is your opinion about the quality of the material : good/satisfactory/below average

24. Is the visit of your holding by the F.O. arranged through the R.P.S. or directly?

    By RPS/Directly

25. Reason for arranging through R.P.S.

    (1) For the quick action

    (2) More convenient

    (3) Less expensive

    (4) Any other (specify)

26. Have you sprayed your rubber area using the sprayer of the R.P.S.

27. If yes, area sprayed and amount paid

28 Have you received Formic Acid through R.P.S. Yes/No

29. If yes, quantity and price

30. Are you satisfied with the present system of working of the R.P.S.? Yes/No

...4.

31. If not, state reasons and give your suggestions to improve the function of the R.P.S.

32. Do you attend the meetings called by the R.P.S.

(1) All the meetings

(2) Very often

(3) Occassionally

(4) Never

33. Social participation

(a) Member in various other organisations

	Score
1. Member in more than one	2
2. Member in one	1
3. Not a member	0

(b) Office bearer or not

	Score
1. In all the organisations	2
2. In one organisation	1
3. Not an office bearer	0

(c) Participation in organisation meetings/activities

	Score
1. Participate in all meetings/activities	2
2. Participate occassionally	1
3. Not participating in any	0

34. Which are the additional informations you have gained through the R.P.S. regarding rubber cultivation

35. General remarks

*Illiterate - 0, Functional literate - 1, Lower Primary - 2, Upper Primary - 3, High School - 4. PDC or equivalent - 5, Graduate or equivalent - 6