

## Possible Technologies for reducing emissions from the Automobile sector

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Replacing synthetic rubbers with NR or modified forms along with judicious choice of compounding ingredients mainly fillers contributes a lot in reducing the green house gas (GHG) emissions in rubber industry. Production of synthetic rubbers is energy intensive and causes GHG emissions while natural rubber (NR) is produced from a renewable means that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon black and silica are the two important reinforcing fillers used in rubber industry. Carbon black is obtained by burning hydrocarbon oils while silica is obtained from mineral sources by simpler and less emitting methods. By replacing carbon black with silica there can be considerable reduction in GHG emissions as the production of carbon black from fossil fuel generates about 2.18 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per tone of carbon black produced.

The tyre industry demands properties like low heat build-up along with combination of excellent abrasion resistance, good road grip and low rolling resistance. Globally about 22 million tons of rubbers are produced per year and about 50 % of this is consumed in the tyre sector. Natural rubber is used specifically for truck tyres and aero tyres while styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) is predominantly used for car tyres. The major synthetic rubbers consumed by the tyre industry are SBR, polubutadiene rubber (BR) and halobutyl rubber, the latter being used mostly as inner lining of tubeless tyres. By chemical modification the mechanical properties of NR can be suitably changed and used as substitutes for synthetic rubbers in tyre sector. One of the promising rubbers of this group is epoxidised natural rubber (ENR). Due to the presence of epoxy group, ENR helps in better interaction with silica filler and can be used for preparing rubber compounds filled with silica even without the aid of silane coupling agents. ENR has the additional advantage of good oil resistance along with air impermeability characteristics.

Development in future tyres will be based on better fuel efficiency and performance. Reduced rolling resistance gives improvement in fuel efficiency leading to lesser emissions. As the tire rotates under the weight of the vehicle, it experiences repeated cycles of deformation and recovery, and it dissipates the hysteresis energy loss as heat. Hysteresis is the main cause of energy loss associated with rolling resistance. About eighty five percent of the automobile derived carbon dioxide is emitted during driving and reduction of fuel consumption by modification in tyre design and compounding in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission is very critical. When developing tire compounds for low rolling resistance, the material classes having the most effect such as polymers and fillers have to be carefully chosen so as to have less hysteresis, good rubber filler interaction and good filler dispersion that lead to improved mechanical properties. The reduction in weight of tyres also reduces fuel consumption.

Solution SBR is known to provide outstanding wet grip/rolling resistance for fuel efficient tyre treads based on silica and/or carbon black. Carbon black is predominantly used in tires, but the use of silica has become a primary alternative to improve rolling resistance. When silica is used to improve rolling resistance, it is

traditionally used with a silane coupling agent, which helps in bonding the silica to the polymer but this also makes the compound more expensive. By use of ENR there is better interaction with silica and can be used as substitute for solution SBR which gives low rolling resistance along with better wet traction and abrasion resistance. Better mechanical properties along with good cure characteristics are obtained when up to twenty percent by weight of SBR is replaced by ENR as compared to pure SBR in both silica filled and mixed filler systems of carbon black/silica.

Replacement of carbon black by other filler systems can also be efficient in reducing rolling resistance. This can be accomplished by use of polymeric fillers. Compounds prepared by replacing about 30-40 parts of carbon black by about ten parts of polymeric filler, exhibit very good mechanical properties along with low hysteresis. Typical tread formulations with the polymeric filler have comparable cure characteristics along with better technological and dynamic properties in relation to conventional formulations. The density of the compound is also lower than the carbon black filled one. The added advantage of low hysteresis as seen from the lower heat build-up and higher resilience are realised in such mixes. The polymer filler containing compound also exhibits very good flex resistance.

Use of chemically modified form of rubber, partial replacement of carbon black with silica and complete replacement of carbon black with polymeric filler can contribute to low GHG causing emissions in the automobile industry.

In the present scenario of implementing regulatory legislations GHE emissions, the tyres are expected to be more fuel - efficient , high performance and environmentally friendly tyres.

Replacing synthetic rubbers with NR along with judicious choice of compounding ingredients mainly fillers contribute to reducing the GHE in Rubber industry. Production of synthetic rubbers is energy intensive and cause green house gas emissions NR is produced from a renewable means that removes carbon dioxide from atmosphere.

The tyre industry demands properties like low heat built up along with excellent abrasion resistance, good road grip and low rolling resistance. However products like gaskets and seals exposed to high temperature and fuels/solvents need resistance to these conditions. Better dynamic properties are shown by natural rubber while synthetic rubber shows improved resistance to fuel/solvents and high temperature . Globally about 22 million tons of rubbers produced per year and about 50 % of this is consumed in the tyre sector. The major synthetic rubbers consumed by the tyre industry are SBR, BR and halobutyl, the latter being used mostly as inner lining of tubeless tyres. The important rubbers used in non tyre applications where high temperature /fuel/solvent resistance is required are nitrile rubber, fluorocarbon rubbers and silicone rubbers while for gas impermeability applications butyl rubber is used. By suitable chemical modification the fuel resistance and gas impermeability characteristics of natural rubber can be considerably improved. One of the promising rubbers of this group is epoxidised natural rubber (ENR) which has considerable good oil resistance along with gas impermeability. Due to the presence of epoxy group ENR helps in better dispersion of silica and can be used for preparing rubber compounds filled with silica without the aid of silane coupling agents.

In the present scenario of implementing regulatory legislations GHE emissions, the tyres are expected to be more fuel - efficient , high performance and environmentally friendly tyres. Reduced rolling resistance gives improvement in fuel efficiency leading to lesser emissions. Carbon black is predominantly used in tires, but the use of silica has become a primary alternative to improve rolling resistance. When silica is used to improve rolling resistance, it is traditionally used with a silane coupling agent, which helps in bonding the silica to the polymer.

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## Rubber Tree (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg)

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### Summary

Rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg.) is an important industrial crop for rubber production. At present, more than 9.5 million hectares in about 40 countries are under rubber tree cultivation with a production about 6.5 million tons of dry rubber per year. The world supply of natural rubber is barely keeping up with a global demand for natural rubber in 2020. Tapping panel dryness (TPD) is a complex physiological disorder widely found in rubber tree plantations, which causes severe yield and crop loss in rubber producing countries. Currently, there is no effective prevention or treatment for this serious malady. As it is a perennial tree crop, the integration of specific desirable genes with conventional breeding is both time-consuming and labour-intensive. Genetic engineering with conventional breeding is certainly a more promising tool for incorporating economically important genes that could improve existing *Hevea* genotype. This chapter describes an *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation protocol for rubber tree using in vitro derived calli as initial explants. We have applied this protocol to generate transgenic plants from a high yielding Indian clone RR11 105 of *Hevea brasiliensis*. Transgenic plants were co-cultured with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* harboring a plasmid vector containing Hb superoxide dismutase (SOD) gene and the reporter gene used was  $\beta$ -glucuronidase (*uidA*). The selectable marker gene used was neomycin phosphotransferase II (*nptII*). Kanamycin was used as selection agent. We found that a suitable transformation protocol for *Hevea* consists of a 3-d co-cultivation with *Agrobacterium* in the presence of 20 mM ascorbic acid, 10 mM ascorbic acid, 15 mM betaine HCl, and 11.55 mM proline followed by selection on medium containing 300 mg/L kanamycin. Transformed calli surviving on medium containing kanamycin showed a strong GUS-positive reaction. Upon subsequent subculture on hormone free media, we obtained somatic embryogenesis and germinated plantlets, which were GUS positive. The integration of *uidA*, *nptII*, and HbSOD transgenes into *Hevea* genome was confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as well as Southern blot analysis.

**Key Words:** Rubber tree; *Hevea brasiliensis*; genetic transformation;

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*tumefaciens*; polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification; Southern blot hybridization; superoxide dismutase gene (SOD).

## Introduction

*Hevea brasiliensis*, the para rubber tree, is the most important source of natural rubber; other rubber bearing plants are of minor importance. About 90% of natural rubber is produced in Southeast Asia. Natural rubber is considered a raw material by developed countries and is valued for its high-performance characteristics. Synthetic rubber, derived from petroleum, is not as elastic or strong and does not have the heat transfer properties of natural rubber. High synthetic rubber is often blended with natural rubber, various products such as airplane tires require natural rubber (1). In the rubber tree, latex is produced in highly specialized cells called laticifers. When the bark of the rubber tree is tapped, the cytoplasmic contents of these laticifers are expelled in the form of latex. Latex is a milky substance, which upon coagulation and further processing yields natural rubber.

The rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*,  $2n = 36$ ) is a perennial tropical crop, belongs to the genus *Hevea* and the family Euphorbiaceae. The genus encompasses ten species, all originating from the Amazon region (2) and is mostly outcrossing and monoecious. Most of the natural rubber exploited in the world originates from this single species. As in other crops, rubber production is influenced by various plant physiological conditions and pathogenic diseases. However, latex production still faces serious economic losses over the years as a result of tapping panel dryness (TPD), or brown bast syndrome characterized by an abnormal reduction of latex flow. During tapping the latex from a healthy rubber tree flows through 3–4 h by turgor pressure inside the bark tissue. Once the TPD occurs, the tapping incision is partly or entirely blocked and the amount of latex production is significantly decreased or stops completely. The incidence of TPD occurs in 12 to 50% of rubber trees in almost every rubber producing country.

Genetic improvement of *Hevea* is very slow and time consuming as in many perennial species. The major limitations are the very narrow genetic base, asynchronous flowering, low fruit set, long gestation period, heterozygous nature, and absence of fully reliable early selection parameters. Genetic engineering is a powerful method for crop improvement when specific genetic changes need to be made in a short time period without loss of genetic integrity. Although the transfer of DNA into plant cells via *Agrobacterium* and other methods is now routine for many plant species, the coupling of transformation with selection of transformed cells and regeneration of transgenic plants is still difficult in many economically important tree species including *Hevea*. TPD is considered to be a serious physiological disorder caused by oxidative stress in

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rubber tree that are frequently tapped for natural rubber in the tropics. In *Hevea* an increase in the level of the free radical scavenging enzyme of a superoxide dismutase (SOD) gene could enhance stress tolerance of cells against oxidative stress. The genetic manipulation of *Hevea* has been in the recent past. Transgenic plants have been developed with the help of *Agrobacterium* as well as particle bombardment methods. However, transformation efficiency was generally low. Montoro et al. (3) reported a response of calcium on *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene transformation in calli but did not obtain transgenic plants. So far no such agropathogenic gene has been successfully transformed into *Hevea*. Recently, we developed transgenic *Hevea* plants by incorporating the SOD gene.

The transformation protocol presented in this chapter was developed in the author's laboratory in combination with review of the literature on *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation. For this *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, we used a constitutive version of the *Hevea brasiliensis*-SOD gene (HbSOD) in 2-mo-old anther derived calli as initial explant. The *uidA* gene (uidA) was used for screening and neomycin phosphotransferase II (nptII) was used for selection of the transformed calli. The transformation efficiency was 4%. The overall scheme employed for this study is outlined in Fig. 1. In this chapter we describe the steps involved in the transformation protocol and isolation of DNA as templates.

## 2. Materials

### 2.1. Plant Materials

Two-mo-old calli derived from immature anther or ovule (clone RR11 105) (see Fig. 2A).

### 2.2. *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* Strain and Gene Construct

We used the binary vector pDU96.2144 (9) which contains the SOD gene and *nptII* as selectable marker gene plus the HbSOD gene under control of constitutive promoter (CaMV 35S).

Binary vector is inserted into disarmed *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain EHA101 to create functional vector for transformation experiments.

### 2.3. Stock Solutions

1. 20X Modified Murashige and Skoog (MS) major salts stock solution
  - a. MS1:  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ , 20.0 g/L;  $\text{KNO}_3$ , 32.0 g/L;  $\text{MgSO}_4$  (anhydrous), 6.66 g/L; and  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 3.4 g/L.
  - b. MS2 and MS3:  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$ , 10.0 g/L;  $\text{KNO}_3$ , 16.0 g/L;  $\text{MgSO}_4$  (anhydrous), 3.32 g/L; and  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 1.70 g/L.

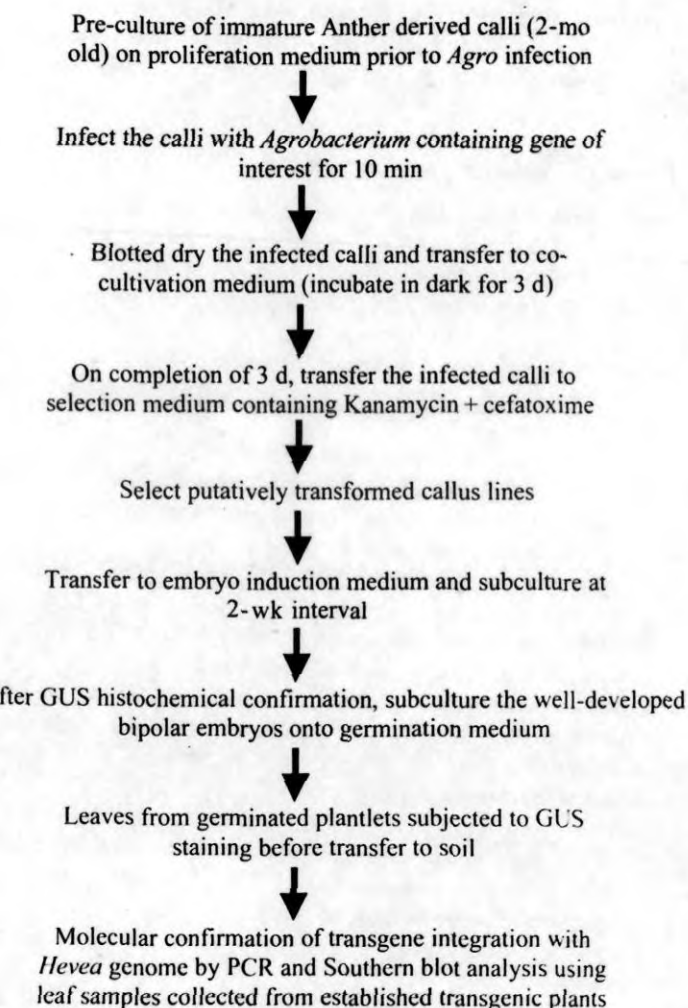


Fig. 1. Flow chart of rubber transformation protocol.

MS minor stock solution:  $H_3BO_4$ , 620 mg/L;  $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ , 2.5 mg/L;  $O_2 \cdot 5H_2O$ , 2.5 mg/L;  $MnSO_4 \cdot 4H_2O$ , 1.69 g/L;  $NaMoO_4 \cdot 4H_2O$ , 25 mg/L; KI, 0.1 g/L; and  $ZnSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ , 860 mg/L.

Iron Stock:  $Na_2EDTA$ , 3.72 g/L and  $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ , 2.78 g/L.

B5 vitamin stock solution: Myo-inositol, 10 g/L; nicotinic acid, 100 mg/L; oxine HCl, 100 mg/L; and thiamine HCl, 1.0 g/L.

ns (Sigma, 1.0 mg/mL for each stock solution): 2,4-Dichlorophenoxy acetic acid (D), indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), 1-naphthalene acetic acid (NAA). To prepare

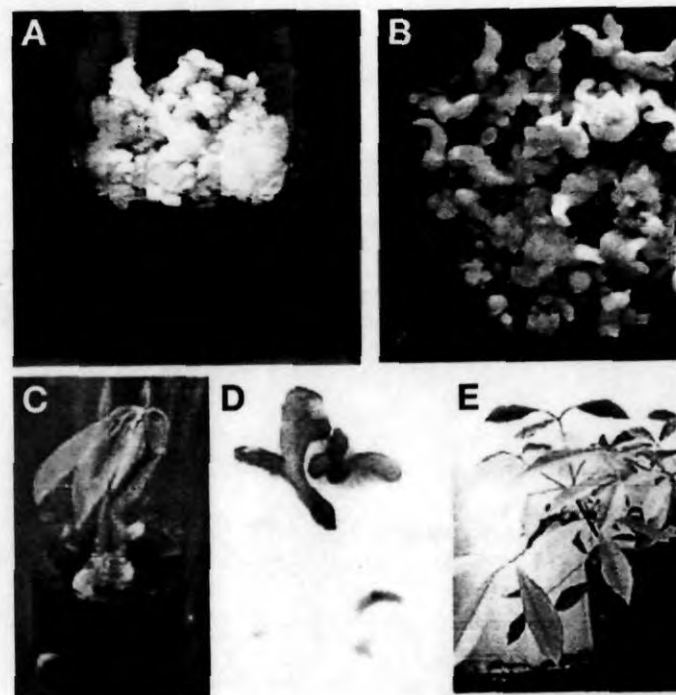


Fig. 2. Development of transgenic plants and molecular confirmation of transgenes in rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*). (A) Callus proliferation, (B) somatic embryos, (C) Germinated plantlet, (D) Histological staining of transgenic embryos showing blue colour, (E) Plants established in soil.

individual solution, dissolve each powder in 50  $\mu$ L of 1M KOH in distilled water to 1 mL volume. Store at 4°C for up to 3 mo.

6. Cytokinins (Sigma, 1.0 mg/mL for each stock solution): 6-benzylaminopurine (BA), kinetin (KIN). To prepare individual solution, dissolve the powder in 1 mL of 1M HCl then make up to 1 mL volume with sterile distilled water and store indefinitely.
7. Absciscic acid (ABA) (1.0 mg/mL, Sigma): Dissolve the powder in 1 mL methanol make final volume with sterile water and store at 4°C for up to 3 mo.
8. Gibberellic acid ( $GA_3$ ) (1.0 mg/mL, Sigma): Dissolve the powder in 1 mL (100%) and store at 4°C for up to 3 mo.
9. 100X B5 vitamins (Sigma): To make a 50 mL stock solution dissolve myoinositol, 50 mg thiamine HCl, 50 mg nicotinic acid, and 50 mg oxine in sterile distilled water and store at 4°C for up to 3 mo.
10. 20 mg/mL gentamycin stock solution (Sigma): Dissolve the powder in 1 mL sterile distilled water. Store at -20°C for up to 3 mo.

100 mg/mL kanamycin stock solution: Weigh 1 g of kanamycin monosulfate (Sigma), place in a beaker, and add 8 mL of sterile distilled water. Allow kanamycin to dissolve completely. Make the final volume to 10 mL with sterile water then filter sterilize using 42  $\mu$ M pore size membrane and divide into 1-mL aliquots. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 6 mo.

100 mg/mL Cefotaxime (Sigma) stock solution: Dissolve the chemical in sterile distilled water then filter sterilize and aliquot into 1 mL. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 3 mo.

10 mM Acetosyringone (Sigma) stock solution: Dissolve the chemical in sterile distilled water, filter sterilize, and aliquot into 1-mL Eppendorf tubes. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 3 mo.

10 mM Betaine HCl (Sigma) stock solution: Dissolve the chemical in sterile distilled water and then filter sterilize and aliquot into 1-mL Eppendorf tubes. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 3 mo.

10 mM Proline (Sigma) stock solution: Dissolve the chemical in sterile distilled water and then filter sterilize and aliquot into 1-mL Eppendorf tubes. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 3 mo.

10 mg/mL Spermidine (Sigma) stock solution: Dissolve the chemical in sterile distilled water and then filter sterilize and aliquot into 1-mL Eppendorf tubes. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for up to 6 mo.

## Media

ELB medium: 10 g/L Bacto-tryptone (Sigma), 5 g/L yeast extract (Sigma), and 5 g/L Bacto Agar (Sigma), pH 7.2. Autoclave, cool to  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and add 50 mg/L kanamycin and 20 mg/L gentamycin. Mix well and pour into sterile 90-mm Petri plates.

Callus induction and proliferation medium (MS-1): To make 1 L, add 50 mL of 20X modified MS major salt stock solution (7), 10 mL each of 100X MS minor stock solution, 100X iron stock solution, and 100X B5 vitamin stock solution, 5% sucrose (w/v), 0.1 mg/L 2,4-D, 0.5 mg/L KIN, 1.0 mg/L NAA, adjust to pH 5.7 with 0.1 M KOH and add 0.25% (w/v) phytagel as solidifying agent then autoclave at  $121^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min.

Embryonic induction and maturation medium (MS-2): To make 1 L, add 50 mL of modified MS major salt stock solution, 10 mL each of 100X MS minor stock solution, 100X iron stock solution, and 100X B5 vitamin stock solution, 5% sucrose (w/v), 0.1 mg/L 2,4-D, 0.3 mg/L NAA, 0.3 mg/L BA, 2.0 mg/L GA<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 mg/L ABA, 200 mg/L casein hydrolysate, 150 mg/L malt extract, 100 mg/L banana powder, 10% coconut water (w/v), 2 mg/L spermidine, adjust to pH 5.7 with 0.1 M KOH and add 0.4% phytagel as solidifying agent then autoclave at  $121^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min.

Embryo germination and plantlet regeneration medium (MS-3): To prepare 1 L, add 50 mL of modified MS major salt stock solution, 10 mL each of 100X MS minor stock solution, 100X iron stock solution, and 100X B5 vitamin stock solution, 0.3 mg/L GA<sub>3</sub>, 0.5 mg/L KIN, 0.1 mg/L IAA, 0.5 mg/L BA, adjust to pH 5.7 with 0.1 M KOH and add 0.2% (w/v) phytagel as solidifying agent then autoclave at  $121^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min.

Ac-cultivation medium: To prepare 1 L, take the same MS-1 media components as described above and autoclave, cool to  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  then add 20  $\mu$ M acetosyringone, 15  $\mu$ M betaine-HCl, 11.55  $\mu$ M proline.

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6. Selection medium: To prepare 1 L, take the same MS-1 medium as described above and autoclave, cool to  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  then add 300 mg/L cefotaxime, mix thoroughly and dispense 25 mL into 25 mL petri dishes.

## 2.5. Other Reagents, Solutions and Supplies

1. Surface disinfection solution I: 0.5% (w/v) sodium hypochlorite, 0.1% (v/v) Tween-20.
2. Surface disinfection solution II: 0.1% (w/v) mercuric chloride.
3. Sterile Whatman filter paper No. 3 (SD fine, India).
4. Sterile distilled water.
5. Sterile metal spatulas with spoon on one end (Fisher, USA).
6. Soil mix: Soilrite (Himedia, India), sand in 1:1 ratio and autoclave in polythene bags (10  $\times$  20 cm W  $\times$  H).
7. X-Gluc solution (Sigma): 0.1  $\mu$ M phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, 0.5 mM diamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), 0.5 mM potassium ferricyanide, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, and 2 mM chloro-3-indolyl- $\beta$ -D glucuronide).
8. Cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) extraction buffer (hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide), 1.4 M NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1% (w/v) polyvinyl polypyrrolidone (v/v)  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol. Store at room temperature.
9. Phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1): Mix 25 parts phenol, 24 parts 100 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.0 with 24 parts chloroform and 1 part isoamyl alcohol. Add 8-hydroxy quinoline to 0.1% (w/v) Store in aliquots at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
10. Chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1).
11. RNase A (DNase free, 10 mg/mL): Dissolve RNase A in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 and 15 mM NaCl; boil for 10 min and allow to cool to room temperature. Aliquots at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to prevent microbial growth.
12. Proteinase K: 10 mg/mL in H<sub>2</sub>O. Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
13. 100% isopropyl alcohol, ice-cold.
14. 70% (v/v) ethanol, ice-cold.
15. TE buffer; 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0.
16. Organic solvent-resistant Oak-ridge centrifuge tube (Tarso).

## 3. Methods

### 3.1. Callus Initiation and Pre-culture

The following tissue culture protocol is modifications of

1. Collect flower buds (0.5–1.0 cm size) and surface disinfect with disinfection solution I for 5 min followed by thorough wash in sterile distilled water 5 times.
2. Surface sterilize the flower buds with 100 mL of surface disinfection solution II for 3 min followed by 5 rinses in sterile distilled water.



ect out the immature anthers and place approx 10 anthers/tube on MS-1 medium (see Note 1). Incubate cultures at 26°C in the dark and subculture at 2-wk intervals into fresh medium of the same formulation. Subculture the 2-mo-old callus (see Note 2) on fresh MS-1 medium prior to infection with *Agrobacterium* (see Notes 3 and 4). Maintain the culture in controlled environment at  $26 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 d. Photoperiod of 16-h light/dark cycle with cool-white florescent light ( $60 \mu\text{mol/m}^2/\text{s}$ ).

### **Agrobacterium Culture Preparation**

Streak *Agrobacterium* using loop from a glycerol stock onto AELB medium supplemented with 20 mg/L gentamycin and 50 mg/L kanamycin. Incubate at 28°C for 2 d. Transfer a single well-grown *Agrobacterium* colony from plate into a 25 mL Erlenmeyer flask containing AELB medium with appropriate antibiotics. Inoculate 25 mL cultures onto an incubator shaker (28°C) for 24 h with agitation (100 rpm). Grow cells overnight until an  $A_{600}$  of 0.5; adjust the bacterial cell density to  $5 \times 10^8$  cells/mL and use for transformation.

### **Agrobacterium Infection and Co-cultivation**

Transfer the precultured calli into the *Agrobacterium* suspension and immerse for 30 min. Excise the infected calli using sterile spatula and blot dry on sterile Whatman No. 3 filter paper to remove excess of bacterial suspension. Transfer the calli on coculture medium (10 callus pieces/plate) and incubate them at  $26 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  in the dark for a period of 3 d (see Note 5).

### **Selection of Transformed Callus**

After 3 d of coculture, subculture the calli into selection medium. Seal plates with parafilm and maintain at  $26 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  in the dark. Subculture every 2 wk for a period of 2 mo (see Note 6). Add cefotaxime from the selection medium and screen for putatively transformed callus lines in the presence of kanamycin (see Notes 7–10). Select 8-wk-old kanamycin resistant callus lines for embryo induction.

### **Embryonic Embryogenesis and Plant Regeneration**

Transfer the putatively transformed calli growing on selection medium and culture on MS-2 medium for embryo formation. Subculture the kanamycin resistant embryogenic callus lines to fresh MS-2 medium at 2-wk intervals. Transfer embryos into fresh MS-2 medium for maturation and incubate for 4 wk with 16-h photoperiod. Excise mature bipolar embryos (see Fig. 2B) and subject them to histochemical GUS assay (see Fig. 2D) (see Note 11). Transfer mature bipolar embryos containing cotyledons on fresh MS-3 medium for germination and keep at 16-h photoperiod.

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5. Mature embryos germinate into plantlets in the MS-3 regeneration medium after 2 wk of culture (see Fig. 2C) (see Note 12).
6. Transfer the plantlets (>5-cm long) formed in the medium into autoclaved MS liquid medium for 2 wk. Establish these plants into small pots containing autoclaved soil mix, cover with a plastic bag and keep under controlled conditions. Then make a small hole in the plastic bag for aeration (see Note 13).
7. Remove the cover at the end of 2 wk and transfer plants to laboratory glass house for hardening (see Notes 15 and 16). Initially keep plants in shade to avoid direct sunlight.
8. After 2 wk, shift the acclimatized rubber transgenic plants to normal field condition with sunlight (see Fig. 2E).
9. Budgraft the well-established transgenic plants to normal rootstock for multiplication.
10. Collect the leaves of the acclimatized transgenic plants for histological and molecular analysis such as GUS histochemical assay, PCR, and Southern hybridization.

### **3.6. Isolation of Plant Genomic DNA, PCR, and Southern Hybridization**

The following is the modifications of Dellaporta et al. (1983).

1. Label the 50-mL centrifuge tubes, collect 2 g of leaves from transgenic plant as well as untransformed control plant and place them in the labeled tubes (see Notes 17 and 18).
2. Rinse the leaves with cold sterile water three times in beaker, blot dry on Whatman No. 1 paper.
3. Place the leaves in a mortar, add liquid nitrogen, and grind to a fine powder with a pestle (see Note 19).
4. Transfer the frozen powder to 50-mL Oak ridge centrifuge tube containing organic solvent-resistant tube.
5. Immediately add 20-mL warm CTAB extraction buffer to the tube, vortex and gently mix to wet thoroughly. Incubate for 30 min at 60°C with mixing (see Note 20).
6. Extract the homogenate with an equal volume of 25:24:1 phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol. Mix well by gentle inversion. Spin for 10 min at 10,000g.
7. Transfer about 18 mL of aqueous fraction (upper phase) by pipette to a fresh centrifuge tube. Be careful not to take the interphase. Store your DNA quality (see Note 21).
8. Add 10  $\mu\text{L}$  each of 10 mg/mL proteinase K and 10 mg/mL EDTA to the homogenate mix well by inversion several times. Incubate the mixture for 20 min, with occasional agitation.
9. Add an equal volume of 24:1 chloroform/isoamyl alcohol. Mix well by inversion. Spin for 10 min at 10,000g, at 4°C. Collect top aqueous phase.
10. Precipitate the DNA by adding exactly 0.6 volume of isopropanol. Mix well. If precipitate is visible, proceed to step 11. If not, proceed to step 11 at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ .



spin for 15 min at 14,000g at 4°C. Discard the supernatant without disturbing the pellet.

Wash the DNA pellet with ice-cold 70% (v/v) ethanol, spin for 2 min at 10,000g. Discard the supernatant and air dry for 10 min (see Note 22).

Resuspend the DNA pellet in a minimal volume of TE buffer (100–500 µL/gram of starting tissue material).

Take 2 µL DNA and analyze the undigested DNA on 1% agarose gel to determine the integrity and quality (see Note 23).

Amplification of transgenes from genomic DNA by PCR using gene specific primers (7).

Confirm the integration and presence of the HbSOD transgene in the putatively transgenic plants through Southern blot analysis (7).

## Notes

Immature anthers at diploid stage are very essential for 100% callus initiation.

We found that the 2-mo-old callus is ideal for genetic transformation in *Hevea*.

Re-culture of calli in the proliferation medium is necessary to increase the transformation frequency.

Wound with sterile dissection needle enhances the transformation efficiency.

3-d co-cultivation period is optimal for transformation experiments and cocultivation beyond 3 d results in bacterial over-growth that will destroy the callus.

It is found that subculture is to be performed at 2-wk intervals into fresh medium with the same formulations to avoid drying of tissues.

We observed that 300 mg/L kanamycin is the optimal concentration to select transformed cell lines in *Hevea*.

When the kanamycin concentration in the medium was increased beyond 350 mg/L, a decrease in transformation frequency was noticed.

In our experiment, profuse growth of nontransgenic calli was observed from 100 to 200 mg/L kanamycin, which indicated that kanamycin concentrations up to 100 mg/L were ineffective for selecting transformed cell lines.

We used 20 mM acetosyringone in the co-cultivation medium to enhance the transformation frequency.

Eight-wk-old kanamycin-resistant mature bipolar embryos were subjected to GUS assay before transfer to embryo germination medium. It is very important to confirm the transgene integration events before the development of plants.

Media supplemented with ABA, polyamines, and organic supplements and with optimal agar concentrations favored embryogenesis and the regeneration of transgenic plants.

The leaves from germinated plantlets were subjected to GUS expression assays. All were found to be GUS-positive.

Initially, we kept germinated plantlets in liquid half-strength hormone free MS medium for 2 wk; this step is essential before transfer to soil site.

We used plastic bags to cover the plants. It is important to cover each plant immediately after transfer to soil site to prevent wilting.

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16. If the plantlets established in soil site are kept in direct sunlight under the plastic cover and dry the plant.
17. GUS positive plantlets were used for molecular confirmation of *uidA*, *nptII*, and HbSOD transgenes by PCR using specific primers.
18. The integrity of the nucleic acids will be improved by maintaining cold. We have observed that modified CTAB method give DNA of high quality.
19. In order to get better results, the following precautions should be taken during the preparation of reagents for DNA isolation and during Southern blot hybridization procedures wear gloves at all times and use molecular biology grade reagents. Use sterile, disposable plastic ware.
20. The success of this DNA isolation procedure hinges on the maintenance of intact cellular integrity while maintaining DNA in an intact, high molecular weight form. Thus, mixing of the tissue sample and phenol should be done with gentle inversion, which minimizes shearing forces on the DNA.
21. It is important that aqueous phase must be collected without disturbing the interphase to get good quality DNA.
22. The DNA pellet may be air dried for 10 min.
23. To ensure the DNA isolated is of high quality, it is advisable to run the DNA are examined by running in a 1% (w/v) agarose gel before PCR is performed.

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## IV

### TROPIC PLANTS