

A STUDY ON PROS AND CONS OF RUBBER CULTIVATORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT

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Abstract: The Rubber is a versatile product with multiple usages. It is grown in various countries worldwide and plays a crucial role in the Indian economy too. The use of rubber is wide spread, ranging from house hold industrial products, entering the production stream at the intermediate stage or as final products. Tyre and tubes is the largest consumer of rubber. The present study has been undertaken to analyze the pros and cons of rubber cultivators with special reference to Shivamogga district. The respondents for the present study are limited to 50 only. The relevant data for the study are gathered from both the primary and secondary sources. Primary data has been collected with the help of structured questionnaires and personal interview. Stratified sampling techniques has been undertaken for the present study, and also collected information from various articles, journals and internet sources etc.

Keywords: Rubber cultivation, versatile product, industrial product, Indian economy etc_

INTRODUCTION:

Rubber has its due contribution in the economic progress of the country. Natural rubber, also called Indian Rubber, from the very beginning of its cultivation during the early part of this country, rubber has consistently played its imperative role in the economic and industrial growth of the country. The rubber producing sector had a quick change over from the traditional methods to modern cultivation practices. In wake of globalization, when the small holding sector has to compete with the international market, the need for strengthening the rubber producer's societies sector becomes exceedingly important. Rapid progress has also been made in the production of natural rubber. In recent years, natural rubber cultivators in India are facing some problems mainly

price fluctuation, climate problem, finance problem, labour problem etc. In wake of globalization, when the small holding sector has to compete with the international market, the need for strengthening the rubber producer's societies sector becomes exceedingly important. The present study has been undertaken to understand the pros and cons of rubber cultivators with an objective to study the perceptions of rubber cultivators towards production and marketing of rubber.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. **Mihirlal Roy et al. (2014) made "A study on ecological impact of rubber plantations; Tripura Perspective"**. From the available literature on the impact of rubber monoculture on micro climate (Jing and Wang, 2003) and

analyses of data on rainfall and climate of the state it was found that till date it has not made significant impact on rainfall and temperature and even if the plantation is expanded up to target level there will not be significant changes, however, its impact on ground water needs valid evaluation.

2. **Karunakarn N, and srikumar (2015)**, conducted “**A study on volatility in price rubber crop in Kerala**”. The present study has been undertaken to estimate volatility in the price of rubber put them in a measurable situation. In recent year, declining trend in the price of rubber has pushed natural production the lows in the country. The formers of Kerala facing many problems due to volatility in price. So Government should provide more incentives to protect the small rubber growers and also stop the import of natural rubber, otherwise there be a shift from rubber growing to other crops.
3. **Dr. S.P Mathiraj, T.V, Bindu (2015)** conducted “**A study on problems faced by natural rubber cultivators – A study with special references to selected district of Kerala**”. This research shows that Indian rubber plantation sector is dominated by small holdings, which in turn makes this sector vulnerable to exploitation by middlemen and price fluctuation. The people’s participation programmed with the involvement of RPSs (Rubber Producer’s Societies) has achieved considerable improvement in the quality of processed rubber and their
4. **Yongneng FU et al. (2019)** conducted “**A study on small holder rubber plantation expansion and its impact on local livelihoods, land use and agro biodiversity, a case study from Daka, Xishungbanna, South western China**” This paper present the virtual eviction of Agro biodiversity in small holder rubber plantation, which has small holder, livelihoods but have affected land use strategies . The present study has been carried out with an intension of biodiversity loss must of necessity to go hand in hand with maintenance and development of the rural economy. So support of United Nations university project on people, land management and environmental change in great fully acknowledged.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the overview of rubber cultivation.
2. To study the perceptions of rubber cultivators towards production and marketing of rubber.
3. To analyze the pros and cons of rubber cultivators.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The present study has been undertaken to analyze the pros and cons of rubber cultivators with special reference to Shivamogga district. The respondents for the present study are limited to 50 only. It covers only the pros and cons of rubber cultivators by ignoring others. The study area is restricted to Shivamogga district only.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The relevant data for the study are gathered from both the primary and secondary sources.

Primary data: Primary data has been collected with the help of structured questionnaires and personal interview. Stratified sampling techniques has been undertaken for the present study by meeting 50 rubber cultivators in Shivamogga district.

Secondary data: The secondary data sources have been collected from various articles, journals and internet sources etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION**Table 1: Benefit from rubber board**

| Particulars | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Technical guidance | 07 | 14 |
| Extension activity | 00 | 00 |
| Financial support | 33 | 66 |
| All of these | 10 | 20 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

(Source: Field survey)

From the exceeding table it can be analyzed that 66% of the respondents have taken financial support from rubber board, 14% respondents have taken technical guidance from rubber board, none of the respondents have taken extension activity and 20% of the respondents have taken all the above mentioned benefits from the rubber board.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that rubber board offers financial support, technical guidance, and extension activity to the rubber cultivators. By the same time most of the respondents have not showed interest towards extension activity.

Table 2: Major challenges faced as a rubber cultivator

| Particulars | Respondents | In percentage |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Climate | 22 | 44 |
| Financing | 11 | 22 |
| Labour | 15 | 30 |
| Fertilizers | 01 | 02 |
| Other problems | 01 | 02 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

(Source: field survey)

Above table represents the major challenges faced as a rubber cultivator, 44% faced climate problem, 30% faced labour problem, 22% faced financial problem, and 02% faced fertilizer and other problems.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that climate changes and labors plays a major issue in rubber cultivation.

Table 3: Factor influencing low yield of rubber

| Particulars | Respondents | In% |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Weather problem | 38 | 76% |
| Pesticides problem | 07 | 14% |
| Fertilizer problem | 03 | 06% |
| Unseasonal cultivation | 02 | 04% |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

(Source: field survey)

The above table represents the factors influencing low yield of rubber, 76% of the respondents are facing weather problem, 14% of the respondents are facing pesticides problem, 6% of the respondents are facing fertilizer problem and 4% respondents faced unseasonal cultivation.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that climate is one of the major drawback for low yield.

Table 4: Factor affecting price of rubber

| Particulars | Respondents | Percentage % |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Demand and Supply condition | 01 | 02 |
| Export and import | 25 | 50 |
| Currency fluctuation | 00 | 00 |
| Stock in rubber | 03 | 06 |
| Crude oil price | 07 | 14 |
| Synthetic rubber price | 14 | 28 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

(Source: Field survey),

Above table represent the factor affecting price of natural rubber, 50% give reason of export and import of rubber, 28% respondents said due to synthetic rubber price, 14% respondents said due to crude oil price, 06% of the respondent said due to stock in rubber, and 2% said due to demand and supply condition and none of the respondents said due to currency fluctuation.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that export and import plays a major reason for the fluctuation of rubber price

Table 5: Reasons for selling the yield in the absence of right market

| Particulars | Respondent | In% |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Shortage of cash | 33 | 66 |
| Debt payment | 12 | 24 |
| Shortage of storage facilities | 02 | 04 |
| Other | 03 | 06 |
| Total | 50 | 100 |

(Source: Field survey)

From the above table it can be analyzed that 66% sell their rubber due to shortage of cash, 24% sell for the sake of debt payment, 06% sell for other reason, and 4% of the respondents sell for the sake of lack of storage facilities.

From the above analysis it can be interpreted that most of the cultivators are selling their yield in absence of right market because of shortage of cash.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:**5.2 SUGGESTION****FINDINGS:**

1. All the respondents (100%) are cultivating RR11 105 kind of rubber.
2. Majority of respondents (90%) are taking credit facilities from the rubber board.
3. More number of respondents (50%) are getting rubber plants from rubber board.
4. Majority of respondents (88%) are depending on rainfall for irrigation by ignoring other.
5. Most of the respondents (86%) got yield from rubber cultivation for time duration of 6-9 years.
6. Most of the respondents (54%) are getting 200-400 kg yield per acre in rubber cultivation.
7. It was found that climate problem is one of the major challenge faced during rubber cultivation.
8. Majority of respondents (76%) are facing the weather problem influencing for low yield of rubber.
9. It was found that capital expenditure incurred by the rubber cultivators (76%) per acre is 30,000 rupees.
10. Majority of respondents (96%) are facing price variation in marketing the product.
11. Majority of respondents (50%) said that the price of rubber has been affected by the export and imports.
12. Majority of respondents (66%) are selling their yield in absence of right market due to shortage of cash.

1. Government should provide insurance facilities to rubber also with other sub crops.
2. Government should provide good facilities to rubber cultivators for better output and it has to strongly assist the rubber exporters in the form of reduced tax burden.
3. Now a day's crop insurance is being popularized by the nationalized banks and insurance companies. The farmers can use these opportunities.
4. The main reasons for low return are price fluctuation, low yield due to climate changes, pest and disease attack etc. Minimum procurement price should be fixed by the government by considering all the input cost and cultivation cost. This will pave way for the farmers to get correct price for their produce and to give proper measures to control the diseases to give better yield.
5. Provide machineries used in agriculture, and loans for self-employment for rubber growers through rubber board itself with subsidies.
6. Labor shortfall and unavailability of skilled personalities are found. The farmers are advised to give good wages and respect the labors with proper recognition.

CONCLUSION:

India is an agriculture-based country. The national economy and per capita income of the country is entirely depending on the growth of agriculture. Plantation crops are one of the segmentation of total agriculture. However, there is some need for studying the present management practices followed in plantations. The entire production of the plantation is depending on the management aspect. If there is a good and proper management system in the plantations, the production and productivity will definitely increase. The present study covers almost all management aspects in the plantation field. The study noticed the challenges faced by the rubber cultivators suggested some measures to improve the productivity. They may help the planters, workers and also the government to improve the management practices followed and thereby increase production and productivity.

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