



E-ISSN: 2278-4136

P-ISSN: 2349-8234

www.phytojournal.com

JPP 2021; Sp 10(1): 225-226

Received: 13-11-2020

Accepted: 28-11-2020

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Scenario of rubber production in North East India

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Abstract

Natural rubber production in India is gaining importance due to the fastest growing rubber industries across the world. India is one of the largest producers of natural rubber and second largest consumer. The traditional rubber cultivating regions of India are Kerala and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu. The rest of the areas are non-traditional like Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and North Eastern state like Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. Tripura is considered as the second rubber capital of India, after Kerala. On the other hand Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur, the other rubber producing states in the region, have also witnessed notable growth in rubber production. It has proved that with appropriate agro-management practices natural rubber can be grown as an economically viable crop in north east India. Rubber planting is an effective programme which helps in socio-economic development of the rural people.

Keywords: Natural rubber, north east India, traditional and non-traditional areas, socio economic development

Introduction

India is the sixth largest producers and second largest consumer of natural rubber in the world. It is one of the fastest growing economies globally. Indian rubber producing areas are divided into two zones-traditional and non-traditional. Traditional zone includes Kerala and Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. Whereas non-traditional zone includes Coastal regions of Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, some areas of Maharashtra, North Eastern states, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. 81% of India's total natural rubber production is contributed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu [1]. In North East India Tripura produces highest natural rubber and ranks 2nd after Kerala in India. In many places of North East the natural rubber cultivation is increased day by day. Feasible climatic condition for rubber cultivation, available land for cultivation, availability of manpower for plantation, Technical assistance from Rubber Board at all stages of planting, maintenance, harvesting & primary processing, financial support from Rubber Board etc are some important factors for increasing natural rubber cultivation in north east India [2].

Objective of the study

The main objectives of the study are

1. To study the state wise production of natural rubber in North East states
2. To analyze the annual growth trend of natural rubber production in North East

Methodology

This article is mainly based on secondary data. Data have been gathered from the Rubber Board, journals and websites. The data relating to production of natural rubber in North East India for four years (i.e. from 2015-2016, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19) have been collected and attempted in this article.

Analysis and interpretation

Annual growth rate have been computed for analysis. Further compound growth rate is also calculated for the purpose of analysis. From the table it has been seen that the total production of natural rubber in north east states is increasing from 2015-16 to 2018-19. In the year the 2015-16 the total production is 71800 tonne where as during 2018-19 it increases to 94430 tonne. Out of all the states the production is more in Tripura (44245 tonne). The lowest production rate is seen in Arunachal Pradesh (360 tonne).

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The annual growth rate (AGR) of natural rubber production is the highest during the year 2016-17 out of the three years

calculated. The CGR for production shows positive and it worked out as 7.08%.

Table 1: State wise rubber production in North East India (Tonnes)

State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Tripura	44245	50985	50500	53050
Assam	14560	19970	23300	24300
Meghalaya	7360	8950	9050	9100
Nagaland	3020	4320	4820	4930
Manipur	1660	2090	1790	1850
Mizoram	595	742	742	750
Arunachal Pradesh	360	478	428	450
North East Total	71800	87535	90630	94430
AGR (%)		0.21	0.03	0.04
CGR	7.08			

Source: Rubber Board, India

From the table it has been seen that the total production of natural rubber in north east states is increasing from 2015-16 to 2018-19. In the year the 2015-16 the total production is 71800 tonne where as during 2018-19 it increases to 94430 tonne. Out of all the states the production is more in Tripura

(44245 tonne). The lowest production rate is seen in Arunachal Pradesh (360 tonne). The annual growth rate (AGR) of natural rubber production is the highest during the year 2016-17 out of the three years calculated. The CGR for production shows positive and it worked out as 7.08%.

Table 2(a): State wise analysis of AGR (%)

Year	Tripura	AGR	Assam	AGR	Meghalaya	AGR	Nagaland	AGR
2015-16	44245		14560		7360		3020	
2016-17	50895	0.14	19970	0.37	8950	0.21	4320	0.43
2017-18	50500	-0.007	23300	0.16	9050	0.01	4820	0.11
2018-19	53050	0.05	24300	0.04	9100	0.005	4930	0.02
CGR (%)	4.64		13.66		5.44		13.03	

Table 2(b): State wise analysis of AGR

Year	Manipur	AGR	Mizoram	AGR	Arunachal	AGR
2015-16	1660		595		360	
2016-17	2090	0.25	742	0.24	478	0.32
2017-18	1790	-0.14	742	0	428	-0.10
2018-19	1850	0.03	750	0.01	450	0.05
CGR (%)	2.74		5.95		5.73	

Discussion

The annual growth rate and CGR for all the states are depicted in the table 2 (a and b). In Tripura annual growth rate (AGR) of natural rubber production is highest during the year 2016-17. It has observed that for all the states the annual growth rate is highest during the year 2016-17. Negative growth rate is also observed for some states, e.g. Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2017-18. Out of all the states Nagaland showed highest annual growth rate of 0.43% during the year 2016-17. The CGR for all the states shows positive. The highest CGR was found for Assam (13.66%).

Conclusion

With the rapid expansion of natural rubber production in India as well as in North East India, it helps to increase the socio economic welfare of the society. From the analysis it has been observed that from the last four years the annual production is increasing in the states of north east. Many places of north east India is now slowly converting from traditional farming areas into rubber growing areas as it gives positive economic benefit and incentives. The Government and Rubber board should also focus more to increase the productivity in North East India.

References

1. National Rubber Policy. Department of Commerce, Government of India 2019.
2. Rubber Board, India.