



**RUBBER PLANTATION  
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME  
(PHASE VI) RULES**

**NEWPLANTING & REPLANTING COMPONENTS  
2007-'08 – 2011-'12**



**THE RUBBER BOARD**

# THE RUBBER BOARD

## RUBBER PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT SCHEME — NEW PLANTING AND REPLANTING COMPONENTS (PHASE VI) RULES

### I. Object

The Scheme is intended to increase production of natural rubber in India by accelerating new planting and replanting of rubber on modern scientific lines. Accelerated new planting/replanting would be achieved by giving technical, material and financial assistance to growers. The scheme would be implemented for five years, that is from 2007-'08 to 2011-'12.

### II. Definitions

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Scheme" means the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme-Phase VI/2007-'08 to 2011-'12.
2. "Holding" means an area of land not exceeding 5 hectares planted with rubber owned by a person or jointly by a group of persons and includes areas proposed for new planting under the scheme.
3. "Permit" means permit issued for new planting and/or replanting under these rules.
4. "Traditional rubber growing area" means area suitable for rubber cultivation in Kerala and Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu.
5. "Non-traditional rubber growing area" means areas outside the traditional rubber growing areas said above. This includes North-Eastern regions also certified as fit for rubber cultivation by the Chairman, Rubber Board, for the purpose of this scheme.
6. Other words and expressions shall bear the same meaning as in the Rubber Act 1947 and the Rubber Rules 1955.

### III. Target

Assistance will be granted under the scheme for carrying out new planting and replanting of rubber in a total area of 68500 hectares during the five years from 2007-'08 to 2011-'12.

### IV. Eligibility

1. The growers in traditional rubber growing areas owning estate not exceeding 5 hectares in area and growers in non-traditional rubber growing areas owning estate not exceeding 20

hectares will be eligible for assistance under Rule VI of the scheme. New entrepreneurs undertaking rubber cultivation will also be eligible for this assistance.

The planting grant payable in the case of one estate will be limited to an area of 2 hectares in the traditional region and 20.00 hectares in the non-traditional region as detailed in Rules VI.

2. The Growers new planting or replanting rubber in any one year in a minimum area of 0.10 hectare of contiguous land or part of 0.10 hectare if that part is the only area remaining to be replanted in an estate will be eligible for assistance under the Scheme.
3. Replanting to be undertaken on an area basis involving removal of all existing old/uneconomic rubber trees from the area will only be eligible for assistance under the scheme. The decision regarding fitness of any area for replanting under the scheme will vest with the Board.
4. The land selected for planting in all respects suitable for economic cultivation of rubber in the opinion of the Board will only be eligible for assistance. Lands situated 450 meters above Mean Sea Level will not be considered for grant of assistance unless such lands are found fit for the purpose after technical scrutiny by Rubber Board.
5. The applicant should have ownership over the land in respect of which assistance is sought.
6. Selection of land for planting and maintenance of plantation shall be at the sole risk and responsibility of the owner of the estate and eligibility for assistance or grant of assistance under the scheme will not create any liability whatsoever for the Board in respect of the estate.

## **V. Application for assistance**

1. Application for assistance shall be made in the forms prescribed by the Rubber Board and should be accompanied by survey plan of the area proposed to be planted based on the prescribed scale. The applicant shall also furnish such other details pertaining to the estate as may be required by the Board from time to time.
2. The Board may, grant the assistance in pursuance of any application for the whole area for which the application is made, or for any part thereof, or may refuse to grant any assistance under the scheme without assigning any reason.
3. The Chairman may, refer any application to the Planting Committee of the Board for its decision.
4. When it is decided to grant assistance to the applicant a permit will be issued to him/her.

## **VI. Extent of assistance and mode of payment**

For new planting and replanting, rate of financial assistance is the same.

- i) The rate of planting grant is Rs. 19,500/- per ha. which will be paid to eligible growers in 6 annual instalments. The planting grant payable in the case of one estate will be limited to an area of 2 ha in traditional areas subject to the eligibility under Rule IV.
- ii) For non-traditional rubber growing areas the rate of planting grant will be Rs. 22,000/- per ha. for those growers having estates up to 20 ha. Growers in non-traditional region are eligible for reimbursement of cost of planting materials and transportation grant @ Rs. 4,000/- per hectare each.

The rate of financial assistance for both replanting and new replanting payable under Phase VI are as follows:

- A For traditional area (Kerala & Kanyakumari Dist of Tamil nadu) Rs. 19,500/- per ha. limited to 2 ha. in the case of one estate subject to eligibility as under Rule IV.
- B For Non-Traditional areas including North Eastern region
- (a) Rs. 22,000/- per ha. for growers having an area upto 20 ha. for both new planting and replanting.
- (b) In Non-traditional Region the growers are entitled for reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants of advance growth. The assistance will be Rs. 8/- per plant limited to 500 plants per hectare.
- (c) In Non-traditional Region the growers are entitled to a grant for transporting plantation inputs. The grant @ Rs. 4,000/- per ha. is payable along with subsidy in 6 annual instalments.

Schedule of payment of financial assistance for both replanting and newplanting.

Year	Traditional region (Rs. per ha.) Planting Subsidy	Non traditional region (Rs. per ha)			
		Planting subsidy	Reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants	Transportation grant	Total
1	5,000/-	5,500/-	4,000/-	1,500/-	11,000/-
2	3,500/-	4,000/-	-	500/-	4,500/-
3	2,500/-	3,000/-	-	500/-	3,500/-
4	2,500/-	3,000/-	-	500/-	3,500/-
5	2,500/-	3,000/-	-	500/-	3,500/-
6	3,500/-	3,500/-	-	500/-	4,000/-
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,500/-</b>	<b>22,000/-</b>	<b>4,000/-</b>	<b>4,000/-</b>	<b>30,000/-</b>

- The various instalments of planting subsidy shall be paid only after completion of the several items of work specified in the Schedule for that year to the satisfaction of the Board and subject to the condition that the plants have attained the minimum average growth specified in the schedule. Girth measurement will not be taken for the first and second year, but the prescribed minimum stand of rubber plants should be maintained and the growth should be satisfactory.

2. In the case of seed-at-stake planting in which stock seedlings are raised in the field for subsequent field budding, the first installment of subsidy will be paid only after establishment of minimum stand of 420 budgrafts per ha.
3. As soon as the work of a stage is completed, the permit holder can apply for the payment of the prescribed part of planting grant to Board's Regional Office concerned. If the Board is satisfied with the work done, payment of the prescribed part of planting grant will be sanctioned. If the work at any stage is not considered satisfactory, the permit holder will be called upon to rectify the defects within a specified time. Payment will be sanctioned only if those defects are rectified within the time allowed. If the Board considers that the defects are not so serious and that it is enough if a reduction in planting grant is made, such amount as considered reasonable will be deducted and balance payment will be sanctioned. The Chairman may, refer any such case to the Planting Committee for its decision.

## VII. Conditions

1. Planting shall be done only with the planting materials approved by the Board. Such planting materials shall be those obtained from the permit holder's own nursery or from the Board or other reliable sources. Documentary evidence such as bills, receipts or delivery notes or any other relevant document in proof of the quality and source of the planting materials shall be furnished by the permit holder to the Board's inspecting officials on demand.
2. Sloppy lands with gradient steeper than 1 in 2 should be protected from soil erosion by contour terracing or construction of contour bunds or digging silt trenches or silt pits.
3. Inter planting with crops other than cover crops shall not be done except as specified below.
  - a. *Soil exhausting non-food crops such as lemon grass, citronella, fodder crops etc. shall not be grown.*
  - b. *If the slope is steeper than 1 in 2, banana may be raised in the year of planting. If the slope is not steeper than 1 in 2, any seasonal crop may be raised in the year of planting and any seasonal crop other than tapioca and paddy may be grown in the second and third years. If the land is flat and subject to short seasonal floods, paddy also may be grown during the second and third years.*
  - c. *Cocoa may be planted as an inter crop provided that the distance between the rubber plant rows is a minimum of 7.3 meters as in the case of planting espacement of 7.3 meters X 3 meters and a maximum of 8.5 meters as in the case of planting espacement of 8.5 meters X 2.75 meters and only one central row each of cocoa plants will be planted in the inter-row spaces provided by rubber plant rows and no perennial shade trees will be planted for the sake of cocoa.*
  - d. *Rubber nurseries will be allowed only during the first three years.*
  - e. *Other inter crops shall be grown only with the prior permission of the Board.*
  - f. *The permitted inter crops shall be raised only after taking care that they are confined to inter-row areas at least one meter away from the rubber rows. Growing of any inter crop shall also be subject to the condition that cover crops will be established satisfactorily simultaneous with the inter crops or at least from the fourth year of rubber planting.*

4. In the case of small holders, trees other than rubber at the rate not exceeding the number given below can be retained per hectare in a distributed manner, if such trees are already growing on the land proposed for new planting/replanting. Fresh planting of non rubber trees in replanted / new planted area will not be permitted.

Coconut trees 40 or arecanut trees 80 or other fruit or timber trees 20. If the trees fall under two or more of the above categories, they may be retained in the proportion of one coconut tree equal 2 arecanut trees and one fruit/timber tree equals to 2 coconut trees.

5. Tea and coffee plants already existing in the area can be retained provided they are at least 1 meter away from the rubber plant rows.
6. Pepper vines trained on trees that are allowed to stand as aforesaid and also those trained on other stakes (top-cut) which will not fall under the category of trees in Sub Rule(4) may stand provided they are at least one meter away from the rubber rows.
7. Planting and maintenance operations in areas coming under the scheme shall be carried out satisfactorily as per the specifications given in the Schedule. Fertilizer application, disease and pest control etc. shall be adopted as per the Board's recommendations issued from time to time or as per special recommendations issued from time to time or special recommendations issued specifically for each plantation. Bills, receipts, delivery notes etc. evidencing purchase of fertilisers and other chemicals used in the area planted under the scheme shall be furnished by the permit holder to the Board's inspecting officials when called for.
8. The plantation under the permit shall be got insured for its entire immature phase of growth against risks of fire or other common natural calamities by an insurer approved by the Rubber Board. The Rubber Board shall have the option to arrange provision of the required insurance cover after deducting the premium due from the planting grant payable to the permit holder. Insurance claims will be settled by the Insurance company as per the provisions of the policy. Insurance of plantation under this scheme is not obligatory in respect of permit areas that do not qualify for planting grant under Sub Rule (1) of Rule IV and permit areas falling short of 0.10 hectare in extent.
9. Tapping shall not normally be commenced in any area planted under the scheme unless in each block selected for tapping not less than 70% of the trees have attained a girth of 50 cm at the height of 125 cm from the bud union in the case of budded plants and girth of 55 cm at the height of 50 cm from ground level in the case of clonal seedlings. However grant of permission for tapping can be considered as a special case for trees which have attained tappable girths specified above even if their concentration is less than what is specified above. Tapping shall be carried out only after obtaining the required tapping certificate from the Board and in the manner specified in the certificate.
10. In the case of replanting minimum 75 stumps/trees per ha. of original rubber plantation should be seen in a scattered manner in the area.
11. Replanting should be carried out within 3 years of removal of old and uneconomic rubber plantation failing which the area will be treated as newplanting.
12. The assistance/service offered under the scheme by the Board is not for any consideration or promise. The entire service offered under the schemes is free of any charge.

### **VIII. Additional assistance for use of plants of advanced growth**

All growers having an area up to 20 ha. in Non-traditional region including the North-east are eligible for reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants @ Rs. 8/- per plant limited to a maximum of 500 plants per hectare.

The Chairman Rubber Board should be satisfied that the plants in question are of such growth, vigour and quality as to be capable of effecting a substantial reduction in the normal immaturity period of the plantation.

### **IX. Financial credit from banks**

The beneficiaries under the scheme may avail of long term financial credit from banks operating under refinancing scheme implemented by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in order to supplement the financial and other assistance granted by the Board as well as to acquire financial liquidity for undertaking the planting operations. The Board will in such instances provide the required technical support to the banks concerned. Obtaining the credit facility, its proper utilisation and timely discharge of debt shall be the responsibility of the permit holder.

### **X. Technical support**

Planting carried out under the scheme will be normally visited by Board's technical officers once or twice during the first year and once during each of the subsequent years. The Board will extent necessary advisory and extension support to the permit holders during these visits. The permit holders may request for any extra assistance required. Board's services in this respect will be rendered free of charges.

### **XI. Deductions that may be made from subsidy**

The Board shall have full powers to deduct from planting grant and other financial assistance any sum due from the permit holder to the Board.

### **XII. Stoppage of payment of subsidy and other benefits for violation of conditions or failure to achieve minimum results.**

1. Violation of any of the conditions or failure to conduct planting or upkeep or failure to obtain prescribed minimum stand per ha or minimum prescribed average girth in accordance with the Schedule will entail complete stoppage of payment of planting grant and other benefits and cancellation of permit.
2. The decision of the Chairman as to whether there has been any violation of any condition or failure to carry out planting in accordance with the Schedule shall be final.

### **XIII. Recovery of subsidy and other amounts in case of wilful destruction of the plantation or acquisition of land for public purpose**

1. If any plantation or part of a plantation in respect of which planting grant or any other amount has been paid under the scheme is wilfully destroyed by the permit holder or by any others with or without the knowledge of the permit holder, the Board shall have the right to cancel the permit and to recover from the permit holder the entire amount of financial assis-

tance already paid. Interest at the ruling rate shall also be recoverable on the total amount from the date on which it becomes due.

2. If any land in respect of which planting grant or any other amount has been paid under the scheme is acquired for public purpose or surrendered to Government as excess land the permit holder shall be bound to refund the same to the Board. Such amounts shall be recoverable from the compensation due to the permit holder for acquisition of the land. Where the grower concerned has availed of bank credit as provided under Rule IX of the scheme, such recovery will be subject to the satisfaction of the bank's claim.
3. If any person is found to have obtained permit and planting grant and other assistance from the Board by fraud or by misrepresentation, the permit shall be liable to be cancelled and the entire amount of financial assistance paid together with the amount given by way of additional assistance if any, shall be liable to be recovered. Interest at ruling rate on the total amount availed shall also be recoverable from the date(s) on which the same has been paid. In cases where in growers have availed of bank credit cancellation of permits and recovery of all amounts of financial assistance will be effected with interest in consultation with the financial banks concerned.

#### XIV. Transfer of permit

A successor in the title to any area in respect of which a permit has been issued shall be entitled to have the permit transferred to his name subject to his applying for the same in the manner prescribed by the Board. The transfer shall be also subject to his furnishing declaration to the effect that he shall abide by these rules and the terms and conditions of the permit. In the event of any amount paid under these rules becomes recoverable, the same shall be recovered from him together with the interest due.

### SCHEDULE

The permit holders shall be entitled to assistance either in cash or in kind or in a combination of both on the following scale per hectare provided the eligibility conditions are otherwise satisfied:

#### First Year

To be given after completion of the following items of work:

- a. Felling or destruction of existing rubber trees/ other trees.
- b. Clearing, lining and in the case of gradient steeper than 1 in 2 contour terracing or construction of contour bunds or digging silt

ASSISTANCE Rupees/ Hectare			
Replanting/ New planting in traditional area (up to 2.00 ha.) /	New planting and Replanting in nontraditional region (up to 20.00 ha.)	Reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants (In non traditional region only)	Transporting grant in non traditional region only
5,000	5,500	4,000	1,500

trenches or silt pits.

- c. Cutting not less than 420 and not more than 500 pits per ha. for planting bud grafts. The dimensions of the pits should be at least 75 x 75 cm with a minimum depth of 75 cm. In areas with loose soil conditions, the dimension of the pits could be reduced to 60 x 60 cm with a minimum depth of 75 cm.

*(Note: The number of planting points lost for estate roads and paths and on account of small rocky patches, other than extensive sheet rocks, both underground and on surface will be taken into account while counting the minimum number of pits).*

- d. Refilling of the pits with good top soil.
- e. Weeding (as many rounds of strip weeding/ ring weeding/ or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide proper weed control).
- f. Manuring top 20 cm of soil in the filled pits as advised and applying recommended dose of fertilisers two to three months after planting.
- g. Fencing (no separate fencing is necessary if the area planted is protected otherwise by fencing of any surrounding area in the estate or of the whole estate).
- h. Planting and establishing satisfactorily at least 420 high quality plants, of approved high yielding variety, per ha.
- i. Planting and satisfactory establishment of leguminous cover crops, subject to constraints of inter cropping if any.
- j. Pruning low side shoots and false shoots if any.
- k. Plant protection (shading, mulching, disease and pest control, fire control etc).

**Second Year**

To be given after completion of the following and subject to satisfactory upkeep.

- a. Weeding (as many rounds of strip weeding, ring weeding and or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide proper weed

Replanting/ New planting in traditional area (up to 2.00 ha.) /	New planting and Replanting in nontraditional region (up to 20.00 ha.)	Reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants (In non traditional region only)	Transporting grant in non traditional region only
3,500	4,000	nil	500

- control).
- b. Supplying vacancies in the original stand of rubber plants of approved clones and establishing the minimum recommended initial stand of plants of approved clones.
  - c. Application of recommended dose of fertilizers in two split doses before and after the monsoon.
  - d. Repair to fence or ensuring boundary protection otherwise.
  - e. Plant protection (shading, mulching, white washing, disease and pest control, fire control etc.)
  - f. Planting and satisfactory establishment of leguminous cover crops subject to constraints of intercropping, if any.
  - g. Pruning of low side shoots and false shoots if any.

### Third year

To be given after completion of the following and subject to satisfactory upkeep.

- a. Weeding (as many rounds of strip weeding, ring weeding and/or general slash weeding as are required in order to provide satisfactory weed control).
- b. Application of recommended dose of fertilizers in two split doses before and after the monsoon.
- c. Plant protection (shading, mulching, white washing, diseases and pest control, fire control etc.)
- d. Planting and satisfactory establishment of leguminous cover crops, subject to constraints of intercropping if any.
- e. Maintenance of minimum stand of 420 bud grafted plants per ha. under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 18 cm.

### Fourth Year

To be given after satisfactory weeding, maintenance of proper leguminous cover crops, application of recommended doses of fertilizers during pre-and post monsoon seasons and plant protection, sub-

	Replanting/ New planting in traditional area (up to 2.00 ha.) /	New planting and Replanting in nontraditional region (up to 20.00 ha.)	Reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants (In non traditional region only)	Transporting grant in non traditional region only
	2,500	3,000	nil	500
	2,500	3,000	nil	500

ject to satisfactory upkeep of a minimum stand or 410 in case of bud grafted plants per ha. under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 25 cm.

**Fifth Year**

To be given after satisfactory weeding, maintenance of proper leguminous cover crops, application of recommended doses of fertilizers during pre-and-post monsoon seasons and taking plant protection measures subject to satisfactory upkeep of a minimum stand of 390 bud grafts per ha. under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 35 cm.

**Sixth year**

To be given after satisfactory weeding, maintenance of proper leguminous cover crops, application of recommended doses of fertilizers during pre-and-post monsoon seasons and taking plant protection measures subject to satisfactory upkeep of a minimum stand of 390 bud grafted plants per ha. under healthy and uniform growth conditions and attainment of an average girth of not less than 45 cms.

Replanting/ New planting in traditional area (up to 2.00 ha.) /	New planting and Replanting in nontraditional region (up to 20.00 ha.)	Reimbursement of cost of polybagged plants (In non traditional region only)	Transporting grant in non traditional region only
2,500	3,000	nil	500
3,500	3,500	nil	500
<b>19,500</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>

**Total**

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## **RUBBER BOARD**

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