

Technology Status Assessment in Sri Lankan Raw Rubber Industry Estate Sector

By

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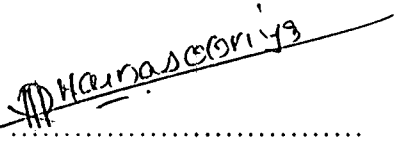
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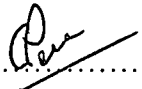
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DECLARATION

"I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any University to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published, written or orally communicated by another person except where due reference is made in the text."

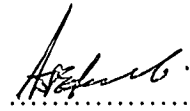

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ABSTRACT

Natural rubber plays a key role in the economies of many of the nations that have the climate and resources for growing and processing this valuable commodity. Among these countries is Sri Lanka, where rubber exports are one of the highest foreign exchange earners. The rubber therefore is an important agricultural crop to Sri Lanka, having around 151, 000 Ha of rubber plantation in it.

Sri Lanka is the world's leading supplier of solid rubber tires. But Sri Lanka's rubber production has shown a declining trend since 1996 though Sri Lanka is bestowed with rich resources of natural rubber and other process materials as well as the availability in comparatively cheap labour. So it is obvious that there is a burning problem in the raw rubber industry and Researcher therefore made a hypothesis that there can be a major component missing in the whole supply chain of this industry and that would have been the technology component, which is more advanced in other countries.

Researcher therefore made an effort to do a detailed study to check whether Sri Lanka is technologically lagging with compared to the Natural rubber processing state of art country by assessing the Technology status of Sri Lankan raw rubber industry. Having assessing the technology status, research was targeted to check the significance of technology status to the industry productivity, i.e. annual yield per hectare.

For that researcher has integrated the APCTT model, 1988- increasing degrees of sophistication of Technology components, and the framework for technology based development, technology content assessment developed by Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)- UN-ESCAP (1988) to assess the technology status of this industry.

According to the model analysis, it can be concluded that technologically Sri Lankan raw rubber industry is lagging behind to the technology status of global industry leaders like Malaysia, Thailand and India and that has resulted in a lower productivity of this industry. According to the statistical analysis, especially lower status of technology factors like Inforware, Orgaware and Humanware as well as non-technology factors like lower number of tappable trees per hectare have affected the Sri Lankan raw rubber industry productivity i.e. actual annual yield per hectare though there are hardly any relationship with the industry productivity and the status of technoware component. Factors affected to lower the status of each technology component was evaluated with the qualitative techniques like, SWOT analysis, value chain analysis and the cause an effect diagrams and found out that lower consideration on workforce and their education background as well as training and retraining facilities, bad management practices due to the poor Managerial competence, rigid organizational structure has become major drawbacks of this industry.

Key words: Sri Lankan raw rubber industry, Natural rubber, Technology status

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	- Asian Development Bank
MRB	- Malaysian Rubber Board
NR	- Natural Rubber
RRIM	- Rubber Research Institute, Malaysia
RRISL	- Rubber Research Institute, Sri Lanka
SMEs	- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises