

A Study on the Problem and Prospects of Small Rubber Cultivators in Marthadam Area from Kanya Kumari District

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Abstract: *This project represents the various problems and prospects of small rubber cultivators in marthadam area from kanyakumari district. The project states the various economic and social problems which were faced by the rubber cultivators. From the study we can conclude that the main reasons which were faced by the rubber cultivators are price fluctuation, climate change and lack of skilled labours. As a result of that the cultivators were not able to maintain a stable income for their family.*

Keywords: problem and prospects of small rubber cultivators, price fluctuation

I. INTRODUCTION

Rubber was used in various other contexts as well, such as for strips to hold stone and metal tools to wooden handles, and padding for the tool handles. While the ancient Mesoamericans did not know about vulcanization, they developed organic methods of processing the rubber with similar results, mixing the raw latex with various saps and juices of other vines, particularly *Ipomoea alba*, a species of morning glory. The elastic material which is obtained from the latex sap of trees is called natural rubber. In simple terms, rubber can be defined as a sticky, elastic solid which is produced from a milky liquid known as latex obtained from various types of rubber trees. Natural rubber can be vulcanized and finished into a various types of rubber products. Various types of tropical and sub-tropical trees in the regions of Amazon, South East Asia and Africa produce the milky fluid latex that are in the form of latex tubes. The rubber molecules present in these latex tubes are made up of 5 carbon and 8 hydrogen atoms. A large number of these rubber molecules are joined with each other to form long, chain-like structure. This chain of rubber molecules is called polymers that gives rubber its property of elasticity.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

L. M. Kumar(2013) it points out that it is important to strengthen the price stabilization fund scheme. It needs to be made the focal point for formulation and implementation of programmes related to price stabilisation, insurance and credit. The PSF programme should be made mandatory or redesigned in such a manner that it is adopted by large number of farmers. This could be done by linking credit, insurance, subsidies for replanting/new planting, etc., with PSF.

A.R Anuja (2012) points out that the small rubber growers suffer from problems like low productivity, poor quality of processing and weak marketing system. The prevalence of smallholdings makes the sector vulnerable to fluctuations in price, exploitation by middlemen, etc. To overcome the problem of small rubber growers, the formation of cooperatives called Rubber Producers' Societies (RPSs) was suggested. The present study has assessed the role of RPSs in providing services for input delivery, processing and marketing of natural rubber in Kerala. The study has revealed that RPS members have a lower cost of production and better price realization for their product compared to non-members.

T.V Ushadevi(2001) says about the tapper's workers. The study found that tapper work is not an easy work as it requires skill and is labour intensive for the good health of the rubber tree and maintaining the longevity of its production period.

2.1 Objective of the Study

To know the demographic profile of the respondents.

To identify the problem faced by rubber growers.

To evaluate the work satisfaction of rubber plantation.

III. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

S.NO	Particulars	No of respondent	percentage
1	Age		
	20-30	15	33.3
	31-40	10	22.2
	41-50	13	29
	51above	7	15
	Total	45	100
2	Gender		
	Male	20	44
	Female	25	56
	Total	45	100
3	Education qualification		
	HSU	25	55.6
	UG	20	44.6
	Total	45	100
4	Family income		
	Below10,000	9	20
	10001-20000	13	28
	20001-30000	16	35
	Above 30000	17	16
	Total	45	100
5	Marital status		
	Married	25	56
	Unmarried	20	44
	Total	45	100
6	Facilities available		
	water facility	6	13
	Rest shelter	22	49
	Day cash	17	38
	Total	45	100

Source of data .

- According to age wise classification 33.3 percentage respondents are in age group of 21-30 and 22 percentage respondents are in age group of 31-40 and 29 percentage respondents are in age group of 41-40 and 15 percentage respondents are in age group of 50above
- According to gender wise classification 44 percentage respondents are male and 56 percentage respondent are female
- According to education qualification 55.6 percentage respondents are HSC and 44.4 percentage respondents are UG
- According to family income 20percentage respondents are below 10000 and 28 percentage of respondents are 10001-20000 and 35.6 percentage respondents are 20001-30000 and 60 percentage of respondents are above 30000
- According to marital status 56 percentage of respondents of married and 44 percentage of respondents of unmarried.
- According to Facilities available 13 percentage of water facility and 49 percentage of respondents are rest shelter and 38.8 percentage of respondents of daycash

Chi-square test

	Facilities available			
Age	water facility	Rest shelter	Day cash	Total
21-30	4	6	5	15
31-40	3	5	3	10
41-50	6	4	2	13
50above	4	2	1	7
Total	17	17	11	45

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ²
4	5.67	-1.67	2.78	0.69
6	5.67	0.33	10.89	0.05
5	3.67	1.33	1.79	0.47
3	3.78	0.73	0.53	0.14
5	3.78	1.22	1.488	0.39
2	2.44	0.44	0.19	0.07
6	4.91	1.09	1.18	0.24
4	4.91	-0.91	0.82	0.16
3	3.18	-0.18	0.32	0.10
4	2.64	1.51	2.28	0.90
2	2.64	-0.64	-0.41	-0.15
1	1.71	-0.71	-0.50	-0.29
			Total	2.77

Calculation of table

Calculate chi -square value =2.77
 Degree of freedom=(r-1)(c-1)
 =(2-1)(3-1)
 =1*2
 =2percentage
 Table value = 2.77

Inference.

Since the calculate value (2.77) is less than the table value (2) the null hypothesis is accepted .Hence there is no significance difference between age andfacilities available.

IV. FINDING

- Majority of the respondents are age 20-30(33.3percentage)
- Majority of the respondents are gender female(56 percentage)
- Majority of the respondents are education qualification HSC (55.6 percentage)
- Majority of the respondents are family income 20 000-30000 (35.6percentage)
- Majority of the respondents are marital status marriage (56 percentage)
- Majority of the respondents are facilities avaiablerest shelter (49 percentage)

V. SUGGESTION

Mixed cropping should be encourage, it will help the cultivators to gain more income from the land. The subsidies program should brought back by the rubber board for the financial assistance. The government should take more steps for bringing price stability for the rubber cultivators.

VI. CONCLUSION

Productivity enhancement alone cannot bridge the gap between production and consumption and the only alternative has been expansion of the area under the crop. Small rubber growers are having a lot of problems relate to their field like lack of support from the government, lack of finance, lack of trained labour force and lack of stable price and market etc. Fall in the prices of rubber is adversely affecting the income and standard of living of small rubber growers. They are in the midst of severe financial crisis. The major reason for fall in price is the surplus production of rubber and the unhealthy practices of tyre manufactures.

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