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Field of Specialisation

- Exploitation system.

R&D Involvement/Consultancies/Experiences

- Advisory/extension and applied research on tapping system stimulation.
- Research on tapping and exploitation system and stimulation of latex: Low Intensity Tapping System (LITS), ethephon and gaseous stimulation, promotion and expansion of LITS technology (PROKAM, PDN/MDP, SBL/SPTL), training to LGM, implementing agencies, estate and international programme.



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Field of Specialisation

- R&D of raw rubber and rubber products.

R&D Involvement/Consultancies/Experiences

- Development of SUMAR
- RRIMCHEM
- RRIMCHEM-R
- RRIMSOAP
- RCCB.

G-FLEX (INFLATABLE CONTAINER FOR NATURAL UPTAKE OF GASEOUS STIMULANT FOR INCREASING TAPPING YIELD OF LATEX BEARING *HEVEA BRASILIENSIS*)

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Defination

G-Flex (Flexible Gadget) is a stimulation gadget using ethylene gas supplied directly into the laticiferous tissue of a rubber tree, immediately after the installation of an inflatable and collapsible container on the virgin bark of the high tapping panel.

Objectives

- To accelerate commercial uptake of gaseous stimulation using a more flexible and user-friendly gadget.
- To increase productivity and income by increasing tapper efficiency and simplifying the management of the gadgets.
- To provide a stimulation technique at an affordable price and also to allow users to assemble the gadgets using 'do it yourself' (D.I.Y.) concept.

Suitable tree characteristics:

- Vigorous and disease free 15-year-old rubber tree where both basal panels have been tapped.
- Well managed and received adequate input particularly fertiliser before the adoption of G-FLEX.
- Good canopy
- At least 50% of virgin bark on high is available
- Never been stimulated indiscriminately.

Characteristics of G-FLEX:

- User-friendly - methods of fixing have been simplified because of the simple gadgets used.
- Easy to manage and maintain - the most critical form of maintenance is pressing the sealant before regassing .
- Flexible - G-FLEX can be used both on the high tapping panels combined with a short tapping cut and tapped on d/3 or d/4 tapping frequency. The sealant allows G-FLEX to be repositioned without changing the components (see above pictures). The formulation allows the sealant to accommodate with growth which reduces the problem of gas leakage and maintenance of the components of G- FLEX.
- D.I.Y. – users can choose either to get a full set of G-FLEX supplied by the supplier(s) or to purchase and assemble loose components 'under do it yourself (DIY)' concept.
- Gassing – gassing has been simplified by using a canister where the user is only required to observe the shape of the expandable and collapsible container of G-FLEX. Each canister can gas up to 2,000 trees.