



FACULTY OF PLANTATION AND AGROTECHNOLOGY

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INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (AGR390)

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING REPORT

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STESEN PENYELIDIKAN RRIM SIMILAJAU, BINTULU

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TABLE OF CONTENT

CONTENT	PAGE
Contents • Table of content • Acknowledgement	**i-v**
1.0 Organization Background 1.0 Malaysian Rubber Board 1.1 RRIM Research Station, Similajau, Bintulu	**1-6**
2.0 Introduction of Rubber 2.1 Brief History of Rubber	**7**
3.0 Nursery and Planting Materials 3.1 Introduction 3.2 Objectives of Setting Up Nursery 3.3 Choice of Nursery Site 3.4 Characteristics of Good Nursery Soil 3.5 Type of Nursery for Rubber 3.6 Suggested Planting Distances in Rubber Nurseries 3.7 Production of Quality Planting Materials 3.8 Two Type of Nursery That Usually Being Used In Rubber Nursery 3.9 Nursery Management	**8-30**
4.0 Clones 4.1 Definition 4.2 Types and characteristics of clones	**31-35**
5.0 Good agronomic practices 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Objectives of Practicing Good Agronomic 5.3 Advantage and Disadvantages of Good Agronomic Practices	**36**

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'When you eat fruit, thanks of the person who planted the tree.

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'THANKS FOR PLANTING THE SEED OF KNOWLEDGE.'

1.0 ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

MALAYSIAN RUBBER BOARD



Figure 1.1: Logo of the Rubber Industry in Malaysia

The Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) is the custodian of the rubber industry in Malaysia. It was established on 1st January 1998, it has under its fold there well establish agencies (RRIM, MRRDB and MRELB), which are now merged into one, which have contributed significantly to the development of the rubber industry for the last 78 years. The Research & Development excellence in Natural Rubber, accomplished by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM), has had an impact on the Malaysian Natural Rubber producing countries.

The primary objective of MRB is to assist in the development and modernization of Malaysian rubber industry in all aspects from cultivation of the rubber tree, the extraction and the processing of its raw rubber, the manufacture of rubber products and the marketing of rubber and rubber products.

2.0 INTRODUCTION TO RUBBER

Natural Rubber (NR) is a major industrial raw material harvested from the rubber tree. Among the twenty odd plant species that are known to produce rubber, no less than twelve belong to the *Hevea* group. Out of these, only *Hevea brrasiliensis* from the *Euphorbiaceae* family is economically exploited. The tree is native of the Amazonion rain forest of South America. Hevea is tropical crop that can survive within 1,000 km north and south of the equator, except for the arid regions. It requires 180-250 cm of rainfall per year and a temperature of 25-35 °c. Rubber can be planted to a maximum elevation of 500 m above sea level. It requires a deep firm soil of the loamy texture with free drainage and tolerates a water table of 100 cm from the surface and below. The rubber tree is a perennial crop with an economic life-span of approximately 30 years. When fully matured, it can be reach a height of 18-20 m. Originally identified as a forest vegetation, Hevea wood is a valuable tropical timber which comes under the semi-hard category and most suitable for the furniture industry. Its latex, harvested from the tree, has been the major contributer to the natural rubber industry towards the development of various rubber and rubber-based products.