

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

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MALAYSIAN RUBBER BOARD (MRB)

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 R&D excellence in Natural Rubber, accomplished by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM), has an impact on the Malaysian NR producing countries.

The primary objectives 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 processing of its raw rubber, the manufacture of rubber products and the marketing of rubber and its products.

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 brasiliensis* from the Euphorbiaceae family is economically exploited. The tree is a native of the Amazonion rain forest of South America. Hevea is tropical crop that can survive within 1,000km north and south of the equator, except for the arid regions. It requires 180-250cm of rainfall per year and a temperature of 25-35 degree Celcius. Rubber can be planted to a maximum elevation of 500m above the sea level. It acquires a deep firm soil of the loamy texture with free drainage and tolerates a water table of 100cm from the surface and below. The rubber tree is a perennial crop with an economic life-span of approximately thirty years. When fully matured, it can reach a height of 18-20 meter. 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 major contributor to the NR industry towards the development of various rubber and rubber-based products.

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MALAYSIAN RUBBER BOARD