

OBSERVATIONS ON FARM PRACTICE ADOPTION IN A SELECTED RUBBER GROWING AREA

A. S. Widanapathirana

(Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka)

The adoption of 5 practices by smallholders in the early establishment of rubber was studied; (a) selection of clones (b) establishment of budded plants (c) fertilizer practices (d) intercropping and (e) leguminous cover cropping.

Most smallholders prefer to plant clone PB 86 as they believe it to be high yielding and disease resistant. The recommended practices connected with planting such as placement and orientation of bud patch, appear to be not followed by the majority of smallholders. Opinions on types of fertilizer

and frequency of application were different among the growers, majority reporting incorrect information. Most grower's acceptance is for annual intercrops as against semi-perennial crops during the early period of rubber to be poor.