

Rubber industry gets council to develop skill

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A SKILL development council has been formed for the labour-intensive Rs 50,000 crore-rubber industry.

An MoU was signed between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a partnership formed between Rubber Industry bodies AIRIA and ATMA (Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association) to promote the Rubber Industries Sector Skill Council (RSSC). The industry comprises of 500 large and medium scale units and nearly 5,500 small and tiny units with five lakh people directly employed in the industry.

RSSC will identify skill development needs, including preparing a catalogue of types of skills, range and depth of skills to facilitate individuals to choose from them. AIRIA and ATMA will jointly infuse equity in RSSC. NSDC has agreed to fund the formation and operations of the RSSC through a combination of grant and loan.

"A sector skill gap study undertaken by AIRIA and ATMA found there is a significant gap between the availability and demand of trained manpower in rubber sector. RSSC will be crucial in meeting the skill development requirements especially of the vast MSME rubber sector," said Vinod Simon, president of AIRIA.

Under the RSSC project, close to seven lakh trainees and three lakh in-service personnel will be certified over a period of 10 years.

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