

# Rubber Board to promote indigenously developed clone in North-East

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Rubber Board has taken measures to promote high yielding Indian clones – RRII 429 – in the North-East to boost productivity of rubber in the region.

North-East is the second-largest rubber cultivation belt in the country and accounts for 18 per cent of the total production of 7.15 lakh tonnes in the country.

The Centre is promoting natural rubber cultivation in Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal to increase the domestic production.

The proposal is to cultivate rubber on two lakh hectares in these States over five years, Jessy MD, Director incharge of Rubber Research Institute of India



The yield of RRII 429 is 20-30% higher than that of RRIM 600

(RRII), said. Low temperature during the winter is a major constraint for rubber cultivation in this region.

## **Advantage RRII 429**

The clone widely cultivated here is RRIM 600 and the productivity is substantially less than that of traditional regions. Based on

decades of evaluation across several locations in Tripura, Assam, north-west Bengal and Meghalaya, the RRII has developed high yielding clones adapted to the NE region, she said.

The indigenously developed clone RRII 429 has superior performance compared to the currently cultivated RRIM 600. The RRII 429 has vigorous growth habit and attains tapability nearly one year ahead of RRIM 600. The yield is also 20-30 per cent higher.

Considering the advantages of early opening of trees for tapping, as well as higher yield, the Rubber Board is promoting RRII 429 in the North-East.

Planting materials of the clone are being generated in various nurseries of the Rubber Board in the North-East.