

2011

April

Best Agromanagement Practices in Land Development and Rubber Cultivation: Issues and Challenges - Tradewinds Plantation's Experience

RAMESH VELOO

Tradewinds Plantation Berhad, Level 9, Menara HLA, No. 3 Jalan Kia Peng, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Cultivation and revival of rubber as a plantation crop in an oil palm dominated economy is gaining interest and importance among planters and investors worldwide. Rubber is identified as a strategic crop and an alternative in areas where terrain, soils and climate are limiting for oil palm cultivation. Sustainable cultivation of this cultivar should be in line with the implementation of best agromanagement practices. This paper reveals an operational experience of developing rubber on an ex-sugarcane and logged jungle land at Tradewinds Corridor Sdn Bhd project in the state of Kedah. The paper addresses the issues and challenges in implementing best agromanagement practices at the various stages of rubber cultivation. The paper also explores how contemporary issues and challenges mainly related to environment, labour, cost, economics of rubber cultivation, and problems related to stakeholders in the surrounding area is addressed in a sustainable manner. Lessons learned from the experience were used as a tool to develop strategies as a way forward to enhance a better future for rubber as a plantation crop.

Keywords: *Rubber, best agromanagement practices, issues, challenges and sustainable development.*

