

**ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES BY RUBBER SMALLHOLDERS
(A CASE STUDY IN KALUTARA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA)**

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Rubber smallholders play a vital role in Sri Lankan economy occupying nearly 43 percent of the total extent of cultivation. Past empirical work on this sector proved that the productivity lies below than that of the estate sector. Further, the adoption of improved technologies and management practices were found to be solutions for that. This study attempted to assess the status of the adoption of different technologies and management practices by rubber smallholders in mature stage of rubber. The study used primary data which was collected using a pre-tested structured questionnaire. A random sample of 70 farmers from seven DS divisions in Kalutara district was used for the analysis. A binary logistic model was fitted to find out the factors that affecting the adoption of technologies and management practices. Age of the farmer, education level, occupation, experience in rubber cultivation, age of the plantation, extent of the plantation and contact with extension services were considered as the independent variables.

The overall index calculated for the adoption of technologies and management practices considered in the study revealed that adoption rate is 41 percent. The highest rate of adoption (81%) was reported for the weeding and the lowest adoption rate (4%) was reported for the rain guard technology. Education level of the farmer, early economic stage of rubber plant and larger extents have given positive significant impacts (1.854, .509, and .719 respectively) in adoption for technologies and management practices. However, there is no evidence to prove that age of the farmer, occupation, experience in rubber cultivation and extension services have significant influence on adoption for aforesaid technologies and management practices.

Key words: Rubber smallholders, Adoption of technologies and management practices, Rain guard technology