

The Rubber Outgrowers Unit (ROU) is the extension wing of the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) responsible for the implementation of the Rubber Outgrower Plantations Project (ROPP). ROPP is a government project aimed at assisting Outgrowers to alleviate poverty. The vision of the unit is economic empowerment through rubber cultivation for sustainable rural community development to alleviate poverty.

Its mission statement are to deliver quality and affordable inputs and services to rubber Outgrowers through advance and innovative technology; to enable Outgrowers have sustainable income, enjoy a better living and to contribute to national development and to collaborate with all stakeholders to effectively and efficiently

Plan Your Future;



Plant Rubber Trees

## E-zwich Registration! More Outgrowers Get On Board

It would be recalled that in 2011, the Project management in conjunction with the leadership of ROAA made several efforts to make e-zwich accessible to outgrowers so that without necessarily travelling to Agona Nkwanta or Takoradi branches of Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), cash withdrawals for sale of their cup lumps to GREL could still be made in their localities. It is educative to know that since then, one hundred and thirty Outgrowers have been registered onto the e-zwich. Currently registration is still on-going at the various operational communities of the project. Some of the services of e-zwich available to the outgrowers are money transfers, cash withdrawals from any bank, savings and loans company or ATM or merchant with a point of sale (POS) terminals, load funds such as receiving money transferred and salary paid, balance enquiry, cash deposits, payment for goods and services such as items purchased from a super market, school fees, water and electricity bills. The e-zwich smartcard could be used in any universal bank, rural or community banks, savings and loans company and e-zwich ATMS. The benefits of e-zwich to the outgrower are that it gives the outgrower a wide range of retail and banking services at any POS terminal anywhere in Ghana, offers offline transaction, the e-zwich smartcard is secure (it requires biometric/fingerprint authentication for its use), there is no minimum balance required on the smartcard. In addition, if the outgrower's smartcard is lost their funds are transferred safely onto a new card. It also minimizes the risk of losing cash through carelessness, robbery, impersonation, fraud or any such related incidents. Services such as cash deposits on smartcards, payment for goods and balance enquiry (view only) attract no service charges. However, services such as cash withdrawals, money transfers and third party bill payment attract charges.



A short briefing session by e-zwich officials before registration starts



A farmer being registered onto the e-zwich by ADB officials

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### RUBBER OUTGROWER UNIT (ROU)

PLAN YOUR FUTURE;  
PLANT RUBBER TREES

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## GUARANTEEING FOOD SECURITY-PART II

The goal of every country is to achieve food security for its people, free from hunger and malnutrition for the present and future generations. For Ghana to realize this objective, various stakeholders such as Government and Corporate organizations must put in place livelihood systems which must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. To achieve this requires that a comprehensive programme targeted at producing food crop is put in place to support individuals and organized



practice of crop rotation and also train farmers in organic farming.

Again, the training centre on food crop and livestock production that GREL and B-BOVID limited partnered to establish as part of GREL's contribution in enhancing food security in its operational areas is in progress. Training of Outgrowers is scheduled to commence in August and farmers will be organized in batches to visit the training centre.



groups interested in food crop production. It is against this background that the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) has taken it upon itself to train and technically support all rubber Outgrowers to produce food crops which will be enough to feed their families and communities they live in. In the first half of 2012, GREL has established eight (8) demonstration farms in all operational Sectors in both Western and Central Regions to train rubber Outgrowers on Good Agricultural Practices in crop and animal production, terrace planting, the



# UNDERTAKE YOUR POST PLANTING OPERATIONS



THE PROJECT DIRECTOR, MR. E. A. OWUSU

The sprouting of rubber after planting is influenced by both internal and external factors. Whiles there is virtually no control over the internal factors, one can maximize control over the external factors to achieve a very high sprouting rate. One of these external factors is re-firming of the planted stumps.



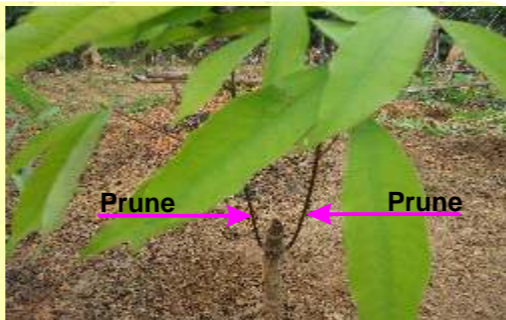
Re-firming

Since planting of the rubber normally coincides with the onset of the rains, good firming of the stumps is not normally achieved especially during planting whiles raining. It is therefore important to undertake re-firming of all the planted stumps in order to dislodge the air and water which have settled around the root region of the stumps. This will prevent rotting of the root even before sprouting starts. Another external factor is pruning.



Prune

It is the removal of undesirable shoots and side branches. To obtain a straight smooth clean stem for tapping, all the side branches must be pruned off from time to time. Other benefits of pruning are that it enhances growth, thus reducing immaturity period and yield improvement. Line opening is another important factor. Normally, because of poor land preparation which result in poor burning, field conditions even at



Prune Prune

the time of planting may not be suitable. It is very important to clean the planting lines of all tree stumps and debris, one meter to the left and right away from the planted rubber trees. Afterwards, subsequent cleaning of the lines should be done. It is also important to undertake frequent slashing of the inter-rows to improve air circulation in the farm and also to allow for enough sunlight for the newly shooted leaves.



Line Cleaning 21.09.2005

# DEVELOPING A SHOOTED PLANTING MATERIALS IN POLY BAGS

As from 2012, the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) would be training rubber Outgrowers on how to develop shooted planting materials (stumps) in poly bags. Below is the procedure for developing a one or two whorl (storey) planting material in poly bags.



The poly bags are filled with clayey loam soil, arranged in trenches and stabilized in two rows. The stumps are then put in the filled poly bags and re-stabilized as shown in the diagrams above. Period of maturation is between two (2) to three (3) months. It must also be stressed that the planted materials in the poly bags need to be maintained regularly. Activities such as watering, pruning, covering of exposed roots with soil and weed control (removal of weeds) must be done to guarantee a high shooting success.

# AFD STAFF IN GHANA PAYS WORKING VISIT



the field. They later visited the rubber processing factory and then to ROAA office where a brief presentation was made by ROAA General Secretary, Mr. Paul L. Appiah. The executives of ROAA made a passionate appeal to them for the fifth phase of the Outgrower Projects since there are still several people who are waiting to be beneficiaries of the project. The AFD staff also showed appreciation for the warm reception they received and commended the project staff for good work done.

In June 2012, staff of Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), who are resident in Ghana paid a one day working visit to the Rubber Outgrower Project. The Project Director, Mr. Emmanuel A. Owusu briefed them on the kind of technical assistance which is given to the rubber Outgrowers, after which the team was taken to the GREL's nursery and the Outgrowers farms. On the farm, there was a demonstration on how rubber stumps were planted on



# 2012 FERTILIZER APPLICATION

A fertilizer may be defined as a substance that provides nutrients to plants for their growth to enable it to function well. In general, adequate and proper fertilizer application to rubber plants will encourage good growth resulting in early tapping, provide early canopy closure which provides shade and retards undergrowth thereby reducing the cost of weeding, increase latex production, provide protection against diseases, promote good renewed bark etc.

In 2012, two (2) kinds of fertilizers would be supplied to Outgrowers and applied on all 2010, 2011 and 2012 plantings. One is NPK 15-15-15 of which the rate of application is 200g per tree (or 111kg/ha) for trees which were planted in 2012 and 400g per tree (or 222kg/ha) for trees which were planted in 2011 and 2012.

The other fertilizer is a mixture with a formulation of (NPK) 12: 11: 10 + 6.5S + 16CaO +5MgO. Its rate of application would be 242g per tree or (134kg/ha) and 484g per tree or (268kg/ha) on the first-year of planting and years (two and three) plantings respectively. The application is expected to start from late August to end of October. All outgrowers and SFO's are expected to undertake their line cleaning to ensure smooth and successful execution of the activity. The actual dates of application in the various locations would be communicated to the outgrowers two (2) weeks before the programme.

