

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 utilize public funds to improve the living standards of the rural communities.

Plan Your Future;



Plant Rubber Trees

RUBBER OUTGROWER UNIT (ROU)

PLAN YOUR FUTURE;
PLANT RUBBER TREES

The Paraa

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An Open Letter to Outgrowers by Mr. Marc Genot



MD of GREL, Mr. Marc Genot

Dear Outgrowers,
It is disheartening to note that while efforts are being made to assist farmers to plant rubber, deliver quality extension services to outgrowers to increase productivity to enable outgrowers have a sustainable income and

Enjoy a better living, there is an increasing incidence of theft of cup lumps and inputs on GREL's plantation and outgrower farms. First and foremost, quantities of planting materials were stolen from the GREL's nursery and the field, as well as Outgrower's farms. This is quite unfortunate, as the demand for planting materials by outgrowers were satisfied by GREL. At the end of this year's planting campaign, GREL had supplied over 100,000 planting materials as contingencies free of charge, far above the budget. Why then do some outgrowers resort to

stealing of planting materials? Again, there is an unprecedented levels of theft of cup lumps from GREL's plantation and some outgrower farms. This is totally unacceptable. The company is therefore putting in place a mechanism to apprehend the culprits. The offenders if caught would surely loose a lot so "let those who steal steal no more". On behalf of GREL, I wish to congratulate all rubber outgrowers on the occasion of the 24th Farmers Day Celebration.

Veronica Opong Wins National Best Rubber Farmer Award

According to studies, people work better if they are given incentives for good performance.

People naturally love to be recognized so it is important that companies and organizations set up an awards giving system to keep its people inspired. When they are recognized for their efforts, they would also continue in their desire to excel.

It is against this background that the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) instituted a scheme since 2005 to reward rubber outgrowers who distinguish themselves at the National and District levels every year.

In 2008, Mrs. Veronica Opong was adjudged the national best rubber farmer. She entered the rubber outgrower plantations project in 1995.

She has 6.0 ha of rubber in the project and 4.0 ha as self finance outgrower.

She is also an agent operating several rubber farms in the Wassa Amenfi West District of the Western Region. For her prize, she took home a refrigerator and a cash of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (Ghc 2,000). This award was sponsored by GREL. In the Western Region, seven (7) outgrowers were selected as District best rubber farmers. They are David Yankey, Issah Doorhu, Daniel Asmah, Janet Twum, Affum Mensah, Ama



Mrs. Veronica Opong

Homeku and Ama Kyerewah from the Jomoro, Nzema East, Ahanta West, Mpohor Wassa East, Tarkwa Nsuaem, Wassa Amenfi East and West Districts respectively. Each was given ten (10) pieces of aluminium roofing sheets, a pair of Wellington boots, two (2) pieces of cutlasses and a certificate. In the Central Region, the award winners were Jacob B. Archer, Kobina Sakyi, Kwame Atta, Theresah Ampiah, Peter Essel, David K. Kpabitey and Kwame A.A. Seidu from Upper Denkyira, Asikuma Odoben Brakwa, Agona, Adjumako Enyan Essiam, Assin South, Assin North and Twifo Heman Lower Denkyira Districts respectively. For their prize which was sponsored by NIB, each was given forty (40) pieces of aluminium roofing sheets, two (2) pairs of Wellington boots, a set of knapsack sprayer, four (4) pieces of cutlasses and a certificate.

Scenes from farmers day celebration! Scenes from farmers day celebration!! Scenes from farmers day celebration!!!



District award winners of the Western Region



Nana Obeng Nuako III a rubber outgrower and C/R best farmer



An awardee receiving her award from the I/R Manager-GREL



District award winners of the Central Region

Girth Measurement Is In Progress

Girth is the circumference of a tree. Girth measurement is therefore the measurement of the circumference of a (rubber) tree. It is an annual field activity carried out between the months of October and December to determine the growth of the trees. In other words, girth measurement is a function of the growth rate of the rubber trees per annum. In immature plantations, it is conducted on trees which are from two (2) to six (6) years old.

These measurements are made at a height of one metre (1m) from the ground. This is sometimes referred to as "waist height". Ten percent (10%) of the total tree population is at least measured. Five (5) trees per line are measured diagonally and the result is entered onto a girth measurement sheet. In order to keep track of the annual growth rate of the trees, same trees are measured every year. In mature plantations to be opened, the operation is

carried out on all the trees to assess the number of tappable trees at the year of opening. This activity is undertaken by two (2) people in both cases. One person numbers the trees with a green paint while the other measures the girth of the trees with a measuring tape. All outgrowers are entreated to undertake the inter-row slashing as well as the line cleaning before the date of activity to enhance the accuracy of the results.

ROPP IV In the Pipeline!!! Good News



Mr. Emmanuel A. Owusu
The Project Director

The rubber Outgrower Plantations Project is a poverty alleviation programme aimed at empowering rubber farmers economically through rubber cultivation for sustainable rural community development.

The first and the second phases of the Outgrower Project were launched in 1995 and 2001 respectively in the Western Region. By 2005, 900 Outgrowers had been assisted to plant 4,055 ha of rubber.

In 2006, the third phase of the Outgrower Project was launched in the Western and Central Regions of which 1750 Outgrowers are to be assisted to plant 7,000 ha of rubber by 2010.

It is remarkable to note that, two years before the end of

phase III, the number of Outgrowers to be selected have been exhausted. A lot of farmers were particularly disappointed to hear that, there would be no selection of new rubber Outgrowers this year to join the Project because the scheme was over subscribed.

A collaborated efforts have thus been made by the management of GREL and the executives of ROAA to

Convince the Government and the donor partners to participate in a new phase. Efforts are being made to secure even larger volume

of funding to satisfy more farmers in the Western, Central and possibly Eastern Regions.

There are however some challenges in the process and it is hoped that those challenges would be overcome to avoid unnecessary delays. On behalf of GREL, I wish to assure all the stakeholders of GREL's commitment to acquire the resources for successful implementation of a new phase.

ROAA Starts a Rubber Nursery



Spraying being carried out on the seedlings at the ROAA Nursery

The demand for rubber planting materials have gone up significantly since three (3) years ago. Although Ghana Rubber Estates Limited has been able to handle the challenge, the rising interest of individuals and organizations in the development of rubber cannot be over-emphasized, hence the need to expand the source of the planting materials.

This prompted the Rubber Outgrowers and Agents Association (ROAA) to establish its own nursery.



ROAA Nursery

The move is to supplement GREL's effort in meeting the future demand of planting materials by rubber farmers in the country.

The 15 hectare land which has been earmarked for the project is situated at Wassa-Fiase Nsuaem (along the Nsuaem-Kianankor road). Only 3 ha was developed this year with the remaining hectares to be developed within the next 2 years.

Outgrowers Sign the Tripartite Agreement

Between the 25th of August and the 12th of September, 2008 all the 1750 Outgrowers participating in the third phase of the outgrower projects signed the tripartite agreement of the project. The signing was preceded by thorough education of the outgrowers carried out jointly by the Rubber Outgrower Unit (ROU) of the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) and the National Investment Bank Limited.

The outgrowers were given draft copies of the agreement for careful scrutiny two weeks before the education was carried out to address the questions and concerns of the outgrowers.

The obligations and the rights of each of the three (3) parties involved are clearly spelt out in the agreement.

The education was done in all the operational Districts of the project.

Laughing Corner

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back towards his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "why did you have to die? why did you have to die?".

The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply?"

The mourner took a moment to collect himself then replied, "My wife's first husband".

GREL Supports National Farmers Day Celebration

Compared with other tree crops such as cocoa and oil palm, rubber is less known in the country. As part of the Agriculture Diversification Programme embarked on by the Government of Ghana in the late 1980's, rubber was re-introduced after abandoning it for over a decade.

Fortunately enough, since the inception of the Outgrower projects in 1995, a lot of farmers have participated in the scheme. To date, 2650 Outgrowers have been assisted to plant 8,930.50 ha of rubber.

As part of its contribution to the development of rubber in the country,

The Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL) Which is the technical operator of the Rubber Outgrower Plantations Project



(ROPP) supported the Farmers Day Celebration with an amount of Eight Thousand, Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (Ghc 8,200) to National, Western and Central Regional planning committees as well as to the District planning committees of all the Districts where the outgrower projects operate.

The Rubber Outgrower Unit (ROU) of GREL wishes to congratulate all rubber Outgrowers on the occasion of the 24th Farmers Day Celebration. The unit particularly wishes to encourage outgrowers to continue maintaining their farms for better returns in the future.

News from the Central Region ROPP *written by Mr. Joseph Adu-Boahen.*

ROPP Central is an acronym for Rubber Outgrower Plantations Project, being implemented in the Central Region of Ghana. The project became operational in January 2006 following the feasibility studies conducted by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the subsequent contractual agreement signed between GREL and Government of Ghana. The project is currently being implemented in seven (7) Districts of the Region namely Adjumako Enyan Esiam, Agona, Asikuma Odoben Brakwa, Assin North, Assin South, Twifo Heman Lower Denkyira and Upper Denkyira.

The project has a mandate of planting 2000 hectares for 500 Outgrowers from

2006 to 2010. However, in 2005 there was a pilot scheme which planted 5.19ha for 5 outgrowers. To date, the total area planted is 1081 ha, representing 54% of the global target. This result was achieved through the hardworking, selfless dedication and the relentless effort of an eleven (11) man technical team, together with our able secretary and support from colleagues from ROPP Western.

Guided by the inspirational words of ROU's mission statement, the team has delivered to the admiration of the Beneficiary farmers. The enthusiasm among the selected outgrowers is due

To the fact that, they would have sustainable income, enjoy better living and contribute their quota to national development when the trees become ready for tapping. Indeed this dream would become reality through the quality extension service delivery by the innovative and motivated ROPP Central staff.

With the birth of ROPP Central, the project hopes to turn the economic fortunes of the Region from the fourth poorest to the fourth wealthiest.

Subri Farmers embrace Rubber Cultivation at Last

Story by Mr. Samuel Gyesie

Subri is a small community with a population of about 2000 people. It is located on the eastern border of Western and Central Regions. The main occupation of the people is farming. GREL has one of its main nucleus estates in the area. Although rubber cultivation is not new in the community, the main crops cultivated in the area are food crops, cocoa and oil palm. Since the launching of the outgrower projects in 1995 in the Western Region, there has

Never been a single outgrower from Subri until the year 2006. Although Subri is among the new communities to join the rubber projects, it can boast of the largest number of outgrowers in the Mpohor Wassa East District of the Western Region. The number of Subri outgrowers in the project is 29% of all the rubber farmers from the District. Currently, there has been increasing level of interest among the farmers in rubber cultivation to the extent that there are over 200 new applicants from the community.

The farmers are well organized and ready to apply all the technical advice given to them by the extension staff of the project. It was therefore not surprising that two (2) years after joining the project, a woman from the community was crowned the Mpohor Wassa East District best rubber farmer during the recent 24th farmers day celebration.

Outgrowers from other communities are therefore advised to follow the exemplary strides that Subri farmers have made so far.