APPENDICES
### QUESTIONNAIRE*

**Kerala Forest Depart**  
**Social Forestry Wing**

[Questionnaire to collect information on land-owners’ choice in forestry tree species required for planting]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District: .........................</th>
<th>Social Forestry Range ............</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block Panchayat ...............</td>
<td>Grama Panchayat: .................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward No: ........................</td>
<td>Name of Village:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Name and Address of the Land owner
2. Area of Land suitable for tree planting
3. Are you interested in growing forestry trees in your land?
4. Which are the species (in the order of preference) would you like to grow and number of seedlings required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Name, address and signature of the person who collected information
6. Name, address and signature of the Forester who supervised the work
7. Name and signature of the Range Officer

Date:

* questionnaire was in Malayalam, the local language.
### BRIEF STATISTICS OF KERALA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. General</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Area</td>
<td>38,863 Sq. Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Percentage of area of the State to the area of Indian Union</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Length of coastal line</td>
<td>KM 590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Highest Peak (Anamudi)</td>
<td>Metres 2694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. No. of West flowing rivers</td>
<td>Nos 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. No. of East flowing rivers</td>
<td>Nos 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. No. of Districts</td>
<td>Nos 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. No. of Taluks</td>
<td>Nos 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. No. of Revenue Villages</td>
<td>Nos 1478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. No. of Panchayats</td>
<td>Nos 999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. No. of Municipalities</td>
<td>Nos 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. No. of Municipal Corporation</td>
<td>Nos 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II. Population</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. Total population</td>
<td>Lakhs 318.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Male population</td>
<td>Lakhs 154.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Female population</td>
<td>Lakhs 163.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Rural population</td>
<td>Lakhs 235.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Urban population</td>
<td>Lakhs 82.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Density per sq. km</td>
<td>Nos. 819.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Sex ratio (Females per 1000 males)</td>
<td>1058.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Literacy rate</td>
<td>% 90.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Male literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Female literacy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Per capita land availability

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Per capita land</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Per capita cultivated land</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Per capita forest land</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV. Area under major crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Crops</th>
<th>Area (000 ha)</th>
<th>Production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27. Rice</td>
<td>347.46</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 751.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Tapioca</td>
<td>114.61</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 2586.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Banana &amp; other plantations</td>
<td>99.41</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 731.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Coconut</td>
<td>925.78</td>
<td>Million nuts 5536.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Arecanut</td>
<td>87.36</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 87.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Pepper</td>
<td>202.13</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 60.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Rubber</td>
<td>474.36</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 579.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Ginger</td>
<td>11.61</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 42.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Cardamom</td>
<td>41.29</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 7.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Tea</td>
<td>36.85</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 69.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Coffee</td>
<td>84.74</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 70.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Cashew</td>
<td>92.12</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 66.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Cocoa</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>`000 Tonnes 3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Per capita production of food grains (2000-01)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kg/annum 23.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Land Resources of Kerala, Kerala State Land Use Board, Thiruvananthapuram-2002
# Major Events in Kerala Forestry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>A European Timber Syndicate in Malabar was engaged in the extraction and export of teak under Mr. Macnochie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>First European Coffee Plantation started in Malabar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1806</td>
<td>Cap. Watson of Police Department was appointed as the Conservator of Malabar – the First Conservator of Forests in India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Col. Munro stopped leasing of forest in Cochin to private individuals for collection of timber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813</td>
<td>‘Malamel Vicharippu’ (Superior Forest Administrator) was appointed with supporting staff to collect timber from forests in Cochin State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Divan Raja Kesava Das opened Timber Depot in Alleppey and Cap. Robert Gordon of Bombay appointed as the Commercial Agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>First independent Conservator Mr. Urban Verres Munro (U.V.Munro) was appointed in Travancore State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Rosewood and Ebony were declared as Royala Trees in Cochin. Large scale Coffee planting started in Malabar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>First Teak Plantation established in Nilambur. Canolly started Teak Plantation work entrusting the work to Mr. Smith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Forest areas of Samudirin of Kozhikkode were taken on lease by the British Government in Malabar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Rosewood and Anjili were included in the list of Government monopolies in Travancore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>First attempt to raise teak nursery by sowing and transplanting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Chathu Menon appointed as Sub-Conservator of Forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Dr. Brandis appointed as the first Inspector General of Forests in India. Sri. T. Madhava Rao, the Diwan of King Ayilyam Thirunal had taken initiative to raise teak plantations in Travancore. Sandalwood and Ebony were included in the list of Government monopolies in Travancore. Duty on timber was fixed initially on volume basis and later on number of logs basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1865 | Rules published for the sale of waste lands for the cultivation of Coffee and other products (Travancore). Rewards were offered for information regarding illicit felling of teak and rosewood. Felling of teak, rosewood, ebony and trees planted on the banks of rivers or
avenue trees prohibited.

1866  Felling of jack, palmyra, tamarind and other tax paying trees were restricted.

1872  Teak plantations started in Palghat.

1873  Keddaah system tried in Travancore and continued upto 1985. 100 animals were caught.

1876  Teak plantations started in Kannoth.

1878  Stump planting of Teak started in Konni.

1882  Madras Forest Act, 1882.

1886  Mahagony plantations raised in Kannoth.

1887  Travancore Forest Act, 1887.

1888  Konni declared as the first Reserve Forest in Travancore.

1893  Attempt was made to raise Sandal Plantations in Cochin.

1894  First ‘National’ Forest Policy promulgated.

1896  Monopoly on Cardamom cultivation by State abolished.

1897  Constitution of Cardamom Hill Reserve comprising natural cardamom areas of Devikulam, Peerumedu and Udumphanchola.

1899  First ‘National’ Forest Policy promulgated.

1905  Forest area were leased out for Cardamom cultivation Cochin Forest Act, 1905.

1907  Commencement of Parambikkulam-Chalakkudy Tramway

1920  HQ of Travancore Forest Department shifted to Trivandrum from Quilon.

1923  Waste lands were sold as bits to cultivate Coffee, Tea Monopoly on royal trees stopped in Cochin State.

1927  The Indian Forest Act Promulgated

1928  State monopoly over royal tree such as teak, rosewood ended in Cochin State.

1934  Area of Reserve Forests in Travancore is 2396 Sq. miles. Revenue is Rs. 13.96 lakhs. Department had one Conservator of Forests four Assistant Conservator of Forests and 24 Rangers.

1935  Forest areas were given tribal free of cost.

1939  Rights of tribals were recognized in Travancore by Travancore Hill men Settlement Act, 1939.

1942  Grow More Food Scheme started

1952  First National Forest Policy promulgated, the Indian Board for Wildlife constituted.

1954  Changed the terminology Minot Forest Produces to Non-Timber Forest
Produce (NTFP).

1955 Grow More Food Scheme stopped, Forest Utilization branch started at Kollam. State Board of Wildlife constituted and first Wildlife Day celebrated (7th June).

1956 First Wildlife Week celebrated (October 1st Week)

1957 Cut off date for regularizing encroachments
State Monopoly of royal trees standing on private land lifted (Act III of 1958).

1958 The Kerala Forest Act promulgated, Parambikulam-Chalakkudy Tramway stopped, Grassland Afforestation Division formed.

1960 Direct recruitment of Indian Forest Service started.

1961 The Kerala Forest Act, 1961
Wayalar forest School opened
Kerala Assembly passed bill to take over private forests of Kerala special Division formed to manage private forests. 15000 ha of forest land cleared under Arable Land Scheme

1968 Cut off date for regularizing encroachments
Salvage felling started in Kottayam Division


1971 Kerala Government by an Ordinance took over the remaining private forests.
The Wildlife (Protection) Act promulgated, Vigilance & Evaluation wing formed.

1975 Kerala Forest Development Corporation Formed.
Cardamom Hill Reserve High Level Committee under Shri. K.C. Sankaranarayanan to examine feasibility to take over leased Cardamom Hill Reserve.

1976 Shifted forests from state list to the concurrent list of the constitution.
Rehabilitation Plantation Circle was re-constituted as a Corporation.

1977 KFDC Started sale of Firewood
Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve and Project Tiger Circle formed at Kottayam.
Forest Training Centre at Kulamavu started

1979 A separate Department for environment was created in the Government of India.

1980 Forest (Conservation) Act 1980
Power s of the State Govt. to use forest land for non-forestry purpose withdrawn.

1982 Social Forestry Programme started

1983 Restriction of clear felling of natural forest was imposed
Extending Eucalyptus plantations stopped.

1984 World Bank aided Social Forestry Project started
1985  Clear felling of plantation at rotation age was stopped in Wildlife Sanctuaries.  
       Selection felling banned  
1987  World Food Programme started  
       Final felling of teak plantations in Sanctuary restricted to 25% of trees  
       National Forest Policy 1988  
1988  Forest Stations started  
       Salvage felling stopped.  
1989  Afforestation of natural glasslands banned  
       U.S. 39.0 Million World Bank Aided Kerala Forestry Project started.  
1998  India Eco-development project started  
2002  Haritholsavam – Greening throughout Kerala organized  
2003  Retail sale of timber started
APPENDIX – 3.3

HISTORY OF DEFORESTATION IN KERALA

A. GROW MORE FOOD PROGRAMME

This description covers popular decisions of a government that led to encroachments and regularization of encroachments. For the drafting of this account, the researcher draws heavily from Karunakaran C.K. (1985), (2003) and Chundamannil. M (1993)

One of the policies which caused heavy forest destruction and encroachment in Kerala was the decision of the Government in the year 1942 to lease out Reserved forests for food production, known as ‘Grow More Food Programme’. During the Second World War, food scarcity was so acute that the government decided to lease out all swampy areas inside forests including those in inaccessible interior parts for cultivation of paddy. Started as a benign programme, it ended in large-scale destruction of forests.

In a press communiqué, dated 20.10.42, the government (Travancore) announced the policy of leasing forests to individuals, Co-operative societies, Syndicates, Associations etc. In the beginning, the idea was to lease out forest land for temporary cultivation of paddy for a year or two. It was stipulated that after two or three years’ of cultivation the area should be planted up with forest trees by the grantees themselves and returned to the government. Thus the Government hoped of getting two birds at one shot, solving the problem of food scarcity and reforestation of land. This stipulation of reforestation and return of land was neither enforced nor pursued later resulting in establishment of human settlements on all such food production areas.

Though Second World War ended in 1945, food scarcity continued and the government had to evolve strategies to get over the difficult times. According to a press note issued on 17.12.1947, and Government Order R.O.C. 2473/48/Rev. B dated 22.12.1948, further leases of forest land to grow more food were extended to river valleys and road margins without any survey. During 1947-48, district committees
were formed for the distribution of forest land for cultivation. In most cases, lands were allotted in the names of ‘leaders’ of groups of people to expedite the work of allotment.

As per Government Order No. LR4-8727/49 (RD) dated 28.12.1949 sanction was accorded for giving lands available in the taluks of Peerumade and Devikulam under Kuthakapattom Rules (See …in Chapter 4). A Commissioner was specially appointed at Devikulam to speed up the works in the two taluks. He certainly raised to the occasion and distributed 1200 ha in Ayyappancovil village to 600 persons and 2000 ha in Pallivasal village to 1000 persons at the rate of 2.0 ha per person.

Though the lease was for cultivation of food crops and was confined to blanks and swamps in the forests, the lessees cleared surrounding forests also and planted cash crops. The Next decade had seen large-scale forest encroachments.

Naturally, this indiscriminate and off-hand disposal of forest land attracted many land grabbers. Records are not available in several offices to find out the exact figures of Reserved Forests thus leased out.

Major policy decisions of the government during that period that led to large scale forest clearance is worth consideration. Towards the end of 1949, the clamour of the lessees as well as squatters for permanent assignment reached a high pitch. To investigate the availability of forest lands for permanent assignment the government constituted a committee known as the Anti-Erosion Committee under the chairmanship T.V. Venkateswara lyer the then Chief Conservator of Forests. The Anti-Erosion Committee inspected various localities and submitted a comprehensive report containing valuable recommendations, for the conservation of ecologically sensitive forest areas. But against the committee’s report, the government on 16.06.51 chose to pass orders for permanent exclusion of 12,300 ha of Reserved Forests from the Forest Division for assignment.

The government extended its populous policy of forest leases to organizations also. For example, in Government Order D. Dis. 11963/51/DD dated 25.10.1951, 1410 ha of forests in various Forest Divisions were granted to persons with disabilities who in retired from the State Forces, the Ex-Servicemen of the Indian Army, political sufferer co-operative colonies and even to religious organizations such as N.S.S.¹, and S.N.D.P². All

¹ Nair Service Society (An organization of Nair Community)
these colonies are even now known as by its old names such as Ex-service men’s colony and Pattom Colony (given to N.S.S./S.N.D.P. by Pattom A Thanu Pillai who was the Chief Minister of Kerala from March 1954 to Feb 1955.

In the Government Order A5 5295/51/Fd-D dated 05..02..1953, it was ordered that areas under bonafide leases should be vacated by the Forest Department as and when feasible and the Revenue Department shall sanction fresh leases in such lands for 20 year periods.

In the Government Order LR 5-5569/54/RD dated 22..06..54, it was ordered among other things that, in the case of forest lands, the question whether they should be classified as revertible or non-revertible to the Forest Department should be decided. Meanings of these terms were very obvious; the decision would be very subjective. Net result was that the Forest and Revenue officials got golden opportunities to manipulate.

In G.O. F4. 1405/54 dated 28..12..1954, the government ordered the immediate resumption of all revertible areas. This resulted in a fresh agitation. As usual, after a conference, it was decided that the revertible and non-revertible areas in the Reserve Forest under unobjectionable occupation should be handed over to the Revenue Department for leasing out under Kuthakapattom Rules.

In order to save the remaining forests, it was decided to consolidate its boundaries for which additional posts of Deputy Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards were sanctioned during 1956 in all Forest Divisions. The plan was to erect permanent cairns on forest boundaries. As future incidents proved, boundary cairns were not at all a hindrance for encroachers to encroach into fresh forest areas (personal experience).

In the year 1956, the government, after assessing the positions, came to the conclusion that nearly 25000 ha of Reserve Forest had come under private occupation till 1956 of which about 22600 ha on the periphery of the forest and balance 2400 ha formed pockets within the Reserve Forest. In Order D. Dis. 2759/56/RD dated 12.05.1956 the government issued directions to the Forest Department to resume the pockets after evicting the occupants. The Chief Conservator of Forests, the District Collectors and the Inspector General of Police were instructed to carry out the above orders. For the purpose of screening the persons in unlawful occupation and selecting the landless from among them for settlement, two non-

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2 Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sangam (An organization of Ezhava Community)
official committees also were formed. 
On 03.06.1957, the government issued Press release to the effect that all available forest areas had already been given out for habitation and that as further clearance would be detrimental to the national interests, encroachments after 26.04.1957 would be seriously viewed. This was a clear indication that government was willing to regularize all encroachments prior to 26.04.1957.

On 04.07.1957, the government constituted ‘Popular Committees’ on Forest-Range basis to demarcate the forest boundaries on a permanent basis without disturbing poor landless cultivators who had developed the land before 26.04.1957.

Government, vide its order No. GO (MS) 49/62/Agri dated, 10.1.62 appointed a committee popularly known as “The Forest Preservation Committee” to draw up a scheme to protect valuable forests of the State and to settle problems of the settlers. Sri. K.P Radhakrishna Menon was the Chairman of this committee.

**B. CARDAMOM HILL RESERVE, IDUKKI**

The Cardamom Hill Reserve, with an area of 865 Sq. Kilometers falls in Devikulam, Peermade and Udumbanchola Taluks of Idukki district. This is the largest reserve forest in the State notified under section 18 of the Travancore Forest Regulations on 11.08.1897.

The C.H. Reserve was named so because of its situation in the hills of high ranges supporting luxuriant forest, underneath which natural cardamom grows. CHR is in the catchment of river Periyar which has been backbone of the socio-economic development of the State. It holds 7 dams which supplies nearly 70% of the total hydel power generated in the State. Besides, this river is the main source of drinking water to central Kerala and Cochin metro.

The history of CHR is a living monument to forest encroachments in Kerala. What started as a legitimate lease of government forests for cardamom cultivation (obviously to add revenue to the exchequer) ended in complete ravaging of pristine evergreen forests.
Forest areas in this tract were formerly given on lease to people for cultivation of cardamom. Cardamom rules were framed to regulate the activities of leaseholders and these rules were consolidated as Cardamom Rules in 1935. A Revenue Officer designated as Cardamom Settlement Officer was posted for assigning land on lease and collection of lease rent. However, the area was under the dual control of the Revenue and Forest Departments; the Revenue Department having control only over the lands given on registry and the Forest Department was having control over the trees on the lands so assigned and also over the land and trees in areas not given on lease. This system of dual control continued for a long time. In fact, the dual control of the two departments on land and trees made it virtually a no-man’s property which in turn leads to large-scale encroachments by connivance of officials. The government also did not take any active interest in controlling this mayhem.

In August 1950, as per a Government Order, the control over the entire land, (leased and other) was vested in the Revenue Department, the Forest Department having control only over the tree growth in the entire area. This system was abolished in December 1952 and the pre-August 1950 position was restored.

In August 1958 the system was again reviewed and it was ordered that the Forest Department should retain control over the tree growth in the entire area, whereas the control over the lands in the entire reserve, including areas which are registered, leased, or encroached upon together with the responsibility for detection and disposal of encroachments, should vest with the Revenue Department.

During this period, the Government of Kerala enacted the Kerala Land Conservancy Act, 1957 which came quite handy for the encroachers to expand their business.

Although the purpose of enacting the Kerala Land Conservancy Act,(See…) was to check the unauthorized occupation of the government lands, it resulted in large-scale encroachments in CHR. As per section 5 of the Act, no one shall occupy Government land without permission from the Government. The low quantum of fines imposed under this Act emboldened the encroachers to occupy more and more forest lands in the CHR. The encroachers merrily occupied CHR lands, got booked under Kerala Land Conservancy Act, 1957, paid meager fines under the said Act and get the land assigned in
their favour under the Land Assignment Act, 1960. Many such lease assignments are reported to have taken place with fake documents unauthorizedly signed and sanctified by Revenue Officials including some by retired officials.

The State government subsequently enacted “Rules for Lease of the Government Land for Cardamom Cultivation, 1961” and authorised the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Devikulam to conduct all business related to the cardamom leases in the CHR. As per this Order the responsibility for the detection and the disposal of the encroachments including the right to legitimize encroachment in the CHR lands is vested with the RDO. The Forest Department retains control over the tree growth only.

As per Rule 3 of the above Rules, forest lands up to 60 acres which are in possession of the encroachers can be leased out to them for a period of 20 years without auction.

Rule 7 of the said rules stipulates that the lessee shall remove the undergrowth and fell trees to the extent necessary to admit, sufficient sunlight for cultivation of Cardamom. Provided that he shall not, except with the prior sanction of the Revenue Divisional Officer, fell: any Teak, Blackwood, Ebony or Sandalwood tree and other trees exceeding four feet in girth at a height of three feet from the ground.

The lessee may also with the permission of the Revenue Divisional Officer fell trees for construction of such buildings as are essential for cultivation of Cardamom. The farmer by way of shade regulation to Cardamom, is free to fell trees or undergrowth except teak, ebony, black wood (rose wood) or sandalwood without the prior permission of the Revenue Divisional Officer. If the tree felling is done without permission he is liable to pay by way of damages double the value of timber trees felled or undergrowth removed. The leased lands cannot be alienated without the prior permission of the District Collector and in every case when alienation is sanctioned the party shall pay a fee at the rate of Rs.5/- per hectare. Several of these provisions of 1961 Rules are still being enforced.

Major interest of farmers was to encroach forest areas under the guise of cardamom cultivation. The modus operandi of encroachers was similar to that which prevailed in other forest lands in Kerala. Cases will be filed by the encroachers in the Civil Courts and orders will be obtained prohibiting the forest officers from interfering in
the non-forest operations carried out in such lands. The lands encroached by them often is shown as non-forest land in the schedule to the plaintiff. After getting the injunction against the entry of the forest officers into such lands the plaintiffs and their men further encroach upon the forest land. The encroachers continue to misuse the orders of the courts, with the connivance of the forest, revenue and survey authorities.

**Types of lands in the CHR**

The current status of lands falling in the Cardamom Hill Reserves can broadly be classified in six categories:

- **Natured Forests:** Lands which have dense natural forest and which have not been assigned to anybody, not encroached but not yet handed over to the Forest Department and continues to remain under the control of the Revenue Department;

- **Evicted land:** Lands which have been handed over to the Forest Department after evicting the encroachers. A part of it measuring 1281.741 ha has been notified as the Mathiketan National Park and the remaining 1800 ha also has good forest land which is referred to as the CHR Preservation Area. The Kerala Forest Department exercises complete control over these lands;

- **Patta lands:** About 800 ha of land were given on pattas by the Revenue Department under the Cardamom Rules (Travancore) 1935. These lands may in some cases have the original tree cover and also retain the cardamom cultivation. In other cases the tree cover has been removed and the new light demanding cardamom variety (njallany) has been cultivated. In many cases the patta holders have sold the land to tourist resorts, hotels, builders and developers where the tree growth has been completely destroyed;

- **Cardamom Lease:** About 20000 ha of land have been given on lease by the Revenue Department under the Rules for Cardamom Cultivation, 1961. Although there is a restriction on the sale of such lands by the lease holders without the prior permission of the District Collector, yet these lands are freely being sold. Besides, leases continue to be given in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

- **Old Settlements:** There were many villages within the CHR area at the time when the original notification was issued in 1897 and they may have expanded in area because of the increase in population;
Encroachments prior to 01.01.1977: It is estimated that about 28850 ha has been encroached prior to 1.1.1997. Government of Kerala has taken up the issue with central government which has agrees for diversion of this land subject to a condition that the state government will reforest double the area of degraded forests (see….)

Lands which have been heavily encroached in the last 10 years or so and which continues to be encroached even today often by the rich, the powerful and the influential persons.

Large scale encroachments are there in all the above mentioned areas of the CHR. It is indeed distressing to come across the forests on the steep slopes being destroyed by the encroachers and who in the process are not only destroying the exceedingly rich biodiversity of the magnificent Western Ghats but are also destroying the critical catchment areas of the enormous fresh water sources and which will have a devastating impact in the long run on the very survival of the people.

The original area of the CHR as per the notification dated 24.08.1897 is 865 Sq. Kilometers. No effort has been made by the Revenue or the Forest Department to properly survey and demarcate the actual boundary of the CHR on the ground. As a result the encroachers continue to occupy more and more forest land and benefit from the confusion prevailing about its exact boundaries.

**Recommendations of CEC**

After visiting the CHR area the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in their report of 7th September 2005 recommended that:

(i) The CHR being a notified reserve forest, no patta / lease or renewal of lease should be granted in the CHR area without obtaining the approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. All pattas, leases, renewal of leases, change of land use or sale / transfer which has taken place in the CHR area after 25.10.1980 without the prior approval of the Central Government should be cancelled and the lands restored to the State Government;

(ii) All the unauthorized occupants should be removed from the CHR in a time bound manner, and

(iii) The CHR being a Reserve Forest should be managed as per the working plan duly approved by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
and the orders of this Hon’ble Court should be strictly enforced something the State of Kerala has failed to do during the last many years.

In the Kerala Gazette Notification dated 14.05.1987 the entire CHR has been notified under the Kerala Preservation of Trees Act, 1986 with the following observation.

“…..The Cardamom Hill Reserve with the government has been an area leased for cardamom cultivation. The forest land supports intense tree growth. The cutting of trees in the area under the guise of shade regulation results in huge loss to the government, environmental stability including soil and land slides, and indiscriminate forest destruction…..”

As per this notification no tree shall be cut from the CHR unless it poses a danger to life or property or it is dead or diseased or wind fallen. Pruning of trees for horticultural practices is permitted.

Comment: As the entire area of CHR (865 Km²) is notified under section 5 of the KPT Act (No tree felling is permitted unless the tree is dead or standing dangerous to life and property) no tree harvesting is possible from there. This results in land-owners not growing trees!!
APEENDIX - 3.4

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

The sample area chosen for the study was selected on the basis of the following criteria:-

1) Availability of recorded history.
2) An agricultural village with a variety of cultivation.
3) High political awareness, being the homeland of many Communist leaders.
4) Area once surrounded by Reserve Forests – Mazhuvannoor, land acquired for Rubber Park etc. were reserved forests once upon a time.
5) The precedence of having been chosen as sample area for other studies ensured the cooperation of villagers.
6) Proximity to Perumbavoor, known as the centre of saw mill industry in Kerala.

Vallayanchirangara is about 10Km south east of Perumbavoor town in Ernakulam District. On 25.4.2006, the researcher visited V.N. Kesava Pillai Memorial Library Phone: 0484-2657130, and enquired in the library junction about two octogenarians of that locality who can give authentic information about the tree dynamics in that village. It was a gathering of about 25 people who came to the library as well as for evening chit chat in the junction. They suggested two names, Shri. P.K. Gopalan Nair and Shri. V.S. Kesavam Nair. The researcher visited both of them in their residence on 31.05.2006 and 1.06.2006 respectively and had lengthy discussion about the dynamics in tree composition and farming system in that village for the last 60 years.

1. P.K. GOPALAN NAIR ALIAS GOPALA PILLAI SIR

Date of Interview: 31.05.2006. Time: 5pm – 7pm

Address: Perakkattu House,
Valayanchirangara P.O.,
Perumbavoor, Ernakulam District,
Pincode: 683556.
Shri P.K. Gopalan Nair was Panchayat Member (Rayamangalam Panchayat) for 10 years during 1953-63 and Panchayat President during 1963-69. He was a teacher in Valayanchirangara Lower Primary School and Upper Primary School. His residential phone number is 0484-2657032. P.K. Gopalan Nair, aged 85 years, remembers a vast expanse of land spread around his home, extending to his school. There were not many trees on the land and he is unaware as to when the trees disappeared, if there were any. But there were lot of shrubs that bore fruits. Houses with fenced plots (homesteads) had trees like Anjili, Jack, Mango etc. On the other hand, ‘puramboke’ (waste lands) and barren lands were usually devoid of trees. Since these were used as grazing grounds for cattle, trees may have been destroyed by the animals. It is also possible that they may have been felled by people to secure cattle feed and manure. ‘Puramboke’ was very often encroached upon by people. Trees standing on then were also felled liberally by anyone who ventured. He remembers the incident when his uncle had a tree standing on the ‘Puramboke’ axed and carried home by an elephant. It was used for building the wooden planks serving as a sliding door for the cattle shed.

The grasslands belonged to landed Brahmin families before. Later, when lemon grass growing become viable, large tracts of leased land started to be cultivated upon by people. Land earmarked as cattle grazing grounds, like………. have also fallen prey to illegal occupation. People who initially fight cases of illegal occupation charged against them, manage to get the occupations regularized in due course and secure ownership rights. Oattathanimala in Perumani is one such place.

After 1965, the Communist Party literally supported people in occupying such lands. The party gave moral and material support to face officials and owners of the lands.

Mr. Nair affirms that the number of trees has increased now, compared to his own times. However, he points out that the variety of trees has sadly dwindled. Programmes like social forestry and Van Mahotsav have served to encourage the planting of trees. But the rising demand for timber wood has led to the concentration of those verities of trees. Later, timber trees like Anjili came to be felled extensively and were replaced with rubber trees. The last 20 years have shown on increasing tendency to convert arable lands
into teak plantations and the like. My own daughter who lives in Kottayam with her family has converted her share of the ancestral property at Karthavumpadi junction into a teak plantation. But, another daughter who lives closer, has …………………

However, it is true that the increased cost of cultivation and the availability of other occupations to farmers have caused the rapid conversion of arable lands into teak plantations.

In the 1960’s, Gopalan Nair was appointed as caretaker of the forest Labour Contract Society constituted by the Communist Party to oversee the Taungya cultivation on leased land inside the Athirappally forests. Once, on leaving for home, he was given a bag of teak stumps by the Forest Officials. Gopalan Nair had planted the trees on the fringes of his property. Some of them have been felled and sold and the rest still remain in his property.

The setting up of a large number of saw mills in the vicinity prompted people to take their timber there for processing. Bills from the saw mills helped in securing the necessary transport passes from the Forest Department. This served to eliminate the fear element about Foresters from minds of the people.

2. V.S. KESAVAN NAIR ALIAS CHELLAPPAN PILLAE SIR

Date of Interview: 01.06.2006. Time: 5pm – 8pm
Address: Vimmala House, Valayachirangara P.O., Perumbavoor, Ernakulam District.
Pincode: 683556

According to 87 year old Kesavan Nair, there used he a lot of barren land during his days. Certain areas of such lands were in the possession of individuals. But people never tried to encroach upon such lands as land (as a resource) was aplenty. Besides, there were large expanses of Puramboke, where everyone had equal access.
There used to be lot of shrubs on barren lands, interspersed with trees like Kanjiram, Marotti, Cashew, Maruthu, Pezh etc. Maruthu and Pezh were ideal for manure.

Out backs were not used for cultivation. Moreover, these places were used for cattle grazing and were a natural source of manure.

Marotti and Poovathenna were widely used then to light lamps. Oil was obtained from Marotti through a long procedure which involved separation of its seed. Such trees came to be abandoned in due course when life changed its character in a fast paced world. With the arrival of Kerosene, Marotti and Poovathenna became an inconvenient preoccupation – to be alone away with soon. Now there was less space and people were keen on growing profile making trees on the available spaces.

He remembers a time in 1934 when a rumour spread in the village that the government was going to number the teak trees in the region.

Many fell this teak trees and got it cut in saw mills. There was no numbering of any kind though. Our trees were not cut and they stood till recently.

In those days there was no cropping of dry lands. Tapioca, Yam, Colocasia etc. were difficult to grow as wild boar would destroy these. Saving crop from cattle was also not easy.

Land was relatively cheap. An acre would cost Rs. 10. Dry land cropping started with people growing lemon grass. My mother’s uncle V.N. Kesava Pillai had started lemon grass cultivation. S. Koder, a businessman friend of Mr. Pillai in Kochi had offered all help for the cultivation. Koder offered to procure all Lemon grass oil from Mr. Pillai (my mother’s uncle). Mr. Pillai tried to bring lemon grass from the High Ranges to start cultivation.

Lemon grass cultivation can be done in two ways:- direct dibbling of seeds & by planting out of seedlings. Lemon grass oil was in great demand. The price was paid in the form of Varaham (gold coins).

No other crop was growers then. Lemon grass was the most profitable. With lemon grass growers did not have to worry about the onslaught of wild animals. The byproducts of lemon grass distillation had many uses. The hot grass residue used to be given to cattle. After aerobic composting, it was also used as manure.
In due course, distillation of lemon grass turned out to be uneconomical. The price of firewood rose and using it for distilling lemon grass became uneconomical.

The availability of gun powder made it easier for people to ward off wild animals. Hence, more people turned to growing other crops.

After lemon grass growing became uneconomical, people also turned to growing rubber. The yield was but very low as only local varieties were available. With the advent of hybrid varieties, rubber growing also turned profitable. Now, people are taking up timber farming on their properties. More such trees should be grown. People will be ready to grow anything that is economically viable.

In place where there was influx of seawater, people had an indigenous way of prowling salt by drying up certain plants after the waters receded. Also pepper growing was widespread. All these indicated a self-contained and self-sustained means of living with indigenous technologies and means to meet every need of society.

As availability of land was scarce, people began to cut down trees which they deemed unnecessary. They turned to growing profit-making trees.
ANNEXURE - 4.1

PROCEDURE FOR GETTING CUTTING PERMIT

Application for obtaining a cutting permit under any Act should be submitted to the authorized officer. For premium hardwood trees such as teak, Rosewood and Ebony trees the D.F.O who has jurisdiction over the area is the authorized officer and for all other species, it is the Range Officer. Along with the application a certificate from the Village Officer, confirming the ownership of the land and the tree and a sketch of the plot where the tree and building stands also should be produced. On getting the application, the authorized officer shall conduct a site inspection and verify the particulars and issue cutting permit if the applicant is eligible for that. The permission for cutting shall not be refused in the case of trees which constitute a danger to life or property or if the tree is dead, diseased or wind fallen and if the felling of tree is for constructing a building in the same site for owner’s own use.

In the case of permission as above the authorized officer shall impose a condition that the owner of the land should effectively regenerate an equal number of suitable or other trees.
ANNEXURE - 4.2

PROCEDURE FOR GETTING TRANSPORTATION PASS

Passes are of different kinds based on the kind of produce transported, purpose and destination of transportation. The authority competent to issue passes will be different for each type of pass.

An application for the pass for removal of teak, rosewood and ebony from private land has to be given to the Forest Range Officer who has jurisdiction over the land. The following documents should be produced along with the application.

(i) In the case of trees which require a cutting permission (all premium hardwood species require a cutting permit) a copy of the cutting permission issued by the authorized officer.

(ii) A copy of the sanction order issued by the authorized officer under the Kerala Restriction on cutting and destruction of valuable Trees, rules 1974.

(iii) A list showing measurement (Length & mid girth of logs) and quantity of timber.

(iv) A sketch of the property showing location of the tree, certified by the Village Officer. The Village Officer should certify the ownership of the land, its survey number, area and ownership of trees. If necessary the Range Officer can further verify particulars of ownership of land and trees from the Village Officer concerned.

On receipt of the application along with these documents to prove the ownership of tree, the Range Officer shall personally inspect the land and the timber and make suitable recommendations to the D.F.O. A favourable report of the Range Officer should be with the following certificate. “Certified that the land has been inspected by me on (date) that the boundaries there have been checked and verified and that the timber as per the accompanying list has been collected from the areas specified in the application”.

The DFO on receipt of the application and records from the Range Officer shall check details and if satisfied shall issue the pass and forward it to the Range Officer.
Within one week the Range Officer shall stamp the timber and hand over the pass to the applicant.

If clearance of the surveyed boundary of the private lands’ etc. is required for inspection for the above purpose it should be done by the applicant, failing which the application shall be rejected. Time allowed for completion of the entire procedure is one month from the date of receipt of application for a pass.

In the case of trees which require a prior permission from the authorized officer to fell it (cutting permit) the procedure to get a cutting permit is almost similar thereby making the hassles double! (Procedure for taking cutting permit is explained in annexure 4.1).
SELF DECLARATION FOR TRANSPORTING TIMBER

When a land owner intends to cut a specified tree he should file a declaration before any authorized officer. The declaration should contain details such as survey number of the land, number of trees, species of trees, quantity of timber and the place to which the timber is being transported. The declaration can be sent to the authorized officer either directly or by registered post with an acknowledgement due. Every declaration should be acknowledged by the authorized officer and the acknowledged copy should be carried during the transport of the timber. If the cutting and transportation of timber pertains to specified trees standing on notified non-forest land, the authorized officer should inspect the land and issue a transit permit in the prescribed format and this shall be taken along with the timber while transporting it.
APPENDIX - 5.1

MOTIVATIONAL POLICIES OF RUBBER BOARD

Motivational policies of Rubber Board has not left any area from nursery to marketing un attended. The policies are concentrating on the following spheres of cultivation of the crop. 1. Nursery 2. Cultivation 3. Processing 4. Training 5. Marketing and Research. The following are the extension tools frequently used by the Rubber Board.

- interpersonal contacts
- promotion of group approach
- advisory visits of plantations
- books, periodicals, leaflets
- educational films on various technologies
- extensive use of mass media
- campaigns, seminars, group meetings
- demonstration in farmers’ fields
- farmer-led extension
- use of farmer resource persons in the extension programmes
- recognition of growers and Rubber Producers’ Societies (RPSs) by instituting awards for the best rubber grower and the best RPS
- ‘Sastradarsn’ programme

The Rubber Board is regularly conducting once every year a campaign for taking across the growers the selected extension messages. The campaign meetings which are meant to benefit small groups are organized in association with RPSs and held in real small holding locales simultaneously at scores of centres at every day continuously for about 20 working days. Extensive advanced publicity is given for meetings. During 2006-07 meetings were held at 1526 centres and attracted participation 41688 growers and 9478 plantation workers. Mass media such as newspapers, radio and television are being extensively used for educating rubber growers on all aspects of rubber cultivation and production. Board’s own publications are other means for extension education.
2. **Rubber Plantation Development (RPD) Scheme**

Under this scheme new planting as well as replanting are financed. The replanting subsidy scheme was introduced in 1957 for providing grant of technical and financial assistance for undertaking replanting of old and uneconomic plantations. This scheme is being continued even now. The current rate of subsidy is as follows:

Land owner who posses a maximum of 5 ha. alone is eligible for subsidy and each landholder will be eligible for subsidy to a maximum of 2 ha land only.

The rate & subsidy is as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment No.</th>
<th>Amount of subsidy per Ha (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 6 installments</td>
<td>Rs. 19500/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beside this, NABARD has a loan scheme to finance maintenance of immature plantations, new planting in small holdings and expansion of rubber cultivation in larger holdings. These were respectively known as Upkeep Loan Scheme, New planting Loan Scheme and Revised Loan Scheme. Assistance provided under these schemes consisted of interest free or low interest loans subsidised by the Board, subsidized supply or material inputs and free extension support.

3. **Production and Distribution of Planting Materials.** Requirements of planting materials of improved cultivars required by the rubber plantation industry are met mainly from three sources: own nurseries of farmer, nurseries run by the Board and private commercial nurseries. Privately owned rubber nurseries are common in all rubber growing areas. These meet the bulk of the planting material requirements of small growers. Buyers themselves exercise prudence and care in purchasing planting materials from such nurseries. Of late, the Board is selectively sponsoring private nurseries with a view to improve quality and availability of materials from this sector.
3.1 **Sponsored Nursery Scheme**

This envisages supply of seeds and budded stumps for raising mother plants and budwood. Seeds are supplied at cost price to RPSs. Budded stumps for establishing budwood nursery are supplied at concessional price to RPSs and at cost price to individuals.

4. **Supply of Cover Crop Seeds**

The Board operate a scheme for procurement and supply of seeds of cover crops, *Pueraria phaseoloides* and *Mucuna bracteata* every year for the benefit of small growers. To encourage growers to grow cover crops, a scheme was introduced in 1996-97. As per this scheme those who plant and establish leguminous ground covers in their holding planted under RPD scheme are eligible for assistance at the rate of Rs.750 per hectare in the first year and Rs.250 per hectare during the second year. This will be paid along with RPD subsidy.

5. **Assistance for Purchase of Low Volume Power Operated Sprayers and Dusters.**

This scheme is aimed at popularizing the use of low volume power operated sprayers and dusters among small rubber growers for the control of leaf diseases.

6. **Rubber Sheeting Rollers**

To promote quality improvement in production of Ribbed Smoked Sheets (RSS) by small growers a scheme for subsiding cost of hand operated rollers is available. The subsidy is limited to Rs.1000 per set of rollers and for one set per grower.

7. **Smoke House for Small Holdings**

Under a scheme again intended for improving quality of small holder rubber sheets, the Board is providing technical and financial assistance for construction of smoke houses of 85 kg capacity. The financial assistance granted is Rs.3,000 per unit or 50% of its cost of construction, whichever is less.

8. **Smoke House for Small Holdings in Non-Traditional Areas**

The scheme is specially introduced for small growers in non traditional areas (area outside Kerala and Tamilnadu). The amount of assistance is Rs.5000/- or 50% of the cost of construction, whichever is less.

9. **Scheme for Bee Keeping**

A scheme for extending financial assistance for bee keeping in rubber plantations was introduced in 1996-97. Small growers and their tappers who maintain four bee
colonies are eligible for this. The rate of assistance is Rs. 1000/- for Indian honey bee and Rs. 4,500/- for European honey bee.

10. **Irrigation for Rubber in Non-Traditional Areas**

A scheme in operation provides for grant of financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 5000 per ha subject to a maximum of Rs. 50000 per grower, for establishing irrigation facilities in any category of rubber plantation in non traditional area. Irrigation can be of any type provided its serves the purpose satisfactorily.

11. **Fencing of Rubber Plantations in Non Traditional Areas**

12. **Scheme for Supply of Materials for Fencing of Rubber Plantations in Non Traditional Areas**

13. **Other Plantation Requisites in non-traditional areas.**

Small growers in non-traditional areas face great difficulties in procuring various rubber plantation essentials such as rubber sheeting rollers, tapping knives, sleeves, coagulating dishes, cup hangers, spouts, plastic cups for latex collection, panel protection chemicals etc as those are not readily available there. To help in this regard the Board is implementing a scheme for supplying them such items at cost price.

14. **Training and Demonstration**

There are 26 tappers Training Schools run by the Board at different plantation centres for imparting training to small growers and their workers in tapping, simple processing of crop into ribbed smoked sheets, tapping panel protection, stimulation and rain guarding. Trainees are also provided free, unfurnished dormitory accommodation.

Apart from the conventional Tappers’ Training Schools, Board is also implementing short term intensive training course in scientific methods of tapping, processing, rain guarding and stimulation with emphasis on practical aspects. The Rubber Tapping Demonstrator attached to each regional office visits plantations and demonstrate to growers and tappers the scientific methods of tapping.

The training department conducts short duration training camps on special topics in selected small holding or estates.

It also organizes a one day visit-cum training programme named “Shastradarshan” free of cost for members of Rubber Producers’ Societies and other organized groups of
small holders for visiting the RRII and getting on the spot familiarization of scientific methods of rubber cultivation, primary processing and related aspects.

15. **Labour welfare programmes**

Apart from the above technical and extension support for cultivation per se, the Board implements the following labour welfare programmes to secure better working conditions and the provisions and improvement of amenities and incentives for rubber plantation workers.

i) **Educational stipend**

The sub component is intended for educational assistance in the form of lumpsum grant and hostel boarding fee to children of plantation workers of the organized sector and tappers, for pursuing studies in recognized institutions.

ii). **Merit award**

The component provides for grant of awards to children of tappers/children of workers in the organized sector plantations who meritoriously pass examinations of recognized courses.

iii). **Group insurance-cum-deposit**

The objective of the sub component is to encourage workers in the unorganized sector to develop the habit of saving on a long term basis and to insure them against accidents.

iv). **Medical attendance**

By this sub component, tappers of the unorganized sector undergoing Allopathic/Ayurvedic/Homeopathic treatment owing to illness are eligible for reimbursement of the expenses incurred for treatment. The maximum benefit extended to a tapper under the scheme is Rs.2000 per year. Expensive treatment for major diseases like cancer, cardiac problems etc, shall be reimbursed with an additional amount of Rs.10,000 during the applicant’s life time. In addition to this, Rs.1000 per tapper is granted for undergoing family planning operation.

v). **Housing subsidy**

This sub component is implemented for assisting tappers in the unorganized sector and workers in the organized sector for constructing own houses. As per the sub component, an applicant constructing a house will be entitled to a subsidy of Rs.7500
after completing construction. Relaxation in rules is given to the applicants under the sub-component in the NE region.

vi). **Sanitary subsidy**

   It provides assistance for constructing latrines by tappers in the unorganized sector. The assistance is restricted to 75% of the estimated cost of construction or Rs.3000 whichever is less.

vii). **Housing and sanitary subsidy to SC/ST workers in the unorganized sector**

   This sub component implemented with the involvement of the RPSs is meant for those belonging to the SC/ST community among tappers, in the unorganized sector. The financial assistance will be limited to 25% of the cost of construction or Rs.14,000 whichever is less for a tapper who constructs both a house and a latrine.

16. **Market promotion department**

   The Market Promotion Department functions under the direct control of the Chairman. The different cells of this Department and their functions are:

   **Market Intelligence Cell, Export Promotion Cell, Domestic Promotion Cell**

17. **Price stabilization fund**

   The objective of the Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), a Trust Fund Account under the aegis of NABARD, is to provide income support to rubber growers when price of rubber falls below remunerative level. The fund will have a corpus of Rs.500 crore of which 482.88 crore is made available by the Central Government and 17.12 crore is to be contributed by the growers. The interest from the fund will be used to provide income support to growers. To supplement this, growers also will contribute according to the price. The Price Stabilization Fund Scheme for rubber is implemented through Rubber Producers’ Societies (RPSs).

   More than price hike or yield hike the major reason for area increase is the financial incentives given for planting.

   Lekshmi & George (2003) concluded their study on expansion of Natural Rubber cultivation in Kerala with an observation that the expansion in area has been primarily guided by the relative profitability ensured under a comprehensive institutional support mechanism with ‘protected price policy; as a critical component.