CHAPTER 6

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CHAPTER 6

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

6.1. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Upon analysis of the Primary Data collected, a large number of findings are arrived at. All the findings of the study are given below:

Function of Transfer of Technology

1. All the necessary information for the survival of Rubber Producers’ Societies are collected by a vast majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies.

2. The Rubber Board supplies maximum of information required by Rubber Producers’ Societies. It is the single largest source of information for Rubber Producers’ Societies.

3. A vast majority of RPS collect information from the visits made by the Rubber Board officers.

4. Proper, regular and effective communication with member growers exist only in just majority of 55% of Rubber Producers’ Societies.

5. Majority of the member growers visit the Rubber Producers’ Societies only for meetings and assistance.
6. Majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies member growers do not maintain regular contacts with the office bearers. This results in the strained relationship with the office bearers and thus affects the smooth functioning of Rubber Producers’ Societies.

7. Majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies members consider the contacts not necessary and others found no time or no facilities for the contact.

8. Lack of proper education of office bearers and the members on the functioning and benefit of RPS is the main reason for the non distribution of Articles among members.

9. In majority of the RPS literature is not distributed among members thus resulting in no exchange of information to them.

10. The non distribution of literature shows gross disinterest both on the part of the members and office bearers.

11. Only 24 out of 200 Rubber Producers’ Societies collect and disseminate literature and articles among the members. Thus majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies do not involve in this practice.

12. The absence of interest on the part of both the office-bearers and the members and the shortage of facilities in Rubber Producers’ Societies are found to be the contributing factors for the state of affairs of no transfer of information.
13. The performance of Rubber Producers’ Societies is satisfactory with respect to the provision of all the available facilities of planting and replanting.

14. Only 50% of Rubber Producers’ Societies surveyed are providing their members the facilities of productivity enhancement.

15. The facilities provided by Rubber Producers’ Societies are very important from the member growers’ viewpoint and most of the members make use of the facilities.

16. The main hindrance in the Leaf and Soil analysis is the negative attitude of the members followed by lack of interest among Board of Directors and lack of awareness of the importance of such an analysis.

17. Rs. 20 per sample is fairly reasonable charge for Leaf and Soil Analysis even though the analysis involves lot of expenditure.

18. The members are very much interested in seeking the services of Rubber Producers’ Societies for productivity increase and number of members benefited go on increasing from year to year.

19. 84% of the Rubber Producers’ Societies under study have arranged demonstrations before the Rubber Board authorities to show their intention of enhancement of productivity of labour.
20. Majority of the Rubber Producers’ Societies have taken necessary steps for follow up of productivity measures. This will definitely ensure that the members are very much keen on enhancement of productivity.

21. Only 6% of the members of Rubber Producers’ Societies under study were reluctant to carry out the activities as per the directions of the Rubber Producers’ Societies.

22. 74% of the total help for productivity comes from Rubber Board initiated Trading Companies, while 12% from Marketing Societies, 8% from other Government Agencies and 6% from Private Dealers.

Function of Collection, Processing and Marketing of Rubber

Produce

23. The collection centres in Kerala are mostly multi-functional as it collects Scrap, Latex and Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS).

24. Most of the collection centres are owned by the Rubber Producers’ Societies followed by the rented buildings and lease hold properties.

25. The main source of funding for the asset of collection centres come from the Rubber Board.

26. Latex collection has increased by about 95.4% during a four year period which is a very positive indicator of the performance of the collection centres and the effective collection procedure.
27. It is revealed from the table that in four years only below 43% of the latex procured are processed into sheets and the latex sold as such ranges between 57% and 65% of the procurement.

28. There is an increasing trend of procurement and marketing of rubber sheets by Rubber Producers’ Societies.

29. There has been 82.6% increase in the quantity of scrap procured. The number of members who were at an advantage increased marginally by 36.31%.

30. The prices of rubber produce fluctuate from year to year.

31. The marketing of the three products are shared by the Rubber Board initiated bodies, Marketing Societies and Private dealers.

32. Different rubber produce have the tendency to rise both in terms of quantity and value. It indicates the higher involvement of member growers in the marketing process of RPS.

33. The Rubber Producers’ Societies having Group Processing Centres is found to have the required infrastructure for processing latex.

34. Land and furniture for Group Processing Centres have been mainly acquired with the money contributed by the members in form of donation and loans.

35. The conditions for installing GPC require sufficient financial capacity and an efficient team of office bearers and members of RPS.
36. The information from the Rubber board, the periodical statistics from other journals and the most available source of all – the newspaper, has been the most important sources of marketing information. This is an indication to the Rubber Producers’ Societies to enhance their image as a repository of information and knowledge on all matters relating to the rubber production, harvestation, marketing, price determination etc.

37. The Rubber Board initiated companies are the second main information providers on marketing.

38. Rubber Producers’ Societies undertook demonstrations, seminars, field visits and workshops for ensuring the enhanced quality of the sheets produced.

39. 70% of RPS have not taken any steps to export Natural Rubber. Only a minority responded positively in this regard.

**Function of Supply of Inputs**

40. For the procurement of inputs supplied, Rubber Board is approached by about 60% of the RPS followed by the Trading companies (30%) and private dealers (10%).

41. The inputs procured by RPS from Rubber Board show a fluctuating trend during the four year period.

42. The number of members decreased and the total value of inputs increased as far as the trading with the Trading Companies are concerned.
43. The inputs purchased from private dealers fluctuate highly and the number of members benefited are more or less same during the period.

44. Of the 200 RPS visited the fertilizers are supplied at an average of 60% of the total quantity, 20% spray and 10% each rain guarding materials and acid to its member growers.

**Function of Training and Extension Programmes**

45. Rubber Producers’ Societies conducts mainly seminars to discuss latest technology. Most of these discussions revolve around the aspects of cultivation and its related activities. The cultivation centred discussions can be attributed to the importance of increasing productivity through advanced technology.

46. Lack of proper facility can be attributed as the main reason for the non-conduct of the discussions on technology transfer by some RPS. Lack of genuine interest on the part of the Rubber Producers’ Societies is another reason for the same.

47. Cultivation related aspects such as tapping and production enhancement has been the themes of seminars for the initial years. The trend of themes changed as the years progressed with increased focus on processing and marketing.

48. Rubber Producers’ Societies have conducted more number of half day meetings and group meetings. The participation is sparse for promotional campaign when compared to the other three forms of meetings.
49. The attendance of the Rubber Producers’ Societies representatives in the regional and national seminars of the growers is very low.

50. Member growers who attended the seminars ultimately benefitted from these seminars. The benefits include latest technology (30%), Varieties of assistance (30%), Capacity Building (30%) and combination of all (10%).

51. Ignorance about the benefits accrued from the growers meet or seminar at the regional and national level prevents the Rubber Producers’ Societies representatives from attending the same.

52. The members and the office bearers of the Rubber Producers’ Societies have seldom got the opportunity to participate in Radio and television programmes on Rubber. The absence of facilities is cited as a major reason for the non attendance of the programmes on Television and radio on rubber. The lack of interest among the members and the Board of Directors is equally to blame for the lack of participation.

53. Most of the Rubber Producers’ Societies interviewed function as the agents of the Rubber Board for implementing extension programmes and developmental activities.

54. Almost 98% of RPS are satisfied with the arrangements made by the Rubber board for the training and other developmental activities.

55. The most common study and training programme arranged by the Rubber Board is the Satrdarshan with almost 82% of the RPS agreeing to its advantage.
56. The number of Self Help Group is on a rise for the first years but comes down considerably in the last years of observations.

Function of Linkage with other Organizations

57. A very sound and healthy relationship is maintained by majority Rubber Producers’ Societies with the Rubber Board. The nature of the linkages with Rubber Board is mostly technical, financial assistance and training programmes is another area of linkage.

58. The role of Rubber Board initiated companies is limited to the technical and inputs aspect of the rubber production. Quality up gradation is an area of focus as far as the technical guidance extended by the Companies promoted by Rubber Producers’ Societies is concerned. These companies play a major role of technical guidance to Rubber Producers’ Societies.

59. Only 120 RPS have associated with the Panchayath Institutions. Panchayath Institutions facilitate the establishment of the Rubber Producers’ Societies at a rate of 48% of the total services. The reason for the lower rate of association with the Panchayath Institutions, is the fact that these institutions do support the Rubber Producers’ Societies financially only at 15%.

60. All the 200 Rubber Producers’ Societies have a working relationship with the banks in lieu of the accounts opened for deposits.
61. The Rubber Producers’ Societies act as agents of State Governments for implementing extension and developmental programmes.

62. Only 20% of the RPS have some sort of relationship with other RPS.

**Function of Membership Drive**

63. Both the number of training programmes and the number of participants increased by 65% and 78% respectively during the four year period.

64. The number of all types of meetings connected with training and extension increased during the four year period.

65. A positive trend in the membership drive of Rubber Producers’ Societies is noted. The growth of the membership in the Rubber Producers’ Societies has been on a rise from the year 2004. Necessity of Rubber Producers’ Societies is spreading over a large community of Rubber Growers.

**Function of Raising and Utilizing Funds**

66. The sources of funds of RPS include membership fee (1.11%) annual subscription (2.08%), assistance from Rubber Board (95.79%), borrowing (0.83%) and others (0.19%). There is also an increase of 39.55% in the source of funds during 2004 – 2008.

67. The total service charges show an increasing trend year after year.
Function of Maintenance of Accounts and its Audit

68. Scientific system of maintaining the books of accounts is present only in about 50% of the total number of Rubber Producers’ Societies under study. The other 50% do not have proper accounting system.

69. About 44% of Rubber Producers’ Societies employ paid assistant for keeping the books of accounts, while 56% have members who do own Accounting.

70. The turnover of RPS shows a very high positive trend of increase during the four year period.

71. The surplus of RPS shows an increasing trend during the last two years.

72. 62% of the Rubber Producers’ Societies conduct yearly audit of accounts on a regular basis while 38% do not have the audit system.

73. The members’ default of various types make the audit a difficult task in Rubber Producers’ Societies.

74. There is delay in keeping accounts and its audit in 58% of Rubber Producers’ Societies.

75. Audit of majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies is not reliable and authentic because local and private accountants are employed for audit.

76. 82% of RPS do not circulate the audit report among the members.
**Function of Management**

77. Board of Directors of Rubber Producers’ Societies do not discharge all the functions as laid down in the Bye-Laws.

78. The various powers are exercised by Board of Directors depending upon the requirements of each circumstance.

79. The number of Executive meetings is increasing year by year which indicates increased volume of business activities throughout the four year period.

80. The members do not show much interest in participating in the General Body Meeting. Full attendance of members is not ensured in all the meetings.

81. Majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies (69%) monitor the execution of decisions taken in General Body and Executive Meetings only periodically.

82. In 88% of Rubber Producers’ Societies there is regular participation of members of Rubber Board in all the meetings of members.

83. 92% of Rubber Producers’ Societies receive administrative advice from Rubber Board and they act accordingly.
Function of Social Commitments

84. A total of 284 social activities in a four year period which comes to 71 activities per year for all the 200 RPS under study have been undertaken as a part of Social Commitment.

Problems of Management

85. Most of the Rubber Producers’ Societies do not have efficient management, which reflects in their performance and results.

86. 79% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have credible management and only 21% lack credibility.

87. In 64% of Rubber Producers’ Societies, the Board of Directors find sufficient time for managerial performance while 36% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have Board of Directors with no or less time to devote to Rubber Producers’ Societies activities.

88. Only Board of Directors of 25% Rubber Producers’ Societies have self commitment to implement new schemes and ideas. 75% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have Board of Directors who have no such commitment.

89. The lack of service attitude of Board of Directors affect adversely the smooth functioning of Rubber Producers’ Societies.
90. Only 72% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have Board of Directors possessing the required managerial skills and it affects favourably in the services provided by Rubber Producers’ Societies.

91. 78% of Rubber Producers' Societies have Board of Directors possessing the required skill of marketing which help them in enhancing the results of marketing efforts.

92. Majority of Rubber Producers’ Societies, 69%, do not have Board of Directors possessing the quality of co-operation for social achievements.

93. Majority of Board of Directors of Rubber Producers’ Societies have the ability to speak fluently in Malayalam in the public use and they are able to communicate and interact with others without extra effort.

94. 52% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have Board of Directors who are ready to participate in public affairs. They are confident to interact with the community which they serve.

95. Only 55% of Rubber Producers’ Societies have Board of Directors who are able to integrate the agencies in their district for the common good of their Rubber Producers’ Societies.

96. 65% of RPS have Board of Directors who co-operate with members in the functioning of RPS while 35% do not have the co-operative attitude.

97. Board of Directors of 53% of Rubber Producers’ Societies do take initiative and steps to have networking with other organizations, while
the Board of Directors of remaining Rubber Producers’ Societies do not take any initiative in this respect.

98. Only Board of Directors of 11% of Rubber Producers’ Societies do have the skill for mobilizing funds though their political contact.

99. The majority of Board of Directors do not involve in local issues and hence they are relieved from such issues. Local support is lacking for those Rubber Producers’ Societies.

Problems of Members

100. Majority of the members of Rubber Producer’s Societies under study (85%) are aware of the collective achievements made by Rubber Producer’s Societies.

101. Only 78% of Rubber Producer’s Societies have majority members who are committed to the Rubber Producer’s Societies and who are faithful and loyal to the fellow members.

102. 88% of Rubber Producer’s Societies do not have any political affinity and hence they do not have any pressure or influence on activities of their Rubber Producer’s Societies.

103. 69% of the Rubber Producer’s Societies have members who have the feelings that Rubber Producer’s Societies lack proper infrastructure for the procurement and processing. They feel that this disadvantage has an adverse influence on the smooth flow of the activities of Rubber Producer’s Societies.
104. 66% of Rubber Producer’s Societies have members who do not have any difficulty of lack of financial resources to settle their accounts.

105. 51% of the Rubber Producer’s Societies have members the majority of which attend the meeting regularly.

106. 59% of Rubber Producer’s Societies have members having the feeling that Board of Directors have the ability and hence efficient to resolve disputes and non-cooperativeness among members.

107. 38% of RPS do not feel the impact of commitment, control and efficiency on the successful functioning of RPS.

Financial Problems

108. Borrowed funds cannot be considered as a common source of funds in all Rubber Producer’s Societies under study.

109. 184 Rubber Producer’s Societies covering 92% mobilize own funds.

110. 96% of Rubber Producer’s Societies including 192 Rubber Producer’s Societies get financial assistance in various forms from Rubber Board.

111. 176 RPS do not find any difficulty in collecting the annual subscription fee from members. These RPS collect the fee regularly within a prescribed period of time.
112. 88% of Rubber Producer’s Societies do not entertain the donation system. They state that the members should not be given heavy financial burden for carrying out the activities of the Rubber Producer’s Societies.

113. 182 Rubber Producer’s Societies do not raise loan from their members. Members are either reluctant or unable to provide loan to Rubber Producer’s Societies. Thus majority of Rubber Producer’s Societies have to find other sources of funds.

114. 126 Rubber Producer’s Societies covering 63% of total raise loan from banks in case of need. Rubber Producer’s Societies provide available security for the loan.

115. Only 11 Rubber Producer’s Societies get financial assistance from Government and Non-Governmental agencies while 189 Rubber Producer’s Societies do not have financial support from government agencies.

**Problems of Collection, Processing and Marketing**

116. Only members of 56% of the RPS regularly supply at least the minimum stipulated quantity of rubber to the societies. Members of 88 societies are not regular in supplying rubber for marketing through RPS.

117. Although 170 RPS have the active proposals of establishing GPC, only 20% of RPS have their own GPC functioning with the help of which they can very conveniently and efficiently convert latex into sheets which can be sold in market at competitive prices.
Almost all Rubber Producer’s Societies under study have good dealings with the Trading Companies in marketing the produce of Rubber Producer’s Societies with the exception of a very few.

Unstable prices, changing terms and conditions etc. are some of the difficulties faced by the Rubber Producing Societies from private dealers.

Only a negligible 4% do have some sort of problems of trading with marketing societies.

Only a 2% of total Rubber Producing Societies have problems of transportation, which include high hire charges, non-availability, irregularity etc.

9.5 % of Rubber Producing Societies do not have own storage facility and hence they find very difficult to balance the supply and demand quantities of rubber produce.

Other Problems

16% of Rubber Producer’s Societies are located in urban area which make them not easy as for Rubber Producer’s Societies located in rural area.

Geographical barriers are present in 25 Rubber Producer’s Societies covering 12.5% of total Rubber Producer’s Societies.
125. 28% of Rubber Producer’s Societies do not have member growers having sufficient tappable areas. The insufficiency in the area give rise to a number of problems for such Rubber Producer’s Societies which include difficulties in marketing, processing and infrastructure.

126. 86% of total Rubber Producer’s Societies have Board of Directors who have no active interest in participating their vital Board meetings, while 67.5% of Rubber Producer’s Societies have Board of Directors who complaint about the heavy work load for not attending the meetings and 145 Rubber Producer’s Societies have Board of Directors who admit their lack of professionalisation

127. Majority of Rubber Producer’s Societies are reluctant in implementing new schemes and innovative ideas for better performance.

128. 60% of Rubber Producer’s Societies have Board of Directors who lack professional capabilities which are essential for creating new and innovative ideas.

129. Majority of Rubber Producer’s Societies do not keep proper accounts and hence they do not get reliable financial information in time.
6.2. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1 Strategies and Activities

Keeping in view the different aspects of working and problems of RPS, the following major strategies are evolved and suggested for improving the functioning of RPS

Implementation of each strategy requires a number of specific activities to be carried out in a systematic manner. Hence the strategies together with their activities are listed below:

Strategy 1: Selection of motivated office bearers in the society and thrust on building their capacity on job related aspects

- Motivation of existing office bearers and rubber growers through exposure visit to successful RPS.
- Proper selection of office bearers who have good respect in the community, interest in social service, sufficient time for RPS etc.
- Capacity building of office bearers on technological as well as management aspects with reference to specific jobs to be carried out (by using successful office bearers as trainers).
- Separate treatment of each RPS depending upon its stage of maturity and potential with regard to building of infrastructure, implementation of schemes etc.
- Social recognition of those office bearers of the RPS who are holding honorary jobs.

Strategy 2: Reforms in institutional set up at the village level

- Identification of families associated with each type of farming situations under which rubber is grown in the village.

- Identification and analysis of existing social groups (both formal and informal) in the concerned village.

- Identification of village based motivations, and training them for organization of SHG on contractual basis.

- Organization of self help groups (separately for men and women) through credit and thrift activity with the help of above local motivators.

- Initial provision of financial assistance to groups only for their capacity building regarding management of groups, record keeping, recovery of loan etc.

- Provision of financial assistance as marching grant to only those groups which become mature as per the proper criteria.

- Identification of needs of group members regarding management of rubber enterprise (to be addressed by RPS).

- Nomination of group leaders / representatives in the management committee of RPS.
Active participation by above representatives in the management committee of RPS to make it more and need oriented.

Strategy 3: Implementation of extension and developmental schemes of rubber production department by the society.

- Clarity in role and responsibility of RPD and RPS regarding implementation of extension and development activities.
- Focus on generation of success stories by RPD and replication of success stories by RPS.
- Revising budget estimates of extension and developmental schemes in such a way that there is adequate provision for management component (for RPS) besides the development component (for rubber growers).
- Low priority to new plantation/replantation of rubber in traditional areas by RPD and diverting the time of extension officers for building the capacity of RPS.
- Fostering proper accountability in RPS through ‘contractual system’ of operation.
- Proper emphasis on bio-diversity while expanding the area under rubber.
- Replacing the system of hiring extension agents from monthly salaries basis to contractual basis.
• Enlarging the scope of extension in such a way that it gives emphasis not only on production enhancement aspects but also on processing, marketing, community organizations etc.

• Providing funds for carrying out participatory on – farm research on specific issues being faced by respective RPS.

• Provision of extension services by RPS to its members as well as non-members on contractual basis in order to make it economically viable.

• Promoting situation specific approach in research and extension.

Strategy 4: Provisions of other services to farmers on contractual basis.

• Description and classification of proposed jobs into specific petty works.

• Reducing the cost of services training local people to carry out above works.

• Autonomy to RPS to identify local persons for above works.

• Provision of other services by RPS not only to its members but also non-members on contractual basis in order to make it economically viable.

• Elimination of those activities for which neither RPD nor farmers are willing to pay the service charges.
Strategy 5  Focus on processing and marketing of good quality rubber sheet by the society.

- Priority to produce good quality rubber sheet (RSS-1x) in those RPS which are already having community smoke house.
- Training of workers associated with community smoke house on improved techniques for processing of rubber for good quality sheet.
- Exploring the possibility of producing good quality rubber sheet even through individual smoke house, local chimney, sun drying method etc.
- Evolving simplified quantifiable parameters for grading of good quality rubber sheets.
- Developing skills among office bearers of RPS for proper grading of good quality rubber sheets. Developing forward linkage of RPS with appropriate marketing agencies dealing with good quality rubber sheets.
- Flexibility in processing of rubber into different types of produce based upon market demand.
- Providing support for market intelligence about relative price of different types of produce based upon market demand.
- Providing support for market intelligence about relative price of different types of rubber produce (latex to high grade sheet)
• Providing financial incentives for bio gas plants to use rubber waste after its processing.

• Use of byproduct (after rubber processing) as a manure in horticultural plantation.

• Provision of one time revolving fund to RPF for creating a corpus fund for managing the market activity.

• Facilitating marketing of high quality sheets by RPS rather than providing subsidy on procurement of rubber during years when market price is low.

• Supply of more number of community smoke houses per RPS in case there is a demand for production of high grade rubber sheet.

• Provision of additional capital to rubber companies for taking up rubber sheet marketing for RPS.

• Developing forward linkage of rubber board companies with commercial companies dealing with high grade rubber sheets (by opening rubber board sale counters in different sales on commercial basis).

• Net working among different companies of rubber board in order to empower them for carrying out marketing job in an efficient manner.

• Organization of resource poor rubber growers so that they could make proper use of services provided by RPS.
Critical analysis of existing institutions which are providing, processing and marketing support to growers with a view to work out a separate nitch for RPS.

Focus on training of women tappers at village level by using successful women tappers.

Reorientation of extension staff to provide management support to RPS on processing and marketing aspects besides enhancement of productivity.

Strategy 6: Flexibility to society in day to day management

Orientation of office bearers of RPS about operational norms to be followed for day to day functioning of the society regarding various services to its members.

Review of operational norms with respect to their relevance, effectiveness etc.

Redesigning of norms as per the specific situation of the concerned society with a view to make it financially sustainable.

Introducing the operational mechanism to make the management system transparent in decision making.
Strategy 7: Promoting appropriate type of financial approach

- Understanding the financial rules and limitation in providing profit oriented services by society under charitable society act, co-operatives society act and company act.

- Analysis of financial approach being followed by successful RPS in the context of rules and regulations of societies registered under the charitable society act.

- Discussion with professional consultants about the most suitable way of providing service to members on commercial aspects of rubber by the RPS under the charitable society act.

- Orientation of office bearers and the community members about the distinction between different types societies/companies with respect to their scope and limitation for providing commercial services.

Strategy 8: Adequate preparedness of community before registration of the society.

- Exposure of community members to successful RPS for their motivation.

- Detailed orientation of community about functioning of RPS and also about the role and responsibility to be performed by office bearers and the members.
Organization of community into small homogenous groups (for men as well as women) based upon social affinity or farming situations under which rubber is grown or both. Analysis of specific needs to be met by RPS for its members

- Registration of society under charitable society act and supply of various infrastructure facilities after proper motivation of the community.
- Identification of motivated office bearers of the societies and training them about various type of job related functions.

6.2.2 **Specific Recommendations**

A number of specific recommendations are given on the basis of the strategies suggested earlier. These recommendations are to be considered by the RB for action. The recommendations are under:

- Capacity building of office bearers of RPS on management aspects.
- Higher proportion of time to be devoted by extension officers for RPS.
- Focus on women tappers, self tapping farmers and non traditional areas.
- Bio-diversity in plantation of rubber.
- Change in extension approach.
- Redesigning of Budget Estimate for extension and developmental schemes.
- Integrated delivery of all components related to rubber enterprise.
Focus on small size of smoke house to save fuel conception.

Empowerment of community through organization of SHG

Situations specific research and extension.

De-registration of non-functional RPS.

Thrust on tapping of rubber in rainy season

R & D work for value addition in rubber at village level.

Continue with registration of RPS under Charitable Society’s Act.

### 6.2.3 Policy Initiatives

It is necessary that suitable policy initiatives or administrative steps should be taken to implement the proposed strategies and recommendations. The important policy and management considerations are suggested as under.

- Provision of one time grant of seed money to RPS for promoting marketing activities.
- Provision of one time matching revolving fund for organization of community in the Self Help Groups.
- Shifting of plantation scheme from traditional to non-traditional area.
- New role and space for RPS
- Direct funding to RPS towards implementation of various schemes.
- Capacity building of RPS in marketing through trading companies of rubber board.
• Financial incentive for construction of smoke house

• Processing and trading in the hands of RPS.

• Using office bearers of successful RPS as consultants for other RPS

• Replacement of hired extension agents with petty job workers from local areas.

To conclude the different departments of Rubber Board will have to play new roles for improving the functioning of RPS. The Rubber Board Production Department, Research Department, Processing and Marketing Department and Trading Companies should have the respective crucial roles to play to strengthen the working of RPS.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The scope of Indian Rubber Industry is very wide in that a number of important aspects of the industry is worth for research studies. It is considered important to study the problems of both Rubber Plantation and Manufacturing Industries in Kerala. The impact of Rubber Industry on the economy of Kerala is another area of proposed research. The functions of Rubber Board with special emphasis to RPS is also an area of study. A comparative study between RPS and Rubber Marketing Co-operatives in Kerala is worth studying in order to bring out various defects and imperfections in their working. Further a comparative study is also possible between RPS in Kerala and RPS in Tamil Nadu with a view to throw light on the glaring dissimilarities between them. Also a research study is worth with respect to a comparison between Rubber Plantation and other important
Plantation Industries of Kerala. These types of research studies shall help the concerned authorities to plan the appropriate developmental activities for the betterment of the Rubber Industry.

6.4 **CONCLUSION**

The study has revealed that the Rubber Producers’ Societies have a very great role to play with respect to Natural Rubber in quality upgradation, limiting of exploitation, assured market and price through out the year and ensured better price realization and economic gain. Formation of village level association functioning in the form of Rubber Producers’ Societies and in the style of self-help group is a rational approach to socio economic upliftment. Augmented supporting activities lead to productivity escalation and result in organizational development which could lead to self reliance. RPS can be instrumental in the overall development of the rubber farming community it is serving. The sustainability of small and marginal farmers can be ensured if RPS can be made more responsible and still more efficient and effective.