

# A JOURNEY OF RUBBER PLANTATION IN GARO HILLS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



THE CHALLENGES

OPPORTUNITIES

WAY FORWARD &  
NEW VENTURE



# GARO HILLS BEFORE RUBBER PLANTATION



# Early Condition of the people



❖ Poverty

❖ Malnutrition

❖ Illiteracy

❖ Unemployment

❖ Lack of  
infrastructure

# Introduction of rubber cultivation in 1987

First Exposure visit and training in Kerala



## Awareness and trainings in villages in Garo Hills



**I helped 500 farmers in 21 villages 1987-90**

# Impact of Rubber Plantation



**FAMILY DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF RUBBER CULTIVATION IN 1988**



**BUILT A NEW HOUSE IN 2005 through the income generated from rubber cultivation.**

- ❖ Improved living condition.
- ❖ Began sending Children to good schools.
- ❖ Better food habits

# Start of MMCS for rubber marketing in 1997



Rubber Farmers selling their rubber sheets in 1997



Rubber Farmers selling their rubber sheets in the recent Years

**Established in 1997 as Rubber growers Society and registered as a multipurpose Cooperative Society in Dec 1998.**

**The vision** of the Society is to bring life to its fullness where every person has equal opportunities to live with dignity and self-respect.

**Goals and objectives:**

**The Goal of the Society is to help people to become self-reliant and sustainable through integrated developments, and by providing market facilities for their agricultural produce, especially of the marginal farmers in rural tribal area and expansion of plantations of rubber, Vanilla, Cocoa, black pepper etc.**



**By providing a reasonable price for the farm produce and through value addition, the MMCS ushered a silent economic revolution in Garo Hills and transformed the lives of poverty-stricken people.**

## **WAY FORWARD/NEW VENTURES By MMCS**

**Setting up of**

- a) Centrifuge Latex Factory - under construction**
- b) Unit for production of
  - ❖ Balloons**
  - ❖ Rubber Mattress**
  - ❖ Latex Based products****

## **Opportunities/Scope**

- > Scope for expansion due to the availability of vast area of land.**
- > Peoples interest in rubber plantation – provided Planting materials and better subsidy is given.**
- > Opportunities for setting up of factories.**
- > Export opportunities is at hand as all the NE states are surrounded by international border.**
- > More field offices by the Rubber Board & rubber marketing cooperatives.**

# The challenges

No reasonable rubber price, even the Rubber Board has a double standard in pricing for the North East.

Lack of Market facilities and communication  
Exploitation by money lenders and middle men.  
Reaching to remote areas is a hectic task due to lack of proper roads.

Non-availability of sufficient field Officers.

No 'price floor' is fixed by the State governments.  
Proper compensation is not given to the farmers, who face natural calamities such as storm, flood land slides etc.

# Replantation



**Focus for replantation need to be a priority as the people are shifting from Rubber to Areca Nut plantation.**

- How do we enhance the farmers income and sustainability?**
- How can we ensure a better profit for the farmers, when the manufacturers makes a huge profit?**

