

## EARLY GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN *HEVEA* CLONES FROM ON-FARM TRIALS IN GARO HILLS OF MEGHALAYA

Umesh Chandra, Ram Phool Singh, M.J. Reju\*, D. Panda\*\*, P. Khoyamthem\*\*\*,  
Gitali Das\*\* and Kavitha K. Mydin\*

Rubber Research Institute of India, Regional Research Station, Tura-794 001, Meghalaya, India

\* Rubber Research Institute of India, Regional Research Station, Guwahati-781 006, Assam, India

\*\* Rubber Research Institute of India, Regional Research Station, Guwahati-781 006, Assam, India

\*\*\* Central Agricultural University, Imphal-795 004, Manipur, India

\*\*\*\* Central Agricultural University, Imphal-795 004, Manipur, India

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Two on-farm trials (OFTs) were established in 2009 at Mendipather, North Garo Hills, Meghalaya. The trials were initiated to study the performance of certain selected clones of *Hevea brasiliensis* in the fields and the clones were planted in the fields of two progressive farmers at Mendipather. Six clones viz., RRIM 600, PB 235, RRII 203, RRII 417, RRII 422 and RRII 429 were planted in blocks. Data on girth and other secondary characters recorded during the initial years have been analysed in the present study. The highest girth was recorded in RRII 429 followed by RRII 417 whereas the lowest girth was recorded in RRII 422 in Field 1. In Field 2, maximum girth was recorded in PB 235 followed by RRII 203 and minimum was in RRII 422. Maximum bark thickness was recorded in PB 235 closely followed by RRII 429 whereas the lowest bark thickness was recorded in RRII 422. Performance of the clones based on absolute girth suggests the superiority of PB 235 and RRII 429 over RRIM 600 in the local agro-climatic conditions of North Garo Hills.

**Keywords:** Growth, *Hevea brasiliensis*, Meghalaya, North Garo Hills

Meghalaya is one of the potential states for rubber cultivation in the North East India. Rubber cultivation provides rural employment for the tribal population of Meghalaya. In Meghalaya, the Garo Hills regions, situated at 25°S to 26°S and 90°E to 92°E, are suitable for rubber cultivation compared to that of the Khasi and Jaintia hills of the state. The topography of the Garo

Hills region is mostly undulated and close to the border of Assam state. Though the performance of several *Hevea* clones have been tested in the clone evaluation trials of the Regional Research Station, Tura their performance in on-farm trials has not been tested in on-farm trials. Certain clones tested in large-scale trials in the Garo Hills and other regions of the North East India viz., RRII 203, PB 235 and RRIM 600