ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

A Study on Economic and Social Positioning of Rubber Growers in the Village Area with Special Reference to Nadiapara Village of Goalpara District, Assam

[1]Dr. Bablu Rabha

[1]Department of Accountancy Chhaygaon College, Chhaygaon Kamrup, Assam, India

Publication Date: 2025/11/28

Abstract: It is nearly impossible to imagine living in the modern world without rubber. Rubber is being used significantly in our day-to-day life and over the years we have become heavily dependent on it. The scope of Rubber is huge and its use in various forms has been rapidly increasing in the last few decades or so. In this regard the rubber growers have been playing a vital role for producing the commodity for our daily usage. The primary objective of rubber growers behind rubber cultivation is to make themselves financially sound through large scale plantation of rubber plant. Rubber plantation helps the rubber growers in attaining sound economic condition. Rubber plantation not only helps the rubber growers but also the society in which they live. It has been a general conception that if an individual becomes economically sound and stable then that person would feel empowered to initiate steps towards greater good of the society. Such measures inflict a desirable impact on the society as a whole. Therefore, this study is an attempt to explore and analyze such impacts and the extent of sustainable development in the society taking place due to rubber plantation.

Keywords: *Rubber Plantation, Society, Economic Condition, Sustainable Development.*

How to Cite: Dr. Bablu Rabha (2025) A Study on Economic and Social Positioning of Rubber Growers in the Village Area with Special Reference to Nadiapara Village of Goalpara District, Assam. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 10(11), 1817-1824. https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

I. INTRODUCTION

Rubber Plantation stands a serious agricultural activity in many rural areas, often serves as primary source of livelihood and important tool of local economy. The transition from traditional subsistence farming to a more structured, market-oriented system cantered on rubber has profound implications for the socio-economic landscape of these communities. This paper is focused and based primary to the village where rubber plantation helps and boost the village economy, objective to in-depth analysis of current economic situation and social status of its rubber growers.

Sustainable development in agriculture requires an understanding that economic viability cannot be divorced from social equity and environmental responsibility. For rubber cultivation to support long-term prosperity, it is essential to assess how current practices affect growers' income levels, access to resources, community status, and overall quality of life. By examining factors such as land tenure, market access, income stability, educational attainment, and participation in community decision-making processes, this research seeks to identify key challenges and opportunities facing these farmers.

The main objective of this study is to analyse the existing frameworks that initiate the growers' capacity to pursue sustainable livelihoods. The findings generated from this analysis will provide valuable insights into developing targeted interventions and policy recommendations designed to enhance the resilience and sustainability of rubber-based livelihoods, thereby fostering a more equitable and prosperous future for the entire village community.

Environment is the sum total of all surroundings of a living organism as well as non-living, including natural forces and other living things which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage. Living things do not simply exist in the environment but they constantly interact with it. Organisms adapt to response in conditions as per their environment.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Basically, rubber is a polymer consisting of hydrogen and carbon and is elastic in nature. It can be made artificially, although it is an extract found in the fluid of some particular plants. Naturally, rubber is produced by the process of tapping

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

of the plant called Rubber Plant (Hevea Brasiliensis). These plants generally have 32 years (before 7 years pre-matured period and after 7 years matured period) of economic life but they may live up to 100 years or even more.

India ranks as the second-largest consumer of natural rubber globally and is the fourth-largest producer, holding 7% of the international market share. Additionally, it is the fourth-largest consumer of both natural and synthetic rubber combined and is the leading producer of reclaimed rubber in the world. In fact, India and China are the only two countries in the world which have the capacity to consume the entire indigenous production of natural rubber and thereby obviate the compulsion and over dependence on exports of surplus quantity of natural rubber. The plantation sector with an estimated production of over 106 hundred thousand mt tones of natural rubber and a projected production of more than one million tonnes in near future, helps radical and rapid growth of the Indian rubber industry. The growth prospect is further enlarged by a boom in the vehicle industry, improved living standards of the masses and rapid over-all industrialization.

There are over a million households in India that are directly dependent on natural rubber plantations for their livelihood. Much more is the number of people dependent on natural rubber processing and product making sectors in the country.

With an annual turnover of over Rs 1100 crores in 2021, rubber cultivation in the North-eastern States has emerged a major player in the economy. There are lot of initiatives driven by government in North-East India to fulfilled the growing demand of the rubber. By the end of the year 2025, aims to develop 200,000 hectares of land under rubber cultivation giving a big boost to the rural economy of the region under the initiatives of The ATMA (Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association). Rubber grows easily in the North East regions owing to large tracts of unused land and inexpensive labour. Not only earning money but it also has various positive impacts on the society and the way of living of the beneficiaries. In the North Eastern States of India, natural rubber cultivation has greatly helped to reclaim ecosystems that were severely degraded due to intensive shifting cultivation practiced by the native tribes. Community-based natural rubber cultivation has helped this individual to enhance their standard of living and integrate with the main stream of the society. In Assam, the Farmers are taking up highly lucrative rubber cultivation on a large scale, as future prospects of the rubber industry grow brighter, as the Government has come up with various schemes for the entire region**.** Considering the excellent potential of the growth of rubber plantation in the state, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Rubber Board has implemented various projects such as the 'Accelerated Development of Rubber Plantation' and 'Rubber Development within the North East'. The high demands for rubber in the national and international markets will help the economy of the state and improve the living standards of the farmers in the state.

Sensing the pulse of the rising demand for rubber products in markets across the country, farmers in various districts of Assam are taking up rubber cultivation on a grand scale. Rubber growers are tending to these crops leaving other corresponding crops from where they cannot get their expected benefit. That is to say that the crops have much more benefits in comparisons to other corresponding crops they usually engaged in. Not only the rubber grower himself is engaged in the activity but also offers job opportunities to other unemployed youths either male or female. Moreover, the crops last much longer than any other field crops (production of rubber tree last for at least 30 years)

In Goalpara District also the people have realized the benefits of rubber cultivation and are shifting their occupation towards the prospective venture. Rubber plantations are resulting in increasing prosperity among folks of Goalpara district. A lot of success stories have emerged mostly targeted around those that have taken to growing rubber trees in their farms.

In Nadiapara village also raised the level of rubber plantation from last 20 years. In last 20 years, almost 90% of the people planted natural rubber and almost all growers got productions from rubber trees. In this village, people have shifted their cultivation to rubber cultivation and they have benefited out of it.

By observing all the prospect and potentiality of the rubber plantation for an improved livelihood of the rubber growers in general and in this village an in-depth study is necessary. Therefore, it is an attempt to assess the "Economic and Social Positioning of Rubber Growers for Sustainable Development in the Village Area". In view of the above, this study is undertaken with the following objectives.

➢ *Objectives of the Study*

- To analyze the economic conditions of the rubber cultivators.
- To study the social impact on the society.
- To ascertain whether any help has been received for the rubber board or government agencies.

III. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

A highlight of some research works that were being reviewed before undertaking the present study are as follows:

Sukanta Sarkar (2011), "Rubber Plantation: A new hope for rural tribal's in Tripura". This paper attempts to highlight the sources of income from rubber plantation. It has studied that various government agencies are working rehabilitate the tribal people through rubber plantation. In his study it was found that tribal's can earn income from both immature and mature plantation but the scope of income in mature plantation is higher than immature plantation.

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

Thomash Jose (1979), has made an in-depth study on "The Economics of Rubber Plantation Industry in Kerala" (PhD thesis). According to him plantations sector has been playing a very important role in the Indian Economy since it provides a major source of revenue, foreign exchange earnings and employment. From the study it was also seen that comparatively is estates enjoy high rate of profit than the small holdings.

According to Singh et al. (2021), The growing global need for latex is driving rubber plantation (RP) expansion since the last century, with >2 Mha of cultivation area being established in the last decade. although rubber cultivation has improved the economic status of farmers, it has altered the habitat's ecology and ecosystem functions (EF). In this context, Heriberta et al. (2022) noted that women participate in the rubber plantation is to support family income in fulfilling family's daily needs and support their child's education.

Dao (2018) argues that the process of becoming a rubber worker and adapting to the new way of living has indeed added new roles and responsibilities for women and at the same time, it has undermined men's values and reshaped gender relations both within and outside the home (Dao,2018).

According to Mohapatra (2022), rubber cultivation programs in Tripura has outlined a number of benefits: reduced poverty, enhanced the socioeconomic condition of the erstwhile poor jhumias (shifting cultivators) and landless families (now RPHH), and also strengthened their coping strategies to overcome crisis and shock. The author further noted that the quality of life of the tribal households have improved significantly in terms of income, asset creation, food and clothing, children's education, family healthcare, changes in their attitudes and habits, improvement in village infrastructure, and overall well-being.

N.M. Mathew (2011) of Indian Rubber Institute, Kerala Branch conducted a study on "Rubber Products Manufacturing Industry, Current Trends and Future Prospects" with the objectives to study the factors contributing to the growth in rubber production and consumption, structure, performance, foreign trade and important characteristics of the Indian Rubber Industry.

An important study by Dr. Dharmendra Nath (2010), "Economics of Rubber Plantation in Non-Traditional Areas-A study with reference to Goalpara District of Assam", reveals the growth of Rubber plantation in the district. Rubber has emerged as means of economic empowerment for the weaker sections of tribal and backward communities of the district. It has generated income and employment in the district. It also found in the study that income from the rubber is the main source of earning for the majority of the growers and they utilized then profit earned from rubber to diversified economic activities.

➢ *Profile of the Study Area:*

We have studied and collected information from rubber growers of Nadiapara village of Balijana block which comes under Goalpara District, Assam. Nadiapara village is mainly tribal populated village connected by good road transportation facilities from all sites of area. Village comes under NH-37, nearby the famous and beautiful Naranarayan Bridge over Brahmaputra River. The distance of the area is approximately 140 kms from Guwahati and almost 18 kms from Goalpara town. The majority of the people are tribal in this area and 80% of people are Rabha community. Rice cultivation is the primary livelihood in this area. East side of the village is Tilapara village, West side of this village is beautiful Nalanga Pahar, North side of the village is Chotodamal village and south of this village is Gasiapara village.

IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The following research methodology has been used to conduct this study:

➢ *Area of Study:*

A survey was conducted within Nadiapara village under Balijana block of Goalpara district where Rubber Plantation are undertaken by selecting some respondents randomly from among the rubber growers.

➢ *Data Collection Method:*

The required data has been collected through primary and secondary souces. Primary data has been focused in collecting through conducting field survey and personal interview with the rubber growers and the secondary data was collected by using books, periodicals, journals, rubber board materials and online sources.

➢ *Method of Sampling:*

Simple random sampling has been applied for collecting information randomly from 20 rubber growers were selected from the Nadiapara village under Balijana block of Goalpara District.

➢ *Questionnaire Design:*

Researcher were collected primary data with the help of well framed schedules questions. The multiple-choice questions are brief, straightforward, open-ended, avoiding doubled-barrelled question and by using simple language.

➢ *Research Tools:*

Analysing the research data mostly tables and diagrams are used.

➢ *Sampling Plan:*

The Sampling Plan adopted to conduct the study is as follows:

- *Sampling Unit:*

For the study, the Rubber grower of Nadiapara village under Balijana block of Goalpara District has been selected.

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

- *Sample Size:*

The study consists of 62 rubber growers as population. The researcher has selected 30% of the total rubber growers under the study which counted to 19. But in order to avoid sampling error the researcher has considered the sample size as 20 growers comprising randomly.

➢ *Limitations of the Study:*

The study has been concluded with the following limitations:

- The study is based upon randomly selected sample size of 20 respondents. The sample may not be adequate representing of the population of the Nadiapara village in balijana block of Goalpara District.
- Growers responds stood as a hurdle on gathering information from them.
- The proper secondary data selection in the study.
- Last but not the least; study avoids some scientific problems and prospect.
- Study is limited to registered rubber growers only.

V. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Analysis and findings can be categorized with following two heads according to the objectives of the study; and explanations are given below:

➢ *Analysis:*

- *Economic Changes Due to Rubber Plantation:*

The data collected from 20 respondents have been classified on the basis of Average yearly earning capacity of the rubber growers. The distribution is shown in table and line diagram below:

Table 1 Income Change Before and After Rubber Plantation

Respondents	Average annual income of the respondents	Income change	Change of Amount	Percentage Change
	Before Rubber plantation (round at thousand)	After rubber plantation (round at thousand)		
1	72000	700000	628000	872
2	56000	560000	504000	900
3	68000	720000	652000	959
4	80000	630000	550000	688
5	116000	860000	744000	641
6	84000	760000	676000	805
7	108000	720000	612000	567
8	72000	720000	648000	900
9	116000	680000	564000	486
10	124000	760000	636000	513
11	64000	660000	596000	931
12	92000	640000	548000	596
13	96000	760000	664000	692
14	100000	924000	824000	824
15	112000	760000	648000	579
16	44000	520000	476000	1082
17	52000	640000	588000	1131
18	72000	520000	448000	622
19	88000	900000	812000	923
20	100000	720000	620000	620
Average Total	85800	707700	621900	725

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

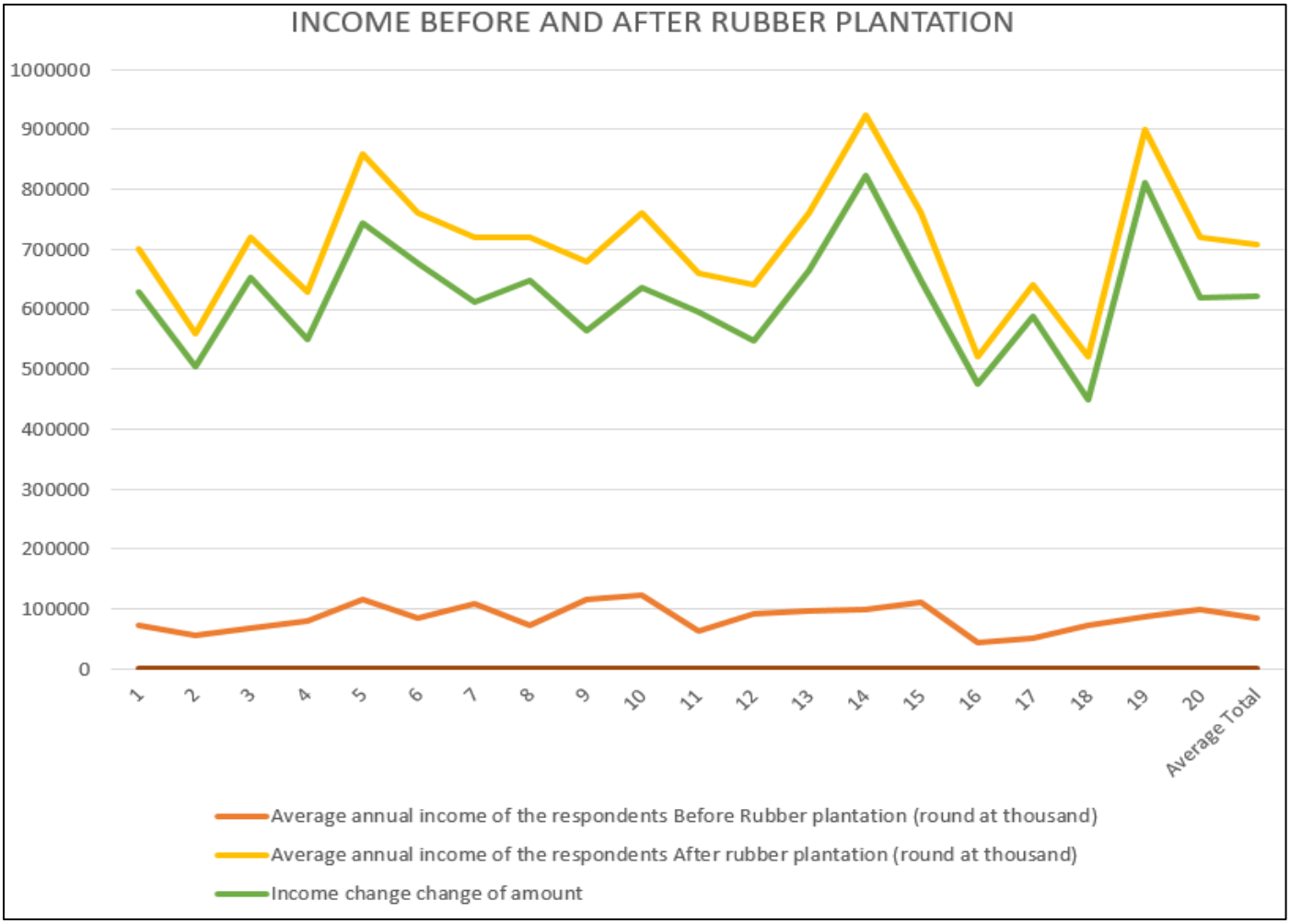

Fig 1 Two Different Lines Shows the Income Level Before and After Implementation of Rubber Plantation

- *Interpretation:*

The data clearly indicates the income parity between before and after rubber plantation. Diagram clearly shows the average income level consistently lower, primarily below lakh rupees whereas, following the rubber plantation income levels saw immense rise which a very good income for a small farmer. With the help of rubber plantation, the economic condition of the growers was much better than their earlier condition. Overall, the data suggests that converting land to rubber plantations had a significant positive impact on income, aligning with findings from various studies that show such initiatives can boost rural household financial security and provide a steady income stream once the trees reach maturity.

➢ *Impact on Social Stability Due to Rubber Plantation:*

The data collected from 20 respondents have been classified on the basis of before and after rubber plantation. The distribution is shown in table and line diagram below:

Table 2 Impact on Social Stability Due to Rubber Plantation:

Social Stability	**Before**	**After**		
Respondents	Yes	No	Yes	No
Living Standard	1	19	20	0
Poverty Reduction	1	19	20	0
Health & Nutrition	9	11	20	0

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

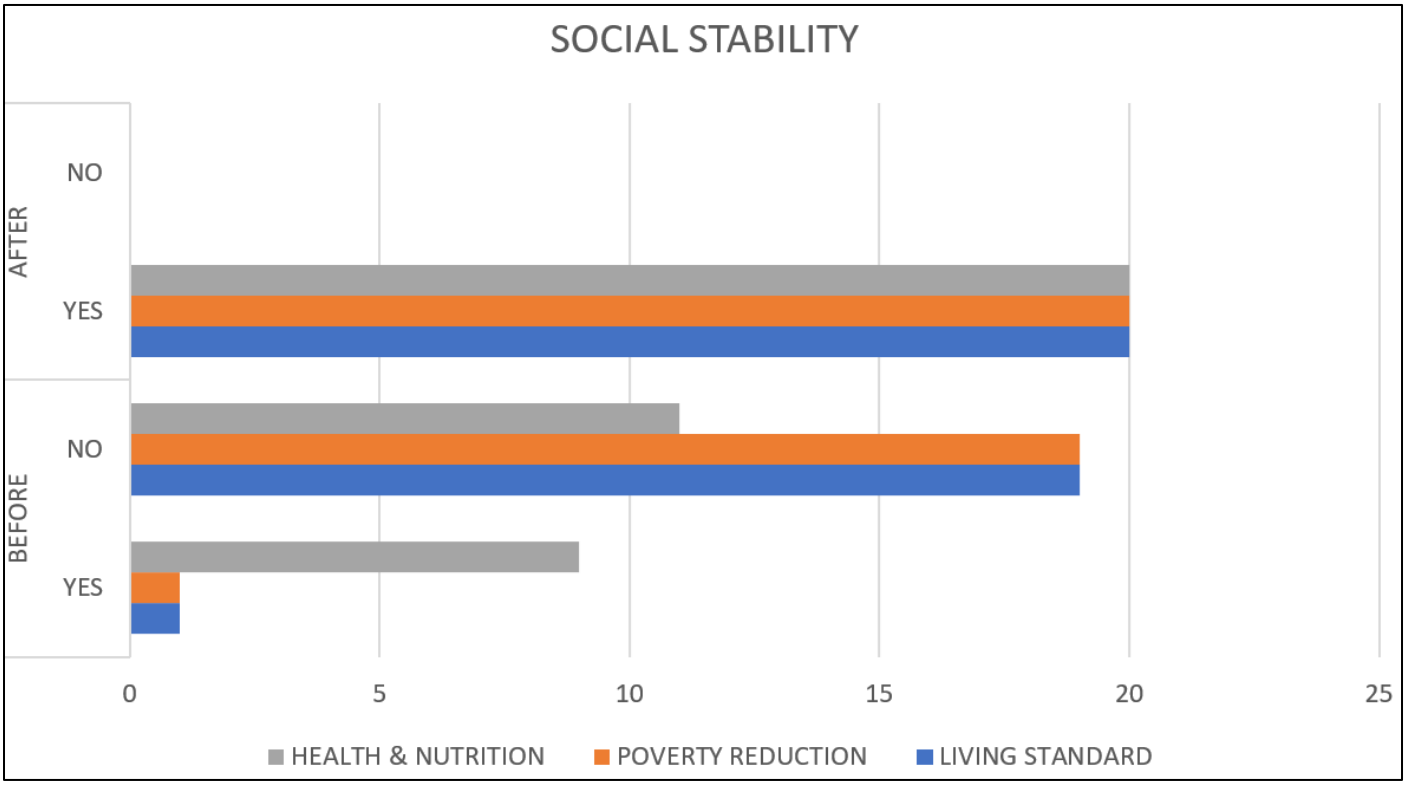

Fig 2 Impact on Social Stability Due to Rubber Plantation

- *Interpretation:*

The data clearly shows the movement of social stability towards improved living standard, poverty reduction and better health & nutrition. The higher income helps to uplift communities from poverty, increased durable assets, renovate and construct houses, buy better food, vehicles etc. Before the rubber plantation traditional corps are primary income source but commercial rubber becomes primary income source after rubber plantation. Likewise, income stability is low and highly unstable but after rubber plantation income level are higher and more stable.

➢ *Support Provided by Government Organizations or the Rubber Board:*

The data collected from the respondents based on Support received from the Rubber Board or Government Agencies has been mentioned below:

Table 3 Support Provided by Government Organizations or the Rubber Board:

Type of Support Availed	Rubber Growers Holding	
	Count	Percentage
Only Training	0	0
Only Financial incentives	9	45
only Kind	0	0
Training and Financial incentives	10	50
Training, Financial incentives and kind	1	5
Total	20	100

- *Interpretation:*

It has been seen from the table that, all the growers in the area have received financial incentives from the rubber board but 55% of the total got training from the various institutions and also few received other instruments for rubber productions like rubber rollers machine, smoke house etc. in subsidized rate from various government agencies.

- *Findings:*

The following findings have been derived based on the above analysis highlighting the impact of rubber cultivation on rubber growers and the society as a whole:

➢ *Employment generation:*

Rubber plantation provides employability opportunities in the area concerned. It increases the employment opportunities for the unemployed youth and people of the area. Rubber plantation needs a lot of labour work throughout plantation and production. Therefore, it is a source of generating employment for the unemployed youth.

➢ *Development of Health and Nutrition:*

Generally, when income of a person improves, good nutrition becomes essential to him/her. Again, with the availability of sound income the person becomes healthy.

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

➢ *Reduce Poverty*

Improving self-economic condition and providing employment opportunities in that particular area reduces poverty of that particular area. Rubber plantation increases the income of poor people by increasing employment avenues and ultimately stability in income of the workers.

➢ *Living Standard of the People:*

In the area of study, it was found that after rubber plantation, the living standard of the people was much better than that before rubber plantation. Standard of living of people always depends on the income earning capacity of the people. In the study it has been found that the economic condition of the workers was much improved owing to rubber cultivation and resultant economic benefits from it.

➢ *Community Development and Up Gradation*

Rubber growers also contribute towards the development and up gradation of their community. It is a general concept that if a person is sound and self-reliable then he/she will be able to work for his/her community also.

➢ *Support extended by the Rubber Board or Government agencies:*

Rubber board has provided various types of schemes and development benefits to the rubber growers and beneficiaries. From its constitution in India as an apex authority to formulate and regulate the rubber cultivation in the country, board has modified its schemes time to time wherever necessary. From the year 2012-13 to 2016-17 the current XII five year schemes plans has been proposed with some modification of old schemes up to XI five year plans.

VI. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

➢ *Suggestion:*

The following suggestions have been put forward based on the study made by the researchers: -

- Growers are concentrating only on rubber production and are ignoring the plantation of other crops. It is very important for the nature as well as farmers to grow other crops as well.
- Due to rubber plantation the production capacity of other crops in the paddy field is decreasing day by day. It is important for the growers that to maintain balance they should use some pesticides as a remedy.
- Road and transportation facilities in the area of study are not well off and therefore authority should take proper steps to develop road facilities for market opportunities in the area.
- Rubber board should take steps for standardisation of wage rates for the rubber garden workers.
- For the interest of the community, it is important to plant rubber trees in group.
- Drainage system is not available in that village, so authority should take proper steps to develop the drainage system.
- Only rubber cultivation cannot be the solution for every problem. The government needs to take proper steps to upgrade other cultivation also which are important for our life like rice, wheat, etc.

➢ *Conclusion:*

In the study titled 'Rubber plantation and its impact on the society', the researchers came across many conclusions. It is concluded that due to rubber plantation, the rubber growers derived a lot of benefits which benefitted the society also. Rubber plantation is an activity where many people can find a stable work place for a lifetime. Development and growth of rubber plantation in an area lays the foundation for various employment opportunities and generation of income for the unemployed people. Living standards of the people were found to be much better after getting involved in rubber production. They are able to maintain good nutrition and health standards. The rubber growers also influence the plantation of rubber trees in unused land across different villages and nearby areas. Last but not the least the researchers have concluded that rubber growers of the study area contribute significantly towards the development of their family and to the community in which they reside.

REFERENCES

[1]. Bikali College, Dhupdhara. (2010). *Empowerment in Independent India, by Assam book hive*. Assam book hive.

[2]. Chansack , Jianhua Z, Mukete B, Sythud P,(2016)," Socioeconomic and Ecological Impact Analysis of Rubber Cultivation in Southeast Asia" Vol.3 No.1 ,

[3]. Dao, N. (2018). Rubber plantations and their implications on gender roles and relations in northern uplands Vietnam. *Gender, Place & Culture*, *25*(11), 1579–1600. https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1553851

[4]. Dhar P.K.,2005, the Economy of Assam Including Economy of North-East India, By Kalyani Publication.

[5]. Hazarika Padmalochan, 2006 Essential Statistics for Economics and Commerce, New Delhi, Akansha Publishing House.

[6]. Heriberta, H., Wachyunni, S., &Guspianto, G. (2022). Women and Children Workers Involved in The Rubber and Palm Oil Plantations: Motivations and Impact on Family Income in Jambi Province. *ICGCS*. https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.30-8-2021.2316303

[7]. Kothari C.R.2013 Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques, New Age International Publishers.

[8]. Nath Dharmendra (2010), "Economics of Rubber Plantation in Non-Traditional Areas- A study with reference to Goalpara District of Assam" PhD thesis, Department of Economics, Gauhati University.

[9]. Nath, T. K., Inoue, M., & De Zoysa, M. (2013). Small-Scale Rubber Planting for Enhancement of People's Livelihoods: A Comparative Study in Three South Asian Countries. *Society & Natural Resources*, *26*(9), 1066–1081. https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2013.779342

[10]. Purkayastha Gautam,(2009), a Concise Book of Indian Economy and North East Economy. By Bani Mandir.

[11]. Rabha Bablu, (2019), "Problems and Prospect of rubber growers in Assam with Special reference to Goalpara

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25nov1129

District", Department of Commerce, Gauhati Univeristy, pp.124-223.
[12]. Robor Sangbad, Quarterly Published Journal by Rubber Board, August 2011
[13]. *Rubber Board Ministry of Commerce & Industry*. (2018). https://rubberboard.gov.in/public
[14]. Samarappuli I N et. al (1997), "the economics of replanting in rubber plantations" Bulletin of the rubber research institute of Sri Lanka (36) pp-18-29
[15]. Sarkar, Sukanta (2011). "Rubber plantation: A new hope for rural tribal's in Tripura". International Journal of Plant Science, volume-6 (2): pp 274-276.
[16]. Sarvanavel P, 2009 Research Methodology, Allahabad, Kitab Mahal
[17]. Singh, A. K., Liu, W., Zakari, S., Wu, J., Yang, B., Jiang, X. J., Zhu, X., Zou, X., Zhang, W., Chen, C., Singh, R., & Nath, A. J. (2021). A global review of rubber plantations: Impacts on ecosystem functions, mitigations, future directions, and policies for sustainable cultivation. *The Science of the Total Environment*, *796*, 148948. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.148948