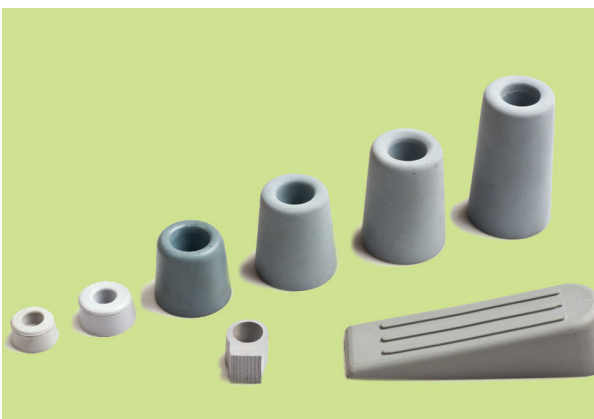


RUBBER PRODUCTS FROM SRI LANKA

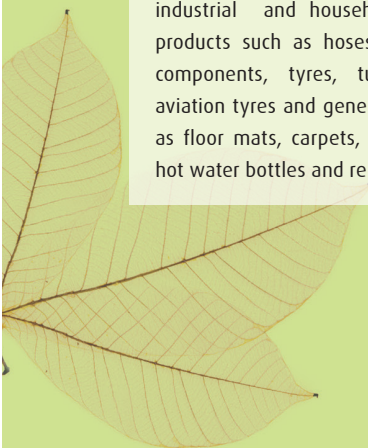


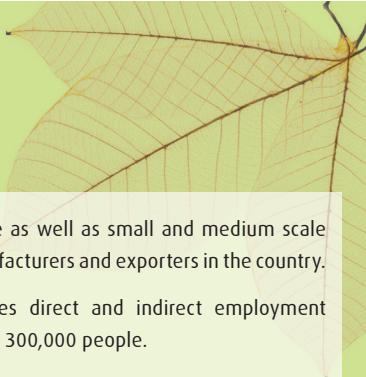
Sri Lanka pioneered the Asian Rubber industry in 1876, planting rubber trees in Henerathgoda Botanical Gardens in Colombo. Rubber Product manufacturing pioneered by tyre re-trading began in the 1950s and expanded rapidly after Free Trade Policies and Investment Promotion Zones were introduced in the late 1970s. In the last two decades privately owned and operated Sri Lankan industrialists have entered in to value added rubber products in the global market.





Sri Lanka produces a wide range of value added rubber products by processing raw rubber. These range from extrusion products such as rubber bands, beadings, latex products such as medical, industrial and household gloves, industrial products such as hoses, auto parts, industrial components, tyres, tubes, automotive and aviation tyres and general rubber products such as floor mats, carpets, sports goods, footwear, hot water bottles and related components.





There are large-scale as well as small and medium scale rubber product manufacturers and exporters in the country.

The industry provides direct and indirect employment opportunities to over 300,000 people.

Rubber being a tree crop which becomes productive under certain agro-climatic conditions, commercial farming is limited to areas that suits this climate. A rubber tree has an economical life of about 25-30 years, while harvesting commences at about 7 years after a tree is planted. Continuous replanting takes place where older trees are





replaced at a rate of about 3% mature acreage per year. A constant upgrade of all the plantation sector goes on with improved planting stock being developed to yield a higher output than earlier.

With the invention of a series of suitable new clones by the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka relatively arid non-traditional regions have become locations of interest to grow rubber.



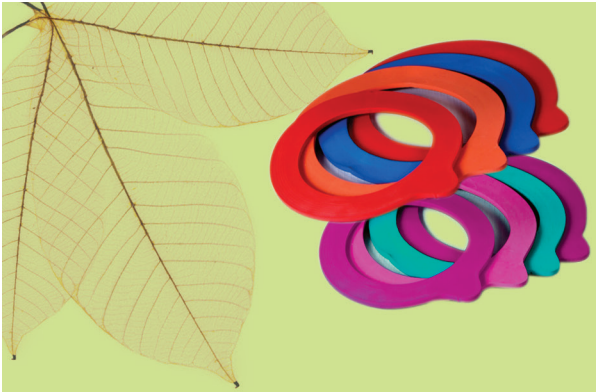


Sri Lanka's natural rubber has a high-demand in the world market due to its unique properties. The country now has a premium quality natural rubber type known as Lankaprene which is odour free to a certain extent, light coloured, and clean which is ideally suited for medical equipment and up-market value added products.

Sri Lanka produces almost all types of Natural Rubber (NR) available in the market including: Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS), Latex Crepe, Sole Crepe, Scrap Crepe, all grades of Technically Specified Rubber (TSR), Specialty Rubbers and Latex Concentrate.

Apart from the specialty rubbers, around 60% of all other types are locally consumed by the rubber manufacturing industry.





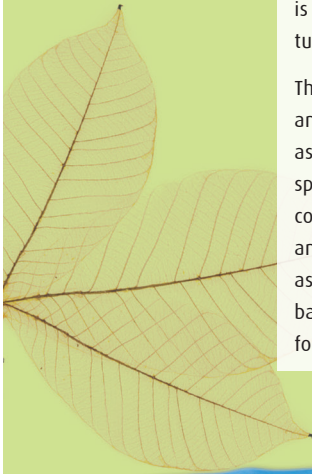
Sri Lanka produces a wide variety of rubber articles from both latex and dry rubber. Tyres (solid tyres, pneumatic tyres, bicycle tyres, three-wheeler tyres and a variety of smaller tyres) account for the largest share of export turnover which is 60%. Sri Lanka currently dominates the export of solid tyres, which is over 20% of the global market demand.





All types of gloves including industrial, household, agricultural and healthcare takes the second place and its share is around 30% of the export turnover.

The balance 10% is distributed among items such as an assorted range of floor mats, sports articles, automotive components, industrial goods and household articles such as hoses, sealing rings, rubber bands, rubber sheets and foam cushions.





The Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka (RRISL) is the major government agency that conducts Research and Development for increasing raw rubber productions and the development of manufactured rubber products. In addition, several universities are also engaged in R & D projects with the private sector involvement. Sri Lanka has veteran rubber technologists and a trained workforce. The Plastic and Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka is the only institution which conducts Graduate, Diploma and Certificate programmes for Rubber sector related workforce. Several private sector companies have also established their own research centres.





The Rubber Industry in Sri Lanka caters to a significant market share and has established a reputation for quality and reliability. Sri Lanka produces to international brands such as CONTINENTAL, SOLIDEAL, WONDER GRIP, MAPA, and SAFETY WORK among others.

Major Export Markets :

The United States, Germany, Belgium, Italy and the United Kingdom are among those markets

Semi processed rubber destinations are dominated by Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Japan and Germany.

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board is Sri Lanka's apex organisation for the promotion and development of exports. It was established in 1979 under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act No. 40. EDB is the executive arm of the Export Development Council of Ministers, headed by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, which is the policy-making body of the EDB.

What We Do

We assist in negotiating business with Sri Lanka, either as an importer or an investor in export production.

Functions of the EDB encompass a range of activities such as promoting exports, organising buyer-seller meets, and exhibitions, providing essential information to both local and foreign entrepreneurs and assisting in the formulation and maintenance of quality standards wherever applicable.

The EDB is manned by a team of professionals, knowledgeable in their own specialized areas, who maintain close personal links with the respective sectors and hence highly competent in providing you helpful advice.

The EDB has on its Board of Management, representatives of both state and private sector organisations involved in export activities. Dedicated to the task of promoting more exports and better exports for the benefit of exporters and importers alike, the full range of its services are provided free of charge.

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD



For further information please contact:

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