

**YOUTH PERCEPTION TO UNDERTAKE THE
MANAGEMENT OF SMALL SCALE RUBBER
PLANTATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to identify the perception of youth regarding undertake the management of small scale rubber plantations to maintain the continuity and to identify the constraints of youth to involve the rubber plantation management. The study was confined to three Regional Development Officer (RDO) divisions in Kalutara district which named as Agalawatte, Bulathsinhala and Dodangoda. One hundred twenty small scale rubber plantation owners and one hundred twenty youth were investigated using two separate questionnaires which were prepared for both parties. Most of the rubber plantation owners were depended on the subsidy scheme and credit facilities which are provided by government. Majority of youth who already engaged with rubber plantation management are part time involvers and maintain the continuity of their plantations. The study was found that most of youth were not interested to be the full time involvers due to low income of rubber plantations, low rubber price in the market and labour shortage. Career ambition, other job opportunities, income, price fluctuation, credit feasibility, attitude and labour shortage were identified as the constraints of youth to engage in rubber plantation management. Encouragement of youth to engage in rubber plantation management, provision of credit facilities for youth, encourage to practice good agricultural practices to achieve quality production to reduce the market risk, develop the technologies to reduce tapper requirement are essential to maintain the continuity of rubber plantations by enhancing the active participation of youth.

Keywords: - Rubber plantation management, continuity, Youth involvement, constraints