



Vivonta Green Tech Consultants Private Limited
Sustainable Solutions for Perennial Prosperity
PV00268369

13th May, 2024

Through Honorable Sagala Rathnayake,
Senior Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka.

Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake,
The Presidential Secretariat.
Advisor to Hon Sagala Rathnayake.

Dear Professor Senanayake,

RE: FAILURE TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION TO PRESERVE THE RUBBER CULTIVATIONS OF SRI LANKA

I am writing to address the lack of substantive action following our initial discussion approximately one year ago, and subsequent briefings, regarding the urgent matter of preserving Sri Lanka's rubber cultivations. Despite numerous communications, there has been a conspicuous absence of response from your end, particularly considering your past role as Chairman of the Rubber Research Board of Sri Lanka.

As a neutral senior executive with nearly four decades of service to the plantation sector, and a fervent advocate of the Agricultural Modernization Project spearheaded by H.E. Ranil Wickremasinghe, through my company www.vivonta.lk, which stands as the sole value chain management entity serving the agricultural sector with comprehensive services, I must express deep concern over the inadequate measures taken to safeguard Sri Lanka's rubber cultivations since the outbreak of Circular Spot Leaf Disease in 2019.

Copies of this correspondence are being furnished to H.E. Ranil Wickremasinghe, as this information bears relevance to his forthcoming official visit to the National Institute of Plantations Management at Athurugiriya. While we commend the Chairman, Director/CEO, and the committed team for their recent innovative endeavors, notably their pursuit of membership within the OPA to elevate the Planter profession to a recognized status for the first time in the history of plantations, the same cannot be said for RRISL.

Despite President Wickremasinghe's direct involvement on 8th December 2023, during which he tasked your office with investigating and resolving the aforementioned crisis for the betterment of the national economy and GDP, little progress has been made. The failure to address this issue is evident in the persistently flawed data presented by the RDD on national crop statistics, the absence of a comprehensive national database of growers, disregard for the QR method proposed by an RRISL scientist, and the alarming neglect in developing a Research Protocol since 2019 to scientifically ascertain the root causes of the loss of plant immunity across all 18 districts affected by the disease.



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The perpetuation of personal politics and self-serving agendas within RRISL has led to the imprudent importation of latex, draining the national treasury, and imperiling the cessation of rubber cultivation in Sri Lanka. To counteract this trend, Honorable Mahinda Amaraweera and Mr. Janaka Dharmakirthie have enlisted the support of Dr. Wijewardena, the current Chairman of CARP, to bolster the efforts of the RRB.

Regrettably, the repercussions of delayed action in the rubber sector will adversely impact the daily wage of plantation workers. The actual extent of cultivation in 2024 will undoubtedly validate the concerns we have raised on numerous occasions.

This matter has also been brought to the attention of the Parliament by Honorable Chandima Weerakkody and a few others. Consider the potential influence of a discontented minority in destabilizing a government that is oriented towards the welfare of the people, particularly when bolstered by inaction at your level. It is our sincere expectation that all stakeholders will collaborate in investigating the oversights that have occurred, extend apologies to rubber growers at all echelons, and place the meticulously developed Research Protocol under the direct oversight and accountability of the Chairman of CARP.

Moreover, it is imperative that growers and all relevant stakeholders are regularly briefed via the President's media division on the progress being made. In accordance with Mr. Lakna Paranawithana's National Rubber Roadmap and its objectives, we must endeavor to achieve a national rubber production of 200 million kilograms. Such an endeavor would not only bolster the national treasury but also contribute significantly to environmental cooling, underscoring the paramount importance of rubber in this regard.

We anticipate affirmative action akin to the contributions made by your esteemed brother, Mr. Somaweera Senanayake, for the betterment of the nation.

Yours sincerely,

D.M. Kobbekaduwe



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