

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE RESULTS OF REPLANTING IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY

The result of replanting has changed the face of the Malayan rubber industry. As a result of this process of replanting the old rubber trees with the new high-yielding materials, the percentage of the so-called high-yielding trees, including both the pre-war and post-war buddings and clonal seedlings has increased from about 25% in 1946 to about 66% by the end of 1961. It is estimated that the present acreage of post-war estate rubber amounts to about 1,000,000 acres, half of which is under modern clones and clonal seedlings of less than 15 years old. By the end of 1962, it was estimated that about 63% of the estate rubber and 35% of the smallholder rubber were under high-yielding and an overall of 49% for both\*.

Malaya's output of rubber from the estate sector was 20% higher in 1961 than in 1955 as shown in table 12. The trend of the production figures increased steadily from 1957 onwards when the first result of replanting was felt. The production for 1961 was 76,000 tons greater than the figure for 1955 despite a 17% reduction in the total tapped

area. This rise in production was due to the following factors:-

- a) The average yield per acre of the old unselected seedling areas increased from about 350 to 450 lb. or 28%. This was the result of progressive replanting of the least economic seedling areas.
- b) The average yield per acre of high-yielding material increased from 810 to 965 lb. or 19%.
- c) The progressively greater proportion of high-yielding material in the total tapped area. This proportion has risen from 31% in 1955 to 52% in 1961.

Resulting from these factors the yield per tapped acre has risen during the period (1955-1961) by 47%, from 490 lb. to 719 lb. per acre. In 1955 only 48 estates yielded more than 1,000 lb. per acre but in 1961 the number has increased to 259, or one-fifth of the total acreage under estate rubber.

The result of progressive replanting was to increase Malaya's output of rubber. This increase in production has helped Malaya to maintain her yearly income from rubber export despite a fall in its price in recent years. For example, Malaya's output of rubber in 1957 was 635,900 tons and the average price of rubber for that year was 89 cents a lb. The total revenue from this export was \$1,268,000,000.00. However, the price fell to an average of 78 cents per lb, in 1962, but the production has

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\* International Rubber Digest, Vol.14, No.6.

increased to 749,500 tons. With the price at an average of 78 cents per lb. the revenue earned was \$1,309,000,000.00, which was greater than the 1957 figure by \$41,000,000.00. This increase in revenue was possible only as a result of replanting which had increased the output of rubber per acre.