

July 21, 2022
For immediate release

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Yokohama Rubber and RAOT hold seminar event in support of natural rubber farmers in Thailand for 3rd consecutive year

Tokyo - The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., announced today that, together with the Surat Thani branch of the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT)*, it held a seminar event this June to help Thai natural rubber farmers improve the quality and productivity of their natural rubber. Fifty farmers from 50 farm households in the Surat Thani area participated in the event, which was conducted with appropriate measures to prevent against COVID-19 infections. All participants received a complimentary 250kg of fertilizer developed using RAOT's specialist knowledge. The seminar is the third held by Yokohama Rubber and RAOT since 2020.

* A state enterprise under the jurisdiction of Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC)

In January 2020, Yokohama Rubber signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the RAOT to cooperate in efforts to provide economic support for Thai natural rubber farmers and to improve traceability to ensure transparency and soundness of the natural rubber supply chain. The MOU and events held under it are concrete actions based on Yokohama Rubber's "Procurement Policy for Sustainable Natural Rubber." The farmers who received fertilizer at this event are cooperating in follow-up surveys on its effect on the physical properties and productivity of their natural rubber. Another action under the MOU is a program of onsite surveys began in 2019 that seeks to analyze the issues faced by natural rubber farmers in Surat Thani area, home to Yokohama Rubber's Thai natural rubber processing company Y.T. Rubber Co., Ltd.

A founding member of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), Yokohama Rubber revised its "Procurement Policy for Sustainable Natural Rubber" in September 2021 and is strengthening its collaboration with GPSNR activities. The recent seminar event in Thailand reflects the principle of "Support for suppliers, including small-scale farmers, and other parties involved in the supply chain" set forth in the Procurement Policy. Yokohama Rubber will continue to implement and announce initiatives in line with the action guidelines stipulated in this policy. Yokohama Rubber also is endeavoring to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. As part of these efforts, the Yokohama Rubber Group is promoting the procurement of sustainable raw materials. This May, the Yokohama Rubber Group held its third "Suppliers' Day," an online event promoting the exchange of information with natural rubber suppliers.

Meanwhile, other ongoing activities in Thailand by Yokohama Rubber include joint research with local universities aimed at improving the quality and productivity of natural rubber and the promotion of more widespread use of agroforestry to enable natural rubber farmers to secure more stable income.

The ESG initiatives included in Yokohama Transformation 2023 (YX2023), Yokohama Rubber's medium-term management plan for fiscal years 2021–2023, are based on the concept of “Caring for the Future.” By implementing ESG initiatives under this concept, Yokohama Rubber is endeavoring to help resolve social issues through its business activities.



Seminar event scene



Natural rubber farmers at the seminar event