

Malaysia: Natural rubber output down 14.9pc in Aug

KUALA LUMPUR: Natural Rubber (NR) production in August 2012 eased to 72,428 tonnes, down 12,707 tonnes or 14.9 per cent, when compared with July.

Year-on-year (Y-O-Y), a drop of 23,303 tonnes or 24.3 per cent was recorded, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said today.

It said the smallholding sector contributed 92.9 per cent of total production with the estate sector only producing 7.1 per cent.

“Kedah recorded the highest NR in estates, with 21.7 per cent production, followed by Negri Sembilan (20.6 per cent) and Perak (17.4 per cent),” the department said in its rubber statistics summary today.

On exports, it said 62,458 tonnes of NR were shipped in August, a drop of 0.4 per cent or 240 tonnes as compared with July and also lower by 18,048 tonnes or 22.4 per cent in contrast to August last year.

The NR output was mainly exported to China (43.2 per cent), followed by Germany (13.4 per cent), United States (4.7 per cent), Iran (3.9 per cent), South Korea (3.2 per cent), Turkey (2.9 per cent), Finland (2.9 per cent) and Brazil (2.9 per cent).

Natural rubber imports in August totalled 77,409 tonnes, an increase of two per cent or 1,517 tonnes from the previous month. For year-on-year (Y-O-Y), it surged 55 per cent or 27,480 tonnes, with Thailand as the main importer, accounting for 46.9 per cent, followed by Vietnam (28.1 per cent) and the Philippines (5.9 per cent).

Domestic NR consumption in the period under review was 35,390 tonnes, lower by 6.2 per cent or 2,321 tonnes, whereas for Y-O-Y, it showed an increase of seven per cent or 2,306.

“The rubber gloves industry was the highest consuming industry of NR at 70.9 per cent, followed by rubber thread (8.2 per cent) and tyre and

tubes (6.2 per cent),” the department noted.

In August, total NR stocks held were 129,645 tonnes, up 4,696 tonnes from the previous month and a decrease of 17,069 tonnes Y-O-Y.

The average monthly price of latex concentrate in August was 567.45 sen, down 76.07 sen from July and a decrease of 291.55 sen Y-O-Y.

The price of SMR 20 was recorded at 799.20 sen for the month under review, falling 11.4 per cent from last month and a 40.9 per cent dip for Y-O-Y.

Productivity for NR production for the period under review in estates decreased by eight per cent to 123 kg a hectare from July and was down 2.5 per cent Y-O-Y.