

## **Sri Lanka: Rubber plantations in the North-east**

New rubber plantations would be established in Sri Lanka's north-east region aimed at meeting growing world market demand for the product.

The next budget would propose new lands for cultivation in Ampara, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi as it has been found that the climate conditions were favourable for rubber production, said Minister of Plantation Industries Mahinda Samarasinghe at a recent forum.

The demand for rubber is expected to go upto 200, 000 MT by 2016. Sri Lanka is unable to meet the current demand of 175,000 MT and produces only 150, 000 MT.

He described Sri Lanka's rubber cultivation methods as being far behind its higher producing counterparts in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. (SD)