

## **Sri Lanka: Rubber cultivation introduced to Sri Lanka's Northern Province**

June 08, Colombo: Sri Lanka Ministry of Plantation has taken steps to popularize rubber cultivation in Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts of Northern Province. The Ministry initially plans to cultivate rubber in 600 hectares of land in the Northern Province and 97 hectares of this has already been cultivated, Ministry officials said. Vavuniya District Secretariat has now identified 497 hectares of land for rubber cultivation. Sri Lanka Rubber Research Institute has provided assistance and advice to 50 families in Mullaitivu district to cultivate rubber. Rubber cultivation which was introduced by British colonial rulers to the island spread majorly in wet zone Sabaragamuwa, Southern and Western Provinces. The growing demand for natural rubber has driven the government to take measures to cultivate more rubber in the areas where the rubber was not cultivated.