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**இலங்கை இறப்பர் ஆராய்ச்சி நிலையம்**  
**RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA**

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தந்தி "RUBRS", அகலவத்தை  
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உங்கள் இலக்கம்  
Your Ref.

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எனது இலக்கம்  
My Ref.

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எல்லா கடித உறைகளும் அத்தியட்சதரின் வாயரில் அனுப்பப்படுதல் வேண்டும்  
Please address all covers to the Director

## Early Warning System for Diseases of *Hevea* Management of the New Leaf Fall Disease of Rubber

This is to bring to your notice that the Abnormal Leaf Fall Disease condition caused by Colletotrichum and Pestalotiopsis is currently re-emerging in rubber plantations. More than 20,000 ha have been reported to be affected by the disease. A chemical controlling is necessary to manage the spread of the disease to close by cultivations and also to stop the spread of the disease to other crops.

Moreover, as this becomes the second year of the infection, it will have adverse effects on the yields of the cultivations. The research carried out so far has revealed mainly two pathogens are associated with this disease. Currently, new Colletotrichum species have emerged while Pestalotiopsis that has been regarded as a non host specific opportunistic pathogen is also playing a synergistic role in causing the leaf fall. In view of this situation you are kindly advised to pay special attention to notice this leaf fall disease condition in your plantations. Immediate chemical controlling will be required to stop further spread of the disease.

Please find attached herewith the below information.

**Annex 01** - Symptoms of this disease - correct diagnosis will help to economize the disease controlling strategies.

**Annex 02** - Chemical controlling protocol of the disease – Please use this schedule to calculate the chemical requirement for your plantation. But the frequency of application should be changed according to the disease severity level and the weather conditions. Contact the Rubber Research institute or the Rubber Extension Staff (RDO's & REO's) for further assistance.

**Annex 03** - Specifications of the machinery needed for the chemical controlling programme.

Please note that we have launched a **WhatsApp group** “(Pesta RRISL)” to share our new findings and also the instructions. We would appreciate if you would send your contacts to the administrator – **0772419482 / 0718579364** to be included in to this group.

Please bring the contents of this circular to the notice of all the Managers & the Field staff of your company / Estates.

*To Prevent further spread of the Disease*

*We Need Your Cooperation!*

Dr. (Mrs) T.H.P.S. Fernando  
Head, Plant Pathology & Microbiology Department

Copy:

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2. Additional Director
3. DDR - B
4. Director General (Rubber Development Department) - f.n.a.pl.
5. All Heads – Research Departments RRISL – f.n.a.pl.