GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF RUBBER (*HEVEABRASILIENSIS* MUELL. ARG.) PLANTATION IN HILLY ZONE OF KARNATAKA

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Abstract: The objective of this experiment was to assess the influence of site factors on growth and productivity of *Hevea* brasiliensis clone RRII 105in different aged rubber plantation in Hilly zone of Karnataka. Hilly zone was classified into two ecological zones based on annual rainfall distribution *viz.*, Mundgod (798 mm) and Sagara (1918 mm).Seasonal diameter increments during monsoon (June-September) and winter (October-December) was higher and declined subsequently in summer (January-March) in all age gradation. The volume production and productivity was observed to be double in Sagara for all the age gradation in comparison with Mundgod due to maximum DBH, tree height, favourable climatic conditions, moderate soil fertility status and lesser temperature extremes prevailing in zone.

Keywords: Age, girth increment, Productivity, Site factor, Hilly zone

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