

WORLD RUBBER SUMMIT 2020

Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire
Boulevard Hassan II, 08 Bp 01, Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire

5th & 6th May 2020

Unlocking the Potential of the Rubber Economy: Pathways to Growth in the Next Decade

The global economy is in a synchronized slowdown, a 3% growth in 2019, lowest since financial crisis before moving to the next decade. The Rubber Economy is not an exception, it is certainly at a crossroad! Mature and emerging markets must face challenges to embrace disruptive innovations, climate mitigation and digitalization to pave path for a sustained and inclusive growth in 2020 and beyond. Sustainable mobility and advancements in health sector underpinned by social, economic and technological trends demands identifying opportunities compatible with transformation offering solution than products. Narratives on competitive price and welfare of the weakest link in the supply chain need to redefine in unlocking potential of the rubber supply chain. Partnership can certainly shape resurgence of a competitive and sustainable rubber value chain drives momentum for inclusive growth in the next decade.

WRS 2020: Unlocking the Potential of the Rubber Economy: Pathways to Growth in the Next Decade

Day One – 5th May

0800-0900	Registration
0900-10.30	Opening Ceremony and Welcome Address
1030-1100	Keynote Address 1 Economic Growth and Sustainability: A Balancing Act
1100-1230	Governmental Panel Discussion Competitiveness of Commodity Value Chain: Shaping partnership for Resurgence Global prices across commodities are on the declining path as we usher 2020. Rubber is not an exception to this. Has this translated into slower plantation investment in producing countries, shaping a different market scenario by end of this decade? How this market trend shaping business strategies of value chain players inclusive of smallholders? And what environment impact this could bring?
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1400	Keynote Address 2 Unlocking Sustainability: Reframing Narrative for Sustainable Development For producer countries to be fully engaged and support sustainability efforts, there must be clear incentives in place. It could be argued that environmental commitments don't go far enough to incentivise good practice, in terms of benefits beyond controlling malpractices.

Day One

1400-1515	<p>Panel 2</p> <p>Rubber Economy in Africa: Sustainable Investment for a New Growth Paradigm?</p> <p>The second largest continent with home of about 1.2 billion people, Africa has immense potential for growth as per capita income rise faster than the rest of the world. Promoting sustained and inclusive growth across all countries in the region requires carefully calibrating the near-term policy encouraging sustainable investments. Which regions and sectors need encouragement for investment associated with urbanisation and transport to facilitate rubber economy growth in Africa. What should be done to attain this?</p>
1515-1545	<p>Coffee Break</p>
1545-1700	<p>Panel 3</p> <p>Business Model for Value Addition and Profitability: From Rhetoric to Realisation</p> <p>Public-Private partnership can transform supply chains, drive resilience and empower communities. Waning in commodity prices and weakening demand, rubber value chain is under pressure. Value addition is lacking in the system when production is shipped from Africa to China, Europe and US. Of the total vehicles produced globally, Africa only has negligible share. What business model using low cost resource and labour could assure value addition in commodity and ensuring profit to investors.</p>
1700- 18.00	<p>Panel 4</p> <p>Sustainable financing – Raising the Bar: Asia vs Africa</p> <p>A number of international banks have adopted risk management frameworks to guide their lending and investment decisions in a bid to avoid financing potentially socially and environmentally unsound projects. Many financial institutions have yet to join the bandwagon. How can we encourage regional banks to embrace sustainable financing?</p>
1800	<p>Closing Remarks</p>
1900	<p>Networking Cocktail</p>

Day Two – 6th May

0900-0930	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Urbanisation and Mobility Potential for Africa: A Game Changer?</p> <p>Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most rapidly urbanising region. Many countries in the region has significant economic growth potential in the coming decades and a rapid growth in mobility is expected with more than 30 million passenger car tyres sales likely by end of the decade. Is this a game change for automotive, tyre and associated sector investment for the region?</p>
0930-1000	<p>Commodity Price Volatility- Speculation or Fundamentals? The way forward for rubber</p> <p>Commodity markets have, at various times, exhibited significant price volatility. The combination of inelastic demand and supply in many commodities means that, at least in the short term, unanticipated changes in demand or supply can generate large price swings. Most of the changes in commodity prices can be explained by a series of unexpected demand shocks, combined with a weak supply response. A controversial issue is whether speculative activity in related financial markets has also played a meaningful role in influencing the recent movement in commodity prices.</p>
1000-1030	<p>Coffee Break</p>
1030-1200	<p>Panel 5</p> <p>Responsible Sourcing to Circularity - What Stakeholder Partnership in Commodity Value Chain Could Offer?</p> <p>Responsible sourcing is recognized as a strategic lever to drive innovation. New methods, tools and innovative approaches to sustainable sourcing are emerging and driving change, such as shared supplier platforms and scorecards, market engagement to promote innovation, e-procurement and impact sourcing. Circularity focuses on closing energy and material loops within supply chains. It advances the sustainability goals as it contributes to the enabling conditions of a system which creates value and social well-being while maintaining resources at the highest possible value in the whole lifecycle and ultimately creating an economy which is regenerative. Multiple approaches and innovative solutions that could help to bring circularity in responsible sourcing will be discussed in this session.</p>

Day Two

1200-1300	<p>Panel 6</p> <p>Land Use Optimisation: Low Emissions Development and Sustainable Farm Income</p> <p>Land use optimisation is a very important tool towards a sustainable rubber sector. Planning, implementation and monitoring could help to develop rubber farming in areas with more suitable soil, increase productivity, improve investments and significantly reduce the negative impacts from land losses and disputes. Improved transparency and better governance has the potential to lead to a more inclusive decision making process and increase the income of farmers.</p>
1300-1400	<p>Lunch</p>
14.00-1530	<p>Raising the Role of Women and Youth in Rubber Industry</p> <p>No society can develop sustainability without transforming the distribution of opportunities, resources and choices for males and females so that they have equal power to shape their own lives and contribute to their families, communities and countries. stronger and better-resourced efforts are needed to address gender inequalities in access to jobs as well as control over and ownership of productive assets. Jobs and assets are key lever of change for women, their communities, and economies and fundamental drivers for economic growth and poverty reduction. Specific programmes should be developed for the youth with the aim to change their perception of the rubber industry and encourage more young people to choose careers path in this vital sector for the world growth.</p>
1530-17.00	<p>Panel 6</p> <p>Priority Strategies Going Forward</p>
1700	<p>Closing Remarks</p>