

## PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DUSTING EXPERIMENTS AGAINST OIDIUM ON KANDANUWARA ESTATE, MATALE

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**A** field of 30 acres was dusted with five applications of sulphur during January to March 1930. The foliage was definitely benefited by the treatment and the results have been reported on. Yield records are being taken from a number of plots in the dusted field, and, as a control, from the same number of plots in a neighbouring undusted area. It is not anticipated that an increased yield in the dusted as compared with the undusted rubber will be obtained for a considerable time, and it is therefore necessary that the dusting should be continued for several seasons. It is proposed that a further programme of dusting be carried out in 1931.

The degree of control of the disease obtained in the previous experiments is not considered entirely satisfactory. In the Mycologist's Report for April 1930 several reasons for the comparative failure were set forth; they are reproduced below:

- (1) The disease was fully active when dusting operations were commenced.
- (2) A considerable proportion of trees had already suffered defoliation before dusting was commenced.
- (3) Too long an interval elapsed between the first and second applications.
- (4) At least two further applications should have been made in March and April.
- (5) Possibly the quantity of sulphur applied at each dusting was insufficient. This was certainly the case for the fifth and final dusting.
- (6) Reinfection from neighbouring undusted rubber.

So far as is possible these points will receive special consideration during the next series of experiments, and every endeavour will be made to secure as complete control of *Oidium* as possible. The factors will be considered individually:

- (1) and (2) Dusting operations will be commenced earlier than previously. By making the first application in November 1930 it is hoped that the fungus may be to some extent controlled before attaining its full virulence. Unfortunately November and December are wet months on the estate and attempts to make an application may be frustrated. Any opportunity afforded by a dry spell of weather will be taken.
- (3) The interval elapsing between successive applications in November and December must be largely governed by the weather conditions obtaining.
- (4) Provision will be made for continuing the applications of sulphur until as great as possible a measure of control has been secured.
- (5) A larger quantity of sulphur per acre will be applied in the first two dustings.
- (6) Reinfection from neighbouring undusted rubber is unavoidable. This factor is not, however, considered to be of great importance in the field in question.