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## Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of **Biology of *Hevea* Rubber** was published in 2011. Since then, the science of *Hevea* has made significant progress, especially in genomics that rapidly advances over the last 6 years, which prompted me to prepare a second edition. I am sure if a third edition is to be attempted in 2022, the science of *Hevea* will have been taken over by ‘omics’.

*Hevea* rubber tree is an excellent example of how a soil-tree-atmosphere system can work in tandem. The retrieval of rubber through ‘injuring’ the tree on alternate days or once in three days or once in seven days is indeed, a universally unique arrangement that ensures income to the planter almost throughout the year. Every molecule of rubber is the end result of meticulous biochemical changes. The biology of *Hevea* rubber tree is a subject that encompasses basic sciences of physics, chemistry and mathematics that finally aggregates technology for the realization of its industrial utility. The science that deals with the origin, upkeep and latex harvest offers immense opportunities for a biologist to encounter and appreciate the intricacies underlying the phenomena that govern the biological processes occurring inside the tree. A book on the biology of *Hevea* rubber integrates such issues in a single volume.

Portions of chapters might have gone ‘untouched’, because progress in these are minimal, especially in conventional breeding since the improvement of *Hevea* has been largely taken over by genomics. Genomics has conquered every aspect of *Hevea* biology that a comprehensive account of any topic cannot be complete without dealing with it.

Striking a balancing chord between being informative to a beginner and a reference source to a scientist is an arduous job. In my attempt, I hope I have done justice to the hard work of my colleagues.

I am indebted to my wife Bindu and my daughter Sandra for their unflinching support. Finally, I thank Springer for agreeing to publish this revised edition.

Kerala, India

P.M. Priyadarshan

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Priyadarshan, P.M.

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