PRICES OF SMR 20 (MRB) AND RSS 3 (TRA), US CENTS/KG (JANUARY 2018 - DECEMBER 2019)

**Apr-June 2018**
- China's 2018 first quarter GDP grew 6.8%, slightly faster than expected, buoyed by strong consumer demand.
- Firmer oil prices with US WTI oil surpassed the key USD 70 per barrel and Brent nearing USD 80 per barrel, boosted by supply disruptions and declining U.S. oil production.
- Weaker Japanese yen and Chinese yuan against the U.S. dollar.
- Ongoing U.S. China trade wars.
- Excessive speculation and persistent selling in rubber futures markets.
- Surging rubber inventories in China.

**Jan-Mar 2018**
- Export cut of 350,000 mt of NR under 5th Agreed Export Tonnage Scheme (AETS) by ITRC countries.
- US-China trade wars.

**Jul-Sep 2018**
- Ample of supply and sluggish demand.
- China's economic slowdown at 6.5% in 3rd quarter, the lowest since 2009.

**Oct-Dec 2018**
- Brent oil surpass USD 80/barrel in October 2018.
- Physical NR prices and rubber futures in Tokyo, Shanghai and Singapore fell to two-year low.
- Escalating U.S-China trade tension.
- Declining China's vehicles sales.
- Weaker China's manufacturing activity.
- Rising NR production in major rubber producing countries.
- Slowing global economic growth.
- U.S. interest rate hike to a range of 2.25% to 2.50%.
- US-China 90 days trade truce beginning 1 Dec.

**July 2019**
- China's economic grew at 6.2% in the second quarter, the slowest quarterly growth rate since 1992 resulting from the effects of prolonged trade tension between China and U.S.
- Declining auto sales in China.
- Weaker China's manufacturing activity.

**Aug-Oct 2019**
- China's third-quarter economic grew 6.0%, weakest pace in almost three decades.
- Worries over the political turmoil in U.S.
- China auto sales fell 4% in October, 16th month of decline.
- A major trading company in China which imports 1.6 million tonnes of rubber a year has halted rubber purchases and terminated all unfinished contracts.

**Nov-Dec 2019**
- Easing trade tension between U.S and China.
- Declining China's NR stocks.
- Fungal disease and wet weather in major rubber producing countries.
- Announcement by ITRC on the possibility to implement another export curbs.

**Jan-June 2019**
- Wintering season in major rubber producing countries.
- Suspended tapping activity in Yunnan, China following prolonged drought.
- Outbreak of fungal disease (*Pestalotiopsis*) which has damaged rubber trees in many plantations in Sumatera, Indonesia.
- Export cutbacks of 240,000 tonnes of rubber under the 6th Agreed Export Tonnage Scheme (AETS) by ITRC countries beginning 1 April 2019.
- Thailand plans to reduce output to 3.0 million metric tonnes over the next five years from 4.5 million currently.