PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE OF SERICULTURE IN MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

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Abstract:

Sericulture is agro based business having great capacity of employment and rural development. Geography and weather of Maharashtra state is suitable for sericulture. So it can give great production of silk and remarkable income, hence it can greatly minimize farmer suicide. In Maharashtra in all 22 Districts are involved in sericulture of which 18 Districts are engaged in mulberry sericulture. In India in 2014-15, 74.51% (21,390 metric ton) Mulberry silk, 8.48% (2,434 metric ton) Tasarsilk, 16.46% (4,726 metric ton) Eri silk, 0.55% (158 metric ton) Mooga silk was produced of which 221 metric ton was contributed by Maharashtra state. In 2013-14 only 3720.25 acre area was under mulberry cultivation in which 760.97 metric ton cocoons and 111.52 metric ton silk thread was produced. In 2013-14 productivity was increased upto 204.56 kg/acre/yr. Total area under mulberry cultivation, total production of silk cocoons and thread and total productivity from 2004-05 to 2013-14 in Maharashtra state.

Keywords: Sericulture, Employment, Productivity, Maharashtra state

Introduction:

In West Maharashtra and Vidarbha, production of mulberry is getting importance and area of mulberry cultivation is increasing day in this region. For successful silk farming, Mulberry cultivation and silk worm rearing should be done scientifically. Silk farming is famous in Maharashtra and silk is used for threading and making silk cloth. Silk clothes have tremendous demand in Maharashtra and in other states. This demand is increasing by 16 to 20% every year. Silk farming has great capacity of self-employment. Mulberry cultivation can conserve environment as well as silk worm rearing, threading, clothing, and prevent migration of rural population to urban area.

In Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State, particularly Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia and Chandrapur District tasar sericulture is carried out on Yen and Arjun trees. Specially in Vidarbha (Silk and Milk) concept is held together. In this case from one acre of mulberry cultivation we can get money by selling of cocoon as well as by milk selling as branches and leaves of mulberry plant, remnants of mulberry food after eating and faeces of silkworms contain high amount of proteins and are provided as food to cattle. We can observe and study mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing and threading combinedly in State silk park on Amravati- Badnera road of Vidarbha.

In Maharashtra State 18 districts motivate mulberry sericulture while only 04 districts (Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur) are involved in tasar sericulture.

State directory of sericulture is at Nagpur and in all 22 district are involved in sericulture.

Weather-

Weather in all districts of Maharashtra is suitable for mulberry cultivation. While silkworm rearing needs temperature about 25-28°C and moisture 65-85%.

Opportunities to self-Employment-

- 1) By doing mulberry cultivation, leaves and branches of mulberry can be sold to sericulture center or silk worm rearing center.
- 2) Sell of eggs/ seeds for silk worm rearing.
- 3) Rearing of silkworm larvae and is sell to other farmers.
- 4) Rearing of adult silkworm to produce cocoons.
- 5) Purchase of cocoon and separation of thread.
- 6) Making of silk clothes by handicrafts and by machine.
- 7) Colouring and designing of silk clothes.
- 8) Making article such as bags and other handicraft material from silk clothes.
- 9) Sell of silk clothes eg. Paithani Sarees, and maintenance of these business.
- 10) Production of equipments essential for Sericulture.
- 11) To run sericulture maintenance center and its quality improvement and guidance center.

Observation and Discussion:

In India in 2014-15, 74.51% (21,390 metric ton) Mulberry silk, 8.48% (2,434 metric ton) Tasarsilk, 16.46% (4,726 metric ton) Eri silk, 0.55% (158 metric ton) Mooga silk was produced of which 221 metric ton was contributed by Maharashtra State. In Maharashtra State, 4163.75 acre area was under mulberry cultivation in 2004-05 in which 373.80 metric ton silk cocoons and 46.73 metric ton silk thread was produced. Total productivity in 2004-05 was 89.78 kg/acre/yr, while in 2013-14 only 3720.25 acre area was under mulberry

cultivation in which 760.97 metric ton cocoons and 111.52 metric ton silk thread was produced. In 2013-14 productivity was increased up to 204.56kg/acre/yr. Total area under mulberry cultivation, total production of silk cocoons and thread and total productivity from 2004-05 to 2013-14 in Maharashtra State is given in Table-1.

Similarly, in Maharashtra State, tasar food trees in 18866 hectare area were utilized in 2009-10 by which 200.00 lac tasar silk cocoons and 8460 kg. tasar silk thread was produced while in 2013-14 food plants only in 6491 hectare area were utilized to produce 187.16 lac tasar silk cocoons and 10199.46kg. tasar silk thread. Total area under tasar food plants cultivation, tasar cocoon, thread production and employment rate is given in Table-2. Present status of mulberry silk production in Maharashtra State is mentioned in Table-3.

From 15th century silk production is initiated in our country but in 1949, Central sericulture board is established in India from which silk production extension progress and research was initiated and now near about 80.03 lac people are getting employment in our country.

Though silk production is going on in large quantity in India, Still 6 to 7 thousand metric ton silk thread is imported from other countries in 2014-2015. On processing, high quality silk clothes are made from these threads and then exported to about 100 other countries. In 2014-15 clothes of cost Rs/ 2829,87 crore are exported from India(DGCIS, Calcutta, April 2015) which includes mostly natural threads, clothes, readymade garments, silk carpets, and waste silk are included.

Table 1 :Silk Industries Status In Maharashtra State

S.N.	Year	Mulberry cultivation area (acre)	Cocoon Production (metric tonn)	Cocoon Productivity (Kg/acre/year)	Thread making (metric tonn)
1	2004-05	4163.75	373.80	89.78	46.73
2	2005-06	3538.00	425.88	120.37	53.24
3	2006-07	6677.00	767.50	132.83	95.74
4	2007-08	10280.00	1183.70	115.14	147.96
5	2008-09	10864.00	1593.20	146.65	199.15
6	2009-10	9359.00	1743.80	186.96	218.72
7	2010-11	7335.25	1563.50	216.94	198.77
8	2011-12	5815.00	1227.81	211.10	153.40
9	2012-13	4386.10	700.00	159.60	87.50
10	2013-14	3720.25	760.97	204.56	111.52

Table 2:Present Status Of Tasar Silk Production in Maharashtra State

S.N.	Data	Year				
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Use of Tasar food tree(hectre)	18866	18866	6015	8788	6491
2.	Eggs(no.)	558000	575000	836863	946575	838416
3.	Cocoon Production(no.in lacs)	200.00	168.61	308.65	243.83	187.16
4.	Tasar thread making(Kg)	8460.00	6744.00	12340.00	9753.20	10199.46
5.	Employment Generation(Man per day)	1269000	1011000	1851900	1462980	1529918

Table 3:Present Status Of Mulberry Silk Production In Maharashtra State

S.N.	Data	Year				
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Farmer/Beneficiaries (no.)	6305	4892	4004	3218	3057
2.	Area under Mulberry cultivation(acre)	9359.00	7326.00	5816.00	4386.10	3720.25
3.	Eggs Distribution(in lacs)	36.81	30.59	22.85	12.68	13.53
4.	Cocoon Production(no. in lacs)	1744.00	1590.18	1227.80	700.03	760.96
5.	Silk Production(metric tonn)	18.00	214.25	153.40	87.50	111.52
6.	Employment Generation(in lacs)	46.98	36.78	29.08	21.93	18.60

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Fig.-1 : Mulberry plant with silk larva

Fig.-2 : Mulberry silk cocoons

Fig.-3 : Tasar silk larva with cocoon