



A study on impact of the *Lac* developmental programmes on *Lac* economy in Chhattisgarh

GOVIND PAL

Directorate of Seed Research (I.C.A.R.), Kushmaur, MAU (U.P.) INDIA

(Email : drpal_1975@scientist.com)

Abstract : *Lac* is a natural resin secreted by an insect known as *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.) which thrives on the tender twigs of specific host trees viz., *palas* (*Butea monosperma*), *ber* (*Zizyphus mauritiana*), *kusum* (*Schleichera oleosa*), *Ficus* sp. *Lac*, yields three economically and industrially important components i.e. resin, wax and dye. The study pertains to the data collected from randomly selected 400 *Lac* growers (benefited and non-benefited) in four districts of Chhattisgarh during the year 2008-09. The results indicated that the percentage of host utilization had increased in case of benefited *Lac* growers in comparison to non-benefited *Lac* growers. Host utilization percentage of benefited *Lac* growers was 62.1, 36.2 and 44.5 for *palas*, *ber* and *kusum*, respectively. A shift has been observed in case of benefited *Lac* growers from lower production group to higher production group in both sticklac and broodlac (seed) production. The share of *Lac* income in total income has increased in case of benefited *Lac* growers from 17.0 to 25.2 per cent. About 86.0, 60.0 and 63.0 per cent more employment generation and 185.0, 348.0 (*ber-rangeeni*) 133.0 (*ber-kusmi*) and 118.0 per cent increase in net return have been found in *Lac* cultivation on *palas*, *ber* and *kusum*, respectively, for benefited *Lac* growers over non-benefited *Lac* growers. Higher level of broodlac production resulted in self sufficiency in broodlac and more utilization of host trees for *Lac* cultivation. Higher BC ratio and reduction in cost of production of broodlac and sticklac was found in case of benefited *Lac* growers in comparison to non-benefited *Lac* growers for *Lac* cultivation on all three hosts. This implies that there is need for strengthening and widening the extension activity and developmental programmes on *Lac* production and marketing so that majority of *Lac* growers can be empowered with scientific knowledge on *Lac* cultivation for increasing their income and employment.

Key Words : *Lac*, Impact, Developmental programme, *Lac* economy

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