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Research Paper

Economics of cocoon production business in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT : Sericulture is an important business of the rural area. The investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011 in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. Data were collected from 60 sericultural producers by personal interview method with the help of pre-tested schedule. Cost concept of variable cost and fixed cost was used for evaluation. The results revealed that the total cost of 3.48 batches or crops in a year was Rs. 62630.04 and of one batch was Rs. 17997.13. Net profit of 3.48 batches or crops in a year was Rs. 29187.98 and that of one batch was Rs. 4673.86. The gross return of 3.48 batches for the year was Rs. 78895.09 and that of one batch was Rs. 22671.00. In total cost, share of mulberry leaves was the highest as 36.52 per cent followed by that of disinfecting materials (17.68 %), interest on working capital (10.92 %) and so on. Output-input ratio was 1.25 while per kg cost of cocoon production was Rs. 160.42. Sericultural business was labour intensive and profitable in the study area.

KEY WORDS : Silkworm, Cocoon, Cost-C, Gross return, Net profit

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INTRODUCTION

Sericulture is an art of rearing silkworm for the production of cocoon which is the raw material for the production of silk. Silk is the queen of fabrics, starting from the *Vedas* to this day. There are four types of food plant for silkworm like mulberry (*Bombyx mori),* tassar (*Antheraea paphia*), eri (*Philosomia ricini*) and muga (*Antherea assama).*India is the second largest producer of raw silk in the world next to China.

In the silk cocoon production, number of generations can be called "crops" which vary according to the race or strain of the moth. A moth is univoltine if it produces only one crop in a year, bivoltine, if two and multioltine if more than two or more. The bivoltine cocoon is of white colour and multivoltine cocoon produces greenish or yellowish colour. In that multivoltines are the female parents and bivoltines are male parents.The growth and development of silkworm and the cocoon quality largely depend on the nutritional status of the mulberry leaves (Reddy *et al.,* 2002; Tikedar and Kamble, 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted for the selection of district, tehsils, villages and sericultural producers. In the first stage, Osmanabad district was purposively selected because of more sericultural producers. In the second stage, Kalam and Osmanabad tehsils of Osmanabad district were selected on the basis of highest number of sericultural producers. In the third stage, five villages namely, Dhoki, Palaswadi, Tadwala, Wagholi and Warwanti from Osmanabad tehsil while five villages were namely Govindpur, Kanerwadi, Nipani, Raygavan and Itkur from Kalam tehsil were selected. Thus, from each village, six sericultural producers were randomly selected. In this way from ten villages of two tehsils, sixty sericultural producers were selected.Then cross sectional data were collected with the help of pre-tested schedule by personal interview method. The data were collected during the year 2010-2011 from 1st July, 2010 to 30th June 2011.

Cost concept of variable cost and fixed cost was used to analyze the data. Variable cost includes human labour, disease free layings, mulberry leaves, disinfecting material, electricity, miscellaneous expenditure and interest on working capital. Fixed cost includes depreciation on assets (shed and equipments) and interest on fixed capital. Evaluation of cost items as human labour was evaluated at the rate Rs. 120.00 per day for male and Rs. 90.00 per day for female. One man day