

Socio-economic status of mulberry sericulturists of Udaipur, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted during 2006-07 in two Tehsils of Udaipur district of South Rajasthan to know the socio-economic status of the sericulture adopters. The study revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to agricultural castes with cultivation as main occupation. Most of the respondents having Primary level of education, had no participation in any organization. The study also suggests that majority of respondents were having nuclear family and they mostly belonged to middle class socio-economic status.

KEY WORDS : Socio-economic status, Sericulture, Middle class, Udaipur

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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. India has a long tradition of producing and using silk. India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the four varieties of silk i.e., mulberry, eri, tasar and munga (Krishnaswamy, 1986). However, mulberry silk accounts for about 93 per cent of the total production. Sericulture thus has become a highly remunerative agro based cottage industry. Mulberry sericulture is an important cash crop in rural parts of India. It is considered to be one among the poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas. It offers periodical income and generates viable own family employment opportunities for marginal and small farm holdings round the year (Lakshmanan and Geethadevi, 1998). Keeping all these facts in consideration, the study has been undertaken in tribal areas of Udaipur district in Rajasthan state with the objective to know the socio-economic characteristics of sericulturists.

METHODOLOGY

The present research study has been conducted in Udaipur district of South Rajasthan during 2006-07. Two Tehsils namely, Mavli and Jhadol of Udaipur district were

selected purposively because of having maximum number of sericulture adopters in the district. The list of villages along with the name of adopters including year of adoption of sericulture of selected Tehsils was obtained from the voluntary institute, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth working specially on sericulture in these two Tehsils. From the list of sericulture adopters of the selected village, 70 adopters (35 from each Tehsil) who were engaged in sericulture since last 2-3 years, were selected for the present investigation as the respondent.

To measure the socio-economic status of the respondents, the socio-economic status scale developed by Trivedi (1969) was modified and used. The respondents were grouped in three categories as described below on the basis of score and standard deviation:

Sr. No.	Categories	Score range
1.	Low socio-economic status	18.44 and below
2.	Medium socio-economic status	18.45 to 29.44
3.	Higher socio-economic status	29.45 and above

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Caste:

Perusal of Table 1 shows that majority (52%) of the respondents belonged to agricultural caste. The remaining

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