



## Studies on the impact of selected sericultural technologies in Kolar district

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### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to assess the adoption impact of technologies and its influence on the cocoon yield. The data were collected from 108 farmers of traditional sericultural area of Kolar district of Karnataka. In the present study, attempts have been made to identify and advocate the need based technologies for the selected farmers along with requisite motivational efforts through personal interactions and group discussions held over a period of two years. Initial diagnostic study was conducted through structured proforma and impact survey was carried out and crop performance data computed for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years, which recorded an increase of cocoon yields by 8-19 kg/100 dfls among the target farmers. Among the technologies covered in the study, application of farmyard manure, separate chawki garden, separate chawki rearing room, proper disinfection of rearing house and equipments, black boxing and incubation of eggs, shoot feeding under shelf-rearing and use of bed disinfectants mainly contributed for the increased cocoon yields.

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### INTRODUCTION

Being a rural based labour intensive industry, sericulture is ideally suited for improving the social and economical standards of the rural poor (Geetha *et al*, 2001). Technologies developed by the institutes generally aim at improving the productivity (Hiriyanna and Vijayaprakash, 2003 and Sudhakar Rao *et al.*, 2002) and in recent years traditional sericulture farmers are increasingly coming forward to adopt the new technologies. Successful mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing call for some optimum conditions such as soil fertility management, good race, separate rearing house, proper disinfection, good cocooning equipments etc. Present study was undertaken to assess the prevailing cultivation and rearing practices in relation to the corresponding yield gaps and to identify major factors that contribute to the differential yield levels among the farmers.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted for two years during 2006-2008 in seven villages namely, Amblipura, Vijayapura, Cholaghatta,

Neelakantapura, Sonnallipura, Kendanahalli and Nallaganahalli of Kolar district, representing major traditional sericultural area of Karnataka. Benchmark survey was conducted to identify the crucial technologies responsible for the cocoon production before commencement of the work. Soil fertility management, maintenance of separate chawki garden, effective disinfection of rearing house and equipments, incubation and black boxing of eggs, shelf method of rearing with shoot feeding and use of bed disinfectants for late age silkworms were accordingly identified as crucial technological gaps. Soil and leaf samples from 108 farmers' gardens covering these seven villages were collected and analyzed to assess the soil fertility and leaf nutritional levels among target farmers of the study area. Further, for intensive study, 21 among these 108 farmers, were selected based on their willingness to adopt the suggested technologies. The selected farmers were grouped in to High (H), Medium (M) and Low (L) cocoon yield farmers based on the cocoon yields of >70kg, 50-60kg and <50 kg/100 dfls, respectively. Regular interactions on one-to-

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