



Research Article

Extent of adoption of improved sericultural practices by the sericulturists of Buldhana district of Maharashtra

■ R.V. KUSHWAHA AND N.R. SINGHVI

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SUMMARY : Sericulture is one of the most important rural industries, due to certain inherent advantages like minimum gestation period and expenditure. Sericulture has been practiced since several decades, the dynamic changes in the field of sericulture research and development have been brought during the last three decades, mainly due to introduction of better mulberry varieties and silkworm races and improved cultural and rearing practices. Though extension network has been established at national and state level to educate sericulturists, a wide gap exists between the recommended technology and actual adoption by sericulturists. To plan a suitable intervention strategy, to bridge this gap, it is necessary to understand present knowledge and adoption level for improved technologies, so also existing mulberry leaf yield and silk cocoon production level. It is, therefore, present study was conducted to know the extent of adoption of improved practices at farmer's level in Buldhana district of Maharashtra state. The sericulturists were aware about few mulberry varieties viz., M-5, S-1635 and V1. However, only 24 per cent farmers have planted high yielding mulberry variety V1. 18 per cent of farmers were fully aware about latest recommendation on plantation spacing; however, partial adoption is 88 per cent in case of plant spacing. High knowledge level of 16 and 22 per cent about pruning schedule and fertilizer package was recorded but adoption was partial for fertilizers application (86%) and pruning schedule (96%). Monetary consideration was one of the main reasons for partial adoption of practice of chemical fertilizer application. No separate Chawki garden was maintained by farmers; however, they do their own chawki rearing. Knowledge level about rearing appliances and need for separate rearing house is high. However, adoption level was partial for rearing house in 64 per cent cases and 94 per cent in case of rearing appliances. Shortage of fund for construction of rearing house / rearing appliances was cited as the main reason. It was found that on an average sericulturists brushed 235 dfls/acre/year, which is far less compared to national average. Partial adoption level 90 per cent for maintenance of proper spacing during rearing was recorded. Cocoon productivity per 100 dfls remains 32.2 kg which is also far less compared to national average. The reasons to low productivity can be attributed mainly due to non-adoption of improved practices. Results revealed that awareness as well as adoption level was low for crucial sericultural practices. It calls for the extension agency to educate the farmers, by way of home visits, field days, discussions, training and demonstrations about improved methods of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing, thereby enabling farmers to adopt new technology to increase mulberry leaf production, cocoon productivity and monetary return.

KEY WORDS :

Sericulture, Knowledge level, Production level, Technology, Adoption

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Author for correspondence :

N.R. SINGHVI

Regional Tasar Research
Station, BHANDARA
(M.S.) INDIA

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations