INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
Volume 2 Issue 1 (March, 2011) Page : 132-135

Received : *December, 2010;* ***Revised :*** *January, 2011;* ***Accepted :*** *February, 2011*

Research Paper

Economics of sericulture in Nagpur district

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ABSTRACT

For this, study sixty farmers were selected from Nagpur District having mulberry plantation. Farmers were classified as small, medium and large groups. The establishment cost incurred on per hectare basis was maximum in large group, whereas maintenance cost of mulberry garden and expenditure required for rearing of silk cocoon indicated that, maximum expenditure required in all the groups for human labour, *i.e.* 33.98, 27.19 and 21.34 per cent for small, medium and large groups, respectively. In all, 689.62 human labour days per hectare could be engaged in silk industry and produced a yield of 304.47 (small group), 591.79 kg (medium group) and 1035.21 kg (large group) silk cocoons per hectare. The input output ratio was found to be maximum in large group as 1 : 2.18 at cost A and it further reduced to 1 : 1.13 at cost C.

Borkar, A.N., Ulemale, D.H., Jadhav, M.C. and Shingane, U.S. (2011). Economics of sericulture in Nagpur district, *Internat. Res. J. agric. Eco. & Stat.,* **2** (1) : 132-135.

Key words : Economics, Sericulture, Establishment costs, Rearing cost, Receipt

INTRODUCTION

Sericulture is agro-based cottage industry. It is an effective tool for rural development as it generates income and employment. Sericulture is now practiced in about 50,000 villages of our country providing employment to about five humans per day.

Currently the worlds silk production is 1,32,400 MT with annual growth rate of 1.6 per cent (1992-2002). Out of which about 15,000 MT of silk was produced in India in 2003-04 with annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent. Today India is second largest tropical producer of silk, in the world after China. The state of Karnataka, accounts for 62.69 per cent of total Indian silk production followed by 22.16 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 5.27 per cent in Tamil Nadu. Silk production from these three states is 90.39 per cent of the production India (F.A.O. Report, 2003).

A special Directorate of Sericulture was established in Maharashtra during the year 1997, with the Directorates Office of Nagpur. Mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing is undertaken in seven district of Vidharbha *i.e.* Amravati, Akola, Washim, Wardha, Nagpur, Buldhana and Yavatmal covering area of 1279.4 hectares and producing annually 49593 kg. of cocoons (Anonymous, 2003). As the sericulture enterprise is expected to increase employment and income, an attempt was made in this study to analyze the cost structure, income, employment generation of Nagpur District, with the following objectives to study the economics of sericulture and to examine the employment generated from sericulture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In view to get the representative picture of mulberry growers fairly homogenous zones were selected from Nagpur District.

Considering the total area under mulberry cultivation in selected Tahsils, *viz.*, Kuhi, Umrer, Katol, Kalmeshwar, Narkhed and Saoner from Nagpur District having required area under mulberry cultivation of desirable age groups and having easy approachability were purposively selected.

Estimation of cost:

Cost of silkworm comprises the following items.

Establishment cost of mulberry garden:

This refers to the cost involved in establishing mulberry garden. It includes expenditure on different inputs used during establishment period of garden. The average