

Study on the problems of tasar silk industries in Korba District (C.G.)

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ABSTRACT

Tasar culture is an important agro-forest based industry and is the good source of earning foreign exchange and providing gainful employment. In the present study, an attempt has been made to know the scope of introducing tasar culture and its problems in Korba districts. Accordingly, data were collected with regard to the economic status, occupational preferences and finance requirement, skill requirement by interviewing the farmers of the district as per standard statistical methods, the data were compiled, analyzed and discussed. Depending on the intensity of the problems encountered by the sample farmers their perceptions were collected and ranked were presented and found it that the main problems of the district were pests and predators, diseases of silkworm and non-availability of egg was experienced by as many as 73.1%,66.6% and 60% farmers, respectively.

KEY WORDS : Silk industries, Tasar culture, Agro-forestry

Soni, Shailesh (2010). Study on the problems of tasar silk industries in Korba District (C.G.), *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 1 (2) : 60-62.

INTRODUCTION

Tasar culture is an ideal forest based industry. In recent years, this tribal tradition has assumed the importance and attention at the national level and now has acquired a status of viable and vital industry of great potentials (Akai, 2005).

In Korba district, farmers have more than 22 cocoons /dfl which are very less (Mathur, 2005). The farmers engaged in tasar cocoon production have certain other problems in the operation of sericulture activity. Unless these problems are identified and necessary action taken, the programme of planned sericulture development may not succeed and target growth can not be achieved.

Chhatisgarh takes the second place in the country in contributing to the total raw silk production and Korba district share is exceeds 50% of the total figures of the state. The annual income of farmer's engaged with tasar culture practices shows increase from Rs. 76.12 to 8176.92 and even more. Average /dfl cocoon production number is 21.43/hac. and income is Rs. 1268.73, /hac. Cocoon production number was 64905 during 2001-06 in Korba district (Soni and Sahu, 2007). Various workers have studied on problems on tasar culture viz., Agarwal (1987), Das and Vinod (1988), Nomani (1993), Babulal (2005), Rajaram (2001) and Bajpai (2004).

METHODOLOGY

Present study was conducted in Korba district of C.G. where both types of silk mulberry and tasar are cultivated. The primary data were collected from the sampled respondents following the personal interview method using structured interview schedule with the help of 300 respondent, 22 respondents from each village. The information was collected from sample respondents in the selected objectives and the data were analyzed and discussed.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Depending on the intensity of the problems encountered by the sample sericulturists their perceptions were collected, ranked and are presented in Table 1. It is evident that 73.1% farmer's reported the problem of pests and predators. According to the farmers 40-50% crop losses were caused by pests and predators and this problem ranked first. 66.6% of farmers reported the diseases of tasar silkworm. This problem ranked second. All of them were under the impression that frequent occurrence of diseases among the silkworm. 60% of farmers faced the problem of non-availability of eggs. 58.3% farmers faced the problem of climatic disturbances which upset the cocoon production. Next in order was that 56.6% farmers

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Table 1 : Response of sample farmers about the problems of tasar culture (n = 300)

Sr. No.	Problems	No. of farmers	Rank
1.	Pest and predator	220 (73.1%)	1
2.	Diseases of silkworm	200 (66.6%)	2
3.	Non-availability of egg	180 (60%)	3
4.	Climatic disturb	175 (58.3%)	4
5.	Co-ordination with Forest Dept.	170 (56.6%)	5
6.	Securing extension officer's advice	143 (47.6%)	6
7.	Food plants diseases, pest and predator	140 (46.6%)	7
8.	Exploitation by middle man	136 (45.3%)	8
9.	Inadequate fiancé for investment	127 (42.3%)	9
10.	Shortage of skilled worker's	123 (41%)	10
11.	Transportation	119 (39.6%)	11
12.	Inadequate demand of cocoon	113 (37.6%)	12
13.	Social problem	95 (31.6%)	13
14.	Air pollution	85 (28.3%)	14
15.	Lack of technical staff in sericulture Dept.	82 (27.3%)	15

Note : Figures in parentheses are percentage

did not get co-operation of forest Dept., since the plantations were to be raised in the denuded forest area and permission of the forest department was required in this respect. The permission was delayed many cases. In the list of problems faced by them were securing the extension officer's advice (47.6%) food plant attacked by stem borer (46.6%) which decreased the quality and quantity of leaf. Exploitation by middle man about 45.3% of the sample farmers had felt the problem about 42.3 % farmers told the problem of inadequate fiancé for investment 41% farmers reported the shortage of labour skilled because labour migration was observed and 39.6% of them express the problem of transportation of cocoons. Nearly 37.6 % of the farmers faced with the problem which arised because the demand for cocoon at certain period has decreased because of import from China and Korea. About 31.6% of the farmers faced the social problems. 28.3% of the farmer's expressed their fears of air pollution created by NTPC Korba .This fly-ash are harmful to silkworm and foods plants. Sericulture activity that required skilled worker in the sericulture Dept. found the lack of technical staff by 27.35 % farmers.

Conclusion :

Chattisgarh takes the second place in the country in contributing to the total raw silk production and Korba districts share in the state exceeds 50% of the total figures of the state.

For the current, the Korba district was selected because here tasar cocoon production is reducing gradually due to several factors and the chances of tasar cocoon production have very high potential. So some steps should

be taken to increase the tasar culture income:

- Tasar silkworm pests and predators are main problems of the district, so there is need of training for control of tasar silkworm pest and predators.
- Production of healthy and viable eggs in the govt. grainages using high yielding local ecoraces for good cocoon crops.
- Maintenance of regular and enough supply of egg laying for rearing.
- Encourage tribes to manage and maintain natural host plantation of tasar forest.
- Encouragement to adaptation of low cost technology for better production.

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