

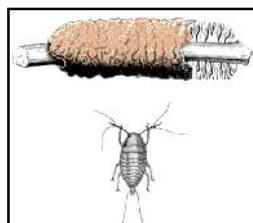


National lac scenario and present status of lac in Odisha

Govind Pal

Directorate of Seed Research, Kushmaur, MAU (U.P.) INDIA

Lac is a natural resin secreted by an insect *Kerria lacca* (Kerr.) which thrives on the tender twigs of specific host trees. The most common host trees for commercial lac cultivation are *Butea monosperma* (palas), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (ber) and *Schleichera oleosa* (kusum),



besides several other trees of regional importance. Three natural, renewable, non-toxic and eco-friendly products *i.e.* resin, dye and wax are derived from the lac. *Rangeeni* and *kusmi* are the two strains of lac insect which are based on preference of the insect

for specific host plants and contribute significantly in the national lac production.

India is the leader in production and export of lac in the world. Lac cultivation is an important source of income, supporting livelihood for the forest and sub-forest dwellers. It has also high potential for generating employment for both men and women in forest and sub-forest areas of the country. It is a very remunerative crop, paying high

economic returns to the farmers and also foreign exchange for the country through its export. The export earning from lac and lac products during the year 2010-11 was around Rs. 211 crores. Lac is exported to more than 50 different countries, but the major markets are Indonesia, Germany, U.S.A., A.R.E., Spain, Bangladesh, Italy, Switzerland, U.A.E. and U.K. Shellac, seedlac, dewaxed shellac, aleuritic acid, bleached lac, gasket shellac, lac dye, molamma lac and shellac wax are the forms of lac exported from India.

Global scenario of lac production : India is the largest producer of lac in the world, producing around 50 per cent of the world production of 40,000 tons of scraped lac. The estimated world production of lac and share of different countries in global lac production has been presented in Table 1.

National scenario of lac production : The estimated national production of sticklac during 2011-12 was approximately 17900 tons. Jharkhand state ranks 1st followed by Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. These five states contributed around 95 per cent of the national lac production. Regarding share of different crops, *jethwi* ranked 1st (34.39 %) followed by *baisakhi* (25.92 %), *aghani* (24.25 %) and *katki* (15.44 %) in national lac production. Lac production scenario during 2011-12 and lac producing districts in India has been presented in Table 2 and 3, respectively.

Lac in Odisha : The Odisha state has a geographical area of 1,55,707 km² of which the recorded forest cover is 58,136 km² (37.36 %). The state has 30 districts out of

Table 1 : Estimated world production of lac

Sr. No.	Name of country	Approximate production (tons)	Share in global production
1.	India	20000	50.00
2.	Thailand	10000	25.00
3.	Indonesia	7000	17.50
4.	China	2500	6.25
5.	Others	500	1.25
Total		40000	100.00

Table 2 : Lac production in India during 2011-12 (in tons)

Name of State	Name of lac crops				Total production	Share in total production
	<i>Baisakhi</i>	<i>Jethwi</i>	<i>Katki</i>	<i>Aghani</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	60	1	58	1	120	0.67
Assam	40	0	60	0	100	0.56
Chhattisgarh	900	800	500	1000	3200	17.88
Gujarat	5	15	5	10	35	0.20
Jharkhand	1340	5110	700	3090	10240	57.21
Madhya Pradesh	658	85	493	64	1300	7.26
Maharashtra	450	0	500	0	950	5.31
Meghalaya	2	0	3	0	5	0.03
Odisha	60	95	70	125	350	1.96
Uttar Pradesh	125	0	75	0	200	1.12
West Bengal	1000	50	300	50	1400	7.82
Total	4640	6156	2764	4340	17900	100.00

Table 3 : Important lac producing districts in India	
Name of state	Name of districts
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Vishakhapatnam
Assam	Karbi-Anglong
Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Bilaspur, Dhamtari, Durg, Janjgir-Champa, Kanker, Korba, Mahasamund, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja, Raigarh
Gujarat	Panchmahal, Vadodara
Jharkhand	Garhwa, Gumla, Latehar, Palamau, Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, West Singhbhum
Madhya Pradesh	Anuppur, Balaghat, Chhindawada, Dindori, Hosangabad, Mandla, Narshinghpur, Seoni, Shahdol
Maharashtra	Bhandara, Chandrapur, Garhchiroli, Gondia
Meghalaya	Garo Hills
Odisha	Balasore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sundergarh
Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra, Allahabad
West Bengal	Bankura, Midnapur, Purulia
Total number of states- 11 and number of districts - 49	

Table 4 : Lac producing areas in Odisha	
Districts	Areas*
Balasore	Haldipada, Jaleshwar, Nilagiri
Keonjhar	Telkoi
Koraput	Ramgiri
Mayurbhanj	Jashipur, Kaptipada, Karanja, Padampokhari, Sarat, Thakurmunda, Udla
Nabarangpur	Chandahandi, Raighar
Sundergarh	Khandadhar, Kutra, Rajgangpur

*Many districts in the state are having lac host trees in large number but lac cultivation is not being practiced in a systematic manner

Name of districts	Name of crop				Total production
	Baisakhi	Jethwi	Katki	Aghani	
Balasore	20	10	30	10	70
Koraput	10	5	10	5	30
Mayurbhanj	5	10	5	10	30
Nabarangpur	15	50	15	70	150
Others	10	20	10	30	70
Total	60	95	70	125	350

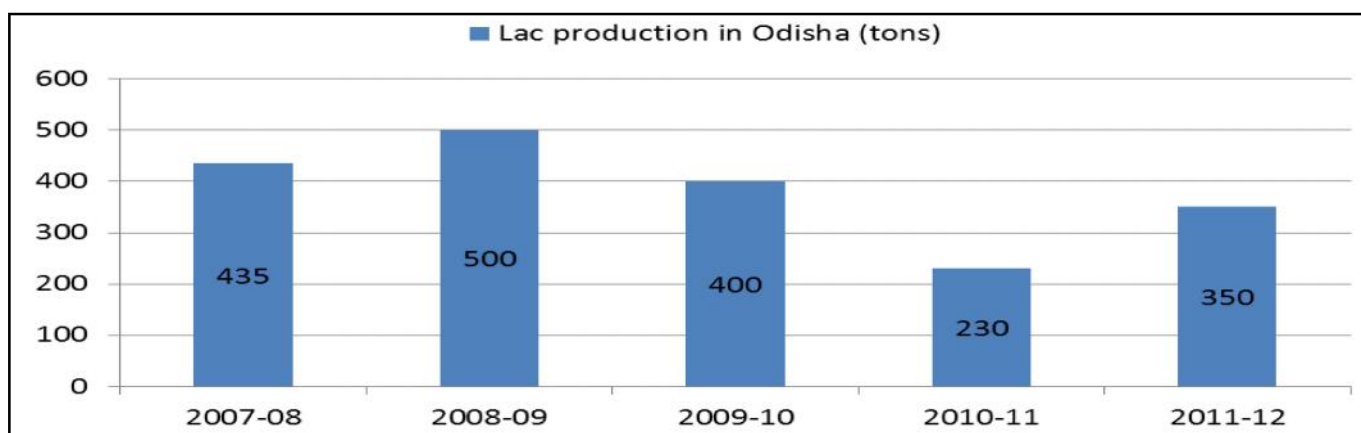


Fig. 1 : Trend in lac production in Orissa

which 12 districts are tribal district. As per latest estimate, the state has produced 350 tons of lac during the year 2011-12. The produce is sent to neighboring state for its processing, while some amount is being consumed by the artisans within the state. If the unexploited lac host trees are utilized for lac cultivation, the production can increase five to ten folds of the present production. The lac producing areas, lac production and trend in lac production have been mentioned in the Table 4, 5 and Fig. 1, respectively.

Strength of Odisha in lac production :

- Availability of large number of lac host trees and suitable climatic condition for lac cultivation.
- Availability of trivoltine strain of lac insect producing three crops in a year on rain tree and *kusum*.
- Potential state for increasing the high priced *kusmi* lac crop.
- Institutional support for lac cultivation and marketing by Forest Department, TRIFED, Tribal Welfare Department, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), NGOs, etc.
- Good number of artisans related to manufacturing of lac based handicraft items and lac processing facilities in adjoining states.

Problems of lac cultivation in Odisha :

- Shortage in availability of broodlac.
- Scattered host plant which create problem in cultivation operation, crop monitoring etc.

– Weak linkages between different related organizations/ Institutions.



– Fluctuation in prices of lac and policies regarding movement of raw lac.

Measures to improve lac scenario in Odisha:

– Forest department may act as nodal department for development and promotion of lac in the state and strengthening linkages between

different organizations related to lac

– Training on Scientific methods of lac cultivation to lac growers from IINRG, Ranchi.

– Promotion of lac cultivation on plantation basis and establishment of broodlac farm in potential lac growing areas.

– Proper marketing facility with Institutional support.
– Establishment of primary processing units at village level.

Received : 28.11.2013

Revised : 26.04.2014

Accepted : 17.05.2014

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