

SERICULTURE IN SINDH

BY

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Till recently sericulture was not known in the province of Sindh, though it has been practiced in other provinces since 1947. During 1975, silkworm rearing was carried out on experimental scale at Miani Research Station, which is about 15 Kilometer from Hyderabad on National High Way. The experiment was executed successfully and it was repeated more in 1976. It showed that sericulture could be practiced beneficially in the province of Sindh and resulted in launching of a pilot project for sericulture for a period of seven years. The project programme was started in April 1977 with the main objective of introducing and transferring sericulture technology to the farmers.

The successful introduction of sericulture practices in Sindh also attracted the attention of Women's Division, Government of Pakistan, who provided assistance to introduce this programme among the women of this province. Consequently, Sericulture Demonstration Centres were established at Miani (Hyderabad) Naukot (Tharparkar) Mirpur-Mathelo (Sukkur) and Gharko (Thatta). Bush-type mulberry varieties were grown in the plantations and other infra-structure were developed at these centres. The women folk of rural areas are provided mulberry leaves and silkworm eggs with technical advice at these centres for the development and promotion of this industry in Sindh. This enables women to participate in this programme and to increase their earnings for uplift of socio-economic conditions of their families.

The following activities are being carried out under the above pilot project and special development programme for the rural women.

1. Establishment of plantations of bush-type varieties of mulberry over an areas of 90 hectares.
2. Establishment of silkworm rearing demonstration centres in various districts.
3. Determination of silkworm rearing period in spring and autumn seasons.
4. Training of the staff in moriculture silkworm rearing including identification and control of silkworm diseases and silk yarn reeling.
5. Training of 500 rural families in silkworm rearing.

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6. Installation of semi automatic reeling machine for reeling of silk yarn at the Miani centre.
7. Research trials for rearing of silkworms in late spring and autumn and early summer seasons.

Presently two crops of silkworms are reared, one in spring and another in autumn at the demonstration centres and by the farmers at in the province. The total annual production of the cocoons in approximately 4 metric tons and attempts are being made to increase it.

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The following activities are being carried out under the above pilot project and special development programme for the rural women.

1. Establishment of plantations of bush-type varieties of mulberry over an area of 50 hectares.
2. Establishment of silkworm rearing demonstration centres in various districts.
3. Determination of silkworm rearing period in spring and autumn seasons.
4. Training of the staff in mulberry silkworm rearing including identification and control of silkworm diseases and silk yarn reeling.
5. Training of 500 rural families in silkworm rearing.

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