
CHAPTER - V

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF SERICULTURE
IN SIRSI TALUKA**

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The first part of this chapter deals with the problems faced by the sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka.

Like any other enterprise, sericulture too has several problems, in connection with the mulberry cultivation, rearing of Silkworms, production of cocoons and marketing of it.

Although it is evident that, mulberry cultivation is more profitable, and fits very well, in the context of Sirsi Taluka. However, majority of the farmers have not been associated with mulberry cultivation in the taluka. Even though they are practicing sericulture, some have given it up, and those who are involved in this occupations, are facing the problems in sericulture.

The various problems that are faced by the sericulturists are classified as under.

1. Impediments in cultivation of Mulberry.
2. Problems in rearing of silkworms.
3. Labour problem.
4. Problem of Finance and,
5. Marketing problems.

1. IMPEDIMENTS IN CULTIVATION OF MULBERRY :

The sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka face many impediments in cultivation of mulberry. These are mentioned as under.

- a. Lack of technical know how in mulberry cultivation.
- b. Diseases that affect the proper growth of mulberry.
- c. Destruction by wild animals.

a. LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOW HOW IN MULBERRY CULTIVATION :

The sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka lack adequate knowledge about the type of the soil of different plots in the garden, variety of mulberry that should be raised in the garden, proper and timely supply of water to the plantation, and manuring the mulberry cultivation;

b. DISEASES THAT AFFECT THE PROPER GROWTH OF MULBERRY :

Diseases in cultivation of mulberry are serious impediments. Diseases like, leaf spots, powdery-mildew, leaf rust, marginal leaf burning, bacterial blight and root knot name todes have been recorded to cause maximum damage to the mulberry. These are the various impediments in mulberry cultivation.

c. DESTRUCTION BY WILD ANIMALS :

Destruction of mulberry plants by wild animals, is a serious problem faced by the sericulturists, in cultivation of

mulberry.

2. PROBLEM IN REARING OF SILWORMS :

Rearing of silkworm is a highly risky job. The cases of crop failure and crop losses are not rare in sericulture. The major constraints involved in rearing of silkworm are illustrated below.

a. SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE EGGS. :

Majority of the respondents reported that, eggs supplied by the grainages of sericulture department are defective. The defective eggs, naturally led to various diseases to silkworm larvae, and thereby failure of crops.

b. DISEASES :

Infection of diseases to silkworms cause huge losses. There is no silkworm race at present, which can resist the various diseases like, pebrine, Flacheria and Grasseria. The infection of above diseases is one of the most important problems in silkworm rearing.

c. ATTACK FROM INSECTS AND UZIFLY :

Uzyfly is a very serious pest of silkworm larvae and pupa. This fly can cause considerable damage to the cocoon growers.

d. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS :

The adverse climate causes various diseases to the

silkworms and lead to failure in rearing of silkworms.

e. LACK OF REARING HOUSE :

Majority of the respondents lack, a the convenient rearing house for silkworm rearing.

f. LACK OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND INITIATIVE IN SILKWORM REARING :

It was found that most of the sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka, they do not have adequate technical knowledge, about the improved method of silkworm rearing. Due to the lack of initiative or carelessness in rearing of worms, there occur failure of crops.

3. LABOUR PROBLEMS :

Labour is an important input. It is required for every cultural operation, from cultivation, irrigation of mulberry, to the harvesting of cocoons. The problem of labour faced by the sericulturists can not be over emphasised.

The sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka have ~~to~~ to face many problems. They are :

- a. Availability of labour at required time.
- b. Their irregularity in attending the work.
- c. Poor work quality and demand for high wages.

4. PROBLEM OF FINANCE :

It was noticed that finance has become a major problems for sericulture industry in Sirsi Taluka. It is found that, finance facilities are inadequate. A fee farmers who raised funds from public financial institutions expressed that they had to lengthy procedures, inadequate finance of very short period in nature and greater time lag in between application and sanction, often lead them paucity of funds.

5. MARKETING PROBLEMS :

The sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka are facing certain problems in marketing of sericulture product. Such problems are stated below.

- a. Transportation.
- b. Storage.
- c. Grading
- d. Risk bearing.
- e. Delay in payment.
- f. Pricing
- g. Malpractices.

a. TRANSPORTATION :

The movement of cocoons from the production place to the market, has become a problem, in Sirsi Taluka. Because lack of well constructed roads, timely availability of transport

and so forth.

The cocoons are to be transported during cool hours, either in early morning or in evening. Majority of the respondents depend on Government buses, for transportation of cocoons. Due to limited buses and heavy crowd, many times the buses proceed without stopping. Hence, cocoons being perishable, get spoilt and farmers are put to loss.

b. STORAGE :

The cocoons are perishable in nature. Still they can be stored in the cold storages, for 5-6 days. But sericulturists lack this facility in Sirsi Taluka.

c. GRADING :

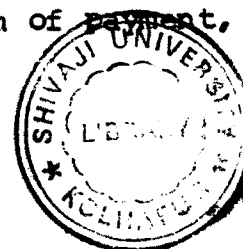
Majority of the respondents reported that, the present system of grading is defective one. For the purpose of grading, a small portion of the whole lot is taken for test. It is unfortunate, if the sample is of poor quality, whole lot is treated according to the sample. Infact, the farmers are put to loss.

d. LACK OF INSURANCE FACILITIES :

The sericulturists have to shoulder the loss, in the production and in transportation. There is no insurance facility for assuming such loss.

e. DELAY IN PAYMENTS :

It was noticed that, the present system of payment,



through treasury Bills causes, lot of delay in getting the cash for the cocoons sold in the market. This delay in payment leads to a number of problems in marketing of cocoons.

f. PRICING :

The prices of the cocoons are fixed., by the Central Silk Board, considering the demand and supply of seed cocoons. There is a frequent fluctuation in the prices of the product. The uncertainty of prices offenly discourages the sericulturists. to carry on their activity.

g. MALPRACTICES IN THE MARKET :

It was noticed that, in the absence of the farmers wrong weightment and grading of cocoons are made, which will put certainly a loss, to the farmers.

PROBLEMS RELATED TO SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT :

It was observed that, there is lack of infrastructural facilities for the Department employees working in the cocoon market. Accomodation became a serious problme, because, the cocoon market is situated far from the city. The employees in the market have to work for the whole day and night. So , accomodation rear area is an essential factor. Other problems of employees are insecurity of job, better working conditions, recreation and canteen facilities etc.

OTHER MARKETING PROBLEMS :1. STORAGE :

In the cocoon market, in Sirsi Taluka, there is no proper storage facility and the existing storage is inadequate. The inadequate storage leads to unnecessary loss in quality and quantity of cocoons.

2. TRANSPORTATION :

The cocoons are transported from Sirsi to other places of Karnataka, by the Departments vehicle. Existing vehicles are inadequate for transportation of cocoons. They are to be transported over a very long distance, to places like, Mysore Bangalore, Chitradurga and so forth. In this long journey, more than 20% of the cocoons are put into damage. As a result it leads to a heavy loss to the Department.

3. INADEQUATE MARKET INFORMATION :

The market information regarding the quantity of cocoons required and the time, are collected on telephone, telephone, telegrammes or personal contact, whenever possible. According to the information collected, the cocoon quantity is supplied to the market. In case the cocoons are rejected it put many times a huge loss to the department.

II PROSPECTS

Apart from the few pitfalls in sericulture. Many development schemes and programmes of sericulture have shown good returns, because attempts have been made to overcome the bottlenecks in the production and marketing of cocoons.

Cocoon market is an essential pre-requisites for enlarging the area under mulberry. It will increase the production of cocoons and ensure the sericulturists proper weighment, grading and also to make them to receive the payment of product in cash. The Government of Karnataka, has taken legislative measures and their strict enforcement have resulted in recent years in arrival of larger quantity of cocoons at the notified cocoon markets established under law. The main objectives were to ensure fair trading practices and to prevent exploitation of the rearers by middlemen, licencing of the silkworm rearers and ensure them to sell cocoons in one or more notified Government cocoon markets.

Considering the importance of sericulture in the Indian economy, Central Silk Board has undertaken many developmental schemes and project for the upliftment of sericulture activities which are presented here.

In 1984-85 for the development of sericulture in Sirsi Taluka, the schemes introduced under plan sector were :

- i) District plan Scheme : There was a provision for sericulture development in new areas, and 40% subsidy for purchase of reeling equipments.
- ii) Supply of improved variety of M₅ mulberry cuttings.
- iii) Special component plan State sector for provision of mulberry cuttings free cost of chemicals, rearing appliances and nylonets for silkworm rearing.

In 1985-1986 along with the existing development schemes, new schemes came into force. They are :

- i) National Rural Employment Programme.
- ii) TRYSEM Scheme : Training Rural Youth for self employment under sericulture.
- iii) On farm development : Involving construction of rearing construction of rearing house, purchase of rearing appliances, maintainnace of mulberry garden.
- iv) Subsidising the raw-material cost.

In 1986-1987 Western Ghat Development Scheme, has sanctioned for construction of rearing houses, programmes for technical training for sericulture and on Farm Development Scheme. This scheme has sanctioned loan to sericulturists through Karnataka State Land Development Bank (K.S.L.D.D.) for rearing house, rearing applicances and development of mulberry plants.

In 1987-1988 Western Ghat Development scheme, has sanctioned Rs. 7 lakh for :

- i) Mulberry Nursery establishment.
- ii) Health coverage unit, established for dis-infection of rearing house and control of diseases.

In 1988-89 Western Ghat Development Scheme provided Rs. 8 lakhs for :

- i) Establishment of mulberry nursery.
- ii) Infrastructural facilities for chawki Rearing centres (CRC) i.e. supply of foam rubber, pesticides, disease prevention solutions and nursery appliances were supplied to CRCS.)

The developmental schemes and programmes of Sericulture have shown good returns in Sirsi Taluka. They caused a tremendous impact on sericulture development. It can be illustrated by a number of factors which indicates the light prospects for sericulture in Sirsi Taluka.

Such as : Establishment of CRCS, production of cocoons, extensive land under mulberry cultivation, increase in the no. of families associated with sericulture and price trend. of sericulture product, which are discussed in brief as under. :

- i) Establishment of Extension, Chawki Rearing Centres and Model Chawki Rearing Centres in Sirsi Taluka.

In 1980-81 there was only one Extension chawki Rearing

centre in Sirsi Taluka. But by the end of 1989, the number of model chawki Rearing Centres were not less than 6. The main object of these CRCs is to render remunerative services to the sericulturists in Sirsi Taluka for the development of sericulture activities through supplying the materials required by the sericulturists which include training facilities for sericulture and to render consultancy services.

ii) Establishment of Cocoon Market (seed campaign) in Sirsi

Before 1984, there was no cocoon market in Sirsi Taluka, they were marketed to Ramangar (Bangalore Dist.) It was very problematic for the sericulturists in the Taluka. To overcome these problems in the year 1984-85, Central Silk Board established the Cocoon market (Seed Campaign) for purchasing of the Seed Cocoons (Bivoltine) produced by the farmers in the district. The district Karwar in general and Sirsi in particular was declared as "Seed Protection Area" only for the production of see/cocoons of Bivoltine variety. The cocoon market is playing a crucial role in marketing of sericulture product in Sirsi Taluka.

iii) Cocoon Production : Production of cocoon presented in the Table No. 5.1 (for the period of 1980 to 1989)

TABLE NO.5.1

PRODUCTION OF COCOONS IN SIRSI TALUKA

1980-81	81-82	82-83	83-84	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89
38.00	2435.60	6070.0	12503.2	23626.2	22518.9	31000	38943	38332

Note : Production in Kgs.

SOURCE : Statistics from Sericulture Department.

The table No. 5.1 reveals the production of cocoon in Sirsi Taluka from 1980-81 to 1988-89. The data presented in the Table states that there was 38 Kg production in 1980-81 which rose up to 23626.2 Kg in 1984-85 and to 38332 Kg. in 1988-89. Further it states that there is more than 1000 times increase in the production of cocoons within one decade which represents tremendous growth over the years.

iv) LAND UNDER MULBERRY CULTIVATION :

Land under mulberry cultivation from the year 1980-81 to 1988-89 highlighted in the Table No. 5.2

TABLE NO.5.2

LAND UNDER MULBERRY CULTIVATION IN SIRSI TALUKA FOR THE PERIOD

1980-81 to 1988-89.

		(In acres)						
1980-81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	88-89
32.00	66.20	214	284	356	466	488	512	539

SOURCE : Reports from Sericulture Department Sirsi

It is noticed from the Table No. 5.2 that, the land under mulberry was only 32 acres while it has gone up to 356 acre in 1985-86 and 539 acres in 1988-89. Further the table reveals that there is a continuous increase in the land under mulberry

cultivation which indicates tremendous prospect for sericulture in Sirsi Taluka.

v) NUMBER OF FAMILIES ASSOCIATED WITH SERICULTURE :

In 1982-1983 only 202 families were associated with sericulture in Sirsi Taluka. It increased to 500 families in 1986-87 and more than 600 families in 1988-89.

It is expected, in view of the past trends, some more than 800 families may follow sericulture activities in Sirsi Taluka by the end of 1990.

vii) PRICE TREND :

An average cocoon rate for gross Breed (CB) variety was Rs. 25/Kg. in the year 1980-81 in 1984-85 the rate was doubled. The rate in the same year for Bivoltine variety was Rs. 50 per Kg. and gone up to Rs. 70 in 1984-85. Rs. 100 Kg in 1987 and in 1988 it jumped to Rs. 126 while at the end of the April 1989. The rate increased to Rs. 153 Kg. It indicates that there is an increasing trend in the cocoon price. (Source : From the Records, Sericulture Department) Fro

From the review of sericulture development, in the present decade, it emerges that, there is a phenomenal scope for the development of sericulture industry in Sirsi Taluka. Sericulture has vast potential in generating employment opportunities, and opening new outlets of income generation

for rural development and welfare. It is worth mentioning that, Sirsi will reach the peak in sericulture cultivation in a very short period of time.