Silk Association of India (SAI)
NEWSLETTER

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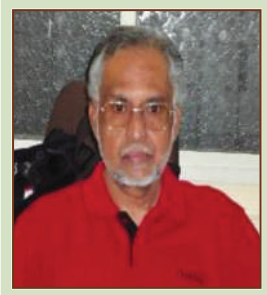
From the President's Desk.....

The Fading Glory of Karnataka Silk Industry



The state Karnataka has been known for centuries as a land of silk and gold. Over the time, gold shine decreased and that place stands occupied by information technology. Consequent to the popularization of information technology, Karnataka later became to be known as the valley of silk and information technology (Silicon and Silk Valley). But, over the last two decades, silk production has gradually declined. The state of Karnataka in the past had a lion's share (70%) in the country's silk production. However, currently it has precariously dropped down to 40-45% in mulberry silk production. From 1980 to 2007, Karnataka state by successfully implementing three high profile sericulture projects viz., Karnataka Sericulture Project (KSP)-1st Phase (1980-87), National Sericulture Project (1989-97) and Japan International Cooperation Agency Projects (1992-2007) and emerged as a model sericulture state in the country. State was also proud of having all the required infrastructural facilities from soil to silk. Possessing multidimensional organizations such as Pure Mysore Seed Area, well equipped cocoon markets, high-capacity model grainages, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC), Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI), Karnataka Silk Marketing Board (KSMB), Karnataka Sericulture Department grew as a most important department in the State. To supplement these, handlooms and power looms sector also developed well. For strengthening and supporting the Karnataka State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board moved its headquarters in Mumbai to Bengaluru and contributed towards better development of sericulture in the state. This also enabled the availability of advanced technologies from soil to silk, technical assistance, advise and training to all the stakeholders.

Although, after 2000, Karnataka retained its 1st position in the country, its fluctuating silk production has made many people believe that it is nearing the dubious phase of closure. What are the reasons for this state of affairs today? If this continues, what is the way out to revive? The worry in general about the fate of people engaged in sericulture, farmers whose livelihood is dependent, reelers, weavers, millions of wage workers especially the women is growing stronger than usual.

In this direction, this article focuses to throw light on the key issues confronted by the silk industry and their analysis, as well as an attempted to suggest immediate corrective steps and remedies / programs that need to be implemented in the future.

1. Current status of silkworm egg production

Currently, mulberry is being cultivated in around 2.69 lakh acres in the state and it is estimated that about 1600 lakh eggs(DFLs) are required to be produced and supplied. Silkworm egg production is very important and vital in the entire silk production chain. This important task

is carried out by three agencies namely, state government (8.27%), private sector seed producers (73.32%) and Central Silk Board (18.41%). According to the available information 76% of eggs are being produced and the demand supply gap is 24%. The task of producing the basic seeds of both the male female parents required for the production of seed cocoons and in turn hybrid eggs in the grainages is mainly the government's responsibility. As it is not adequately addressed, egg producers are suffering from shortage of seed cocoons in addition to their exorbitant cost. This in turn is resulting in shortage in production and supply of silkworm eggs, especially the bivoltines. This is a very important daily based activity and the state government is unbale to cope up with it adequately. Coordination, cooperation and joint efforts needed to rectify this by both state government and Central silk Board and are lacking making the seed sector struggle to prosper. In order to set this right, authorities of both State government, Central Silk Board, Pure Mysore Seed area, Bivoltine Adopted Seed Rearers, seed producers must have a joint meeting and formulate an action plan. Apart from this, cold storage plant for preservation of bivoltine eggs and uniform pricing policy for both seed cocoons and silkworm eggs is the need of hour. These important and diligent tasks require immediate attention of all the concerned.

2. Mulberry pest infestations

Mulberry is the sole food plant of silkworms; its yield and nutritional value determines the quality and quantity of cocoons and silk produced. But over the last couple of years, there has been a significant increase in the thrips, mites, leaf roller infestations and necessitates immediate attention of all the research institutes. Besides, indiscriminate use of chemicals to control these pests have extended residual effects and is causing adverse effects on the silkworm larval health. This issue also needs to be addressed on priority.

3. Decline in cocoon quality

In order to stop raw silk imports from China, our country and state requires to produce high quality 3A and 4A grade bivoltine silk locally. The basic requirement for this is the cocoons with uniform size and shape besides less defective cocoon percentage. But the quality of the cocoons produced currently are not meeting these standards as a result weavers are not getting the required quality silk yarn and there is a severe shortage. Farmers need a lot of knowledge and training to overcome this. Besides, the high humid conditions caused by untimely and prolonged rains, if not manipulated, declines the quality of cocoons produced by the farmers. Hence, it is important for everyone to focus on humidity management in silkworm rearing and spinning. Both state government and Central Silk Board needs to devise suitable training programmes.

4. Cocoon marketing problems

The government of Karnataka has established an excellent system for marketing the cocoons through government cocoon markets and it was a matter of pride that 95% of the cocoons produced in the state were getting transacted in these markets. This had continued for almost 6-7 decades and had won the confidence of all. But the farmers outcry in recent days has been that the department has failed to continue the same and not managing the system very well. Inadequate space, more time consumption in cocoon transaction, sometimes the harassment by reelers and delayed payment are some of the hardships heard daily. In addition to this, the government cocoon markets are confined to traditional old Mysore region and the distant north Karnataka farmers are suffering from the transportation troubles, spending more money and time to transact their produce. Taking advantage of these problems, some private agencies and dealers have started transacting cocoons outside the markets and it is learnt that cocoon arrival at the government cocoon markets has reduced drastically. Although, the private participation can create competition and assure rates to the farmers, their sustainability and security to the farmers is more important. Hence, government has to check the legality of such private cocoon markets and take some commitment from them to purchase the cocoons in participating in the cocoon markets and protecting the interest of farmers. The main reasons for poor functioning of cocoon markets is the manpower crunch in the department and lack of honest and interested officers for welfare of industry. This in fact is leading to some of irregularities in the government cocoon markets. This requires speedy staff recruitment, adequate financial support, regular supervision and improved management. It is inevitable that the government pays more attention to this and put greater emphasis to improve the situation.

5. Lack of uniformity in raw silk and non-availability of gradable yarn in big lots

Traditional adage 'Saree Like Tread' holds good and for the production of good fabric quality yarn is required. Our high-speed power looms which are more in number require silk yarn with high tensile strength uniformity in size and in big lots. As quality silk yarn is not produced to meet full demand domestically, country had no option other than importing it from China. But under the present circumstances, even China is struggling to maintain its earlier quantity of production and Chinese silk is not available in required quantities. This has created an excellent opportunity for India to step up its production of high quality bivoltine raw silk and Karnataka holds the key for it. To propel the bivoltine raw silk production In Karnataka and in turn in India, both state government and Central Silk Board collaboration and coordination appear to be more vital than ever before and needs attention on priority today. Also, a joint meeting or discussion of silk reelers

and weavers involving KSMB and CSB is essential for formulating future programmes for ensuring the orderly development of raw silk production and supply. Otherwise, there is no doubt that this industry of ancient times will be prone to hardship. The availability of indigenous automatic reeling machines, standard cocoon processing, skilled manpower and quality water are the important factors and Central Silk Board has to paly a pivotal role in fulfilling these requirements.

6. Manpower crunch in the state department and Central Silk Board

Competent human resource plays a very important role in the overall development of any sector. Compared to the staff strength of 9226 during 1990, currently only 1728 staff serve the sericulture department. Most of them are over 55-58 years and only a very few will remain in the service in the next 3-4 years. Even the situation of Central Silk Board is in no way different. Number of scientists and grass root level field workers strength has reduced precariously. Moreover, there is a acute scarcity of skilled youth and this is posing a big problem especially in the reeling and weaving sector. It is strangely felt that, that, if this situation continues unchecked, industry will automatically close. The present situation of industry, which boasts of being the largest employment generator, is miserable. If the state and central governments do not jump into action to overcome the shortage of manpower, this situation will worsen. Another requirement of the department is the appointment of young and energetic Commissioners to steer the department back to its old glory. Hitherto, only the officers on the verge of retirement are posted as Commissioners and obviously they don't get enough time to show any improvement. A lot more needs to be done quickly to address these serious issue.

7. The need for strengthening and reorienting silk research

Three research institutes namely, Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI) Thalaghatpura (Govt. of Karnataka), Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute (CSRTI), Mysore & Central Silk Technological Research and Training Institute (CSTRI), Bengaluru (Central Silk Board) are functioning in the state. In addition, National Silkworm Seed Organization, Silkworm seed technology Laboratory and Bengaluru Agriculture Universities are also engaged in silk research and training. But, in the state, there is a desperate need of some more silkworm hybrids and their requirement is glaringly visible. Further, there is also an urgent need for maintaining purity and vigour of the prevailing CSR breeds on scientific lines by the concerned institutes. In addition, the technologies for quality cocoon production, ways and means for by-product utilization, augmentation of value-added products, introduction of mechanization to overcome labour problem/dependance and capacity building of the stakeholders need immediate attention and focus.

Further, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation and Karnataka Silk Marketing Boards who supplementing the development of silk industry also need more financial assistance and manpower to improve their efficiencies.

8. Focus on rules, regulations and policy narrations

The silk industry involves multi-stakeholder activities and they all need a good healthy relationship with each other in order to create a growth promoting ambiance. Quality linked pricing for all the silk commodities across the state, uniform pricing policy based on cost of production for seed cocoons and silkworm seed, extensive training, establishment of a greater number of Farmer Producer Organizations etc., are very important and need immediate attention of the both state and central government.

9. Lack of coordination and partnership between State Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board

Sericulture is in the concurrent list and both the state government and the central government are shouldering the responsibility of developing the silk industry in the respective states and the country. Although, the head quarters of both these are located in Bengaluru, many years have passed since both these have jointly organized any meetings to discuss the problems of silk industry, find out remedial measures and implement them in an orderly way. Decades back both these departments used to conduct regular BCC meetings every month and for the reasons not known, they are not held now and resulted in a setback for the seed sector. The absence of higher officers is conspicuous in most of the meetings of state sericulture department and Central Silk Board. These two departments are like two eyes of the silk industry. But lack of mutual coordination, understanding and cooperation amongst them is very much visible and because of this, most of the problems are not solved leaving all the stakeholder at lurch. Lack of government grants, laxity of the officers, poor coordination amongst the departments are considered as the major obstacles for the development of silk industry in the state. To address all these grievances, government level remedies are imperative.

All the above-mentioned problems are onerous and need to be addressed by all the concerned persons without losing any time or else we may have to face lot of hardships in the industry in future. Fortunately, all the stakeholders are pacifists but they may inevitably need to hold a massive protest to draw the governments attention. In this direction Silk Association of India (SAI) is constantly making concerted efforts to draw the attention of both the State Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board. But surprisingly no one is inclined to hear the outcry of SAI. It is miserable to see that, all the concerned are trying to flee away from their bounden duties without exhibiting any enthusiasm.

V.Balasubramanian, IAS (Retd)

GST Council defers hike in GST on Silk Textiles from 5% to 12%

B.S. Angadi and M. Ramachandra Gowda

The GST rate hike on all textiles including silk, from 5% to 12% was to come into effect from January 1st, 2022.

Why government proposed to hike GST on textiles?

The stated goal behind the Finance Ministry's move was to address anomalies caused by an inverted duty structure, which occurs when the tax rate on inputs is greater than the tax on the finished product. The government's rationale was that, the decision would correct the Inverted Tax Structure (ITC) anomaly plaguing the manmade fibre (MMF) textiles value chain. The textiles & apparel industry had a long-pending demand for the removal of ITC on the MMF value chain, said the Ministry. The GST on MMF, MMF Yarn and MMF Fabrics were 18%, 12% and 5% respectively. Taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products created build-up credits and cascading costs and blockage of crucial working capital for the industry, the government had given an explanation.

How the impending GST hike proposal on textiles was averted?

The government was stubborn on implementing the GST hike with effect from January 1st, 2022. This was not received well by the textile industry as a whole. Especially, the silk industry was shocked and the Silk Association of India (SAI) and all other stakeholders also felt that it would be a death knell for the entire silk sector once implemented. Sparing no time, SAI accrued all its resources, left no stone unturned to bring together all the organizations, associations, garnered the help of concurring persons capable of convincing the government, wrote letters and arranged a series of meetings with the bureaucrats at the helm of affairs, state and union ministers of various departments to stop the hike on all textile in general and silk textile in particular and save the industry.

Meeting with Honourable Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, Honourable Union Finance Minister on 15-12-2021 at Delhi

Smt. Savita Amarashetty, Vice-President (SAI), Sri M Ramachandra Gowda, Secretary (SAI), Sri Shivaram Director (SAI), Sri Chhaganmal Director (SAI) and Sri Satyanarayana Member (SAI) spearheaded the protest and following are some of the high-profile meetings arranged and attended by them.

- Meeting with Smt. Roop Rashi Mahapatra Textile Commissioner at Bengaluru on 11-12-2021
- Meeting with Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Honourable union minister of state for Textiles on 14-12-2021 at Delhi
- Meeting with Honourable Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, Union Finance Minister on 15-12-2021 at New Delhi
- Press meet on 30-12-2021
- Meeting with Honourable Karnataka Textile Minister Sri. Munenakoppa, on 8-12-2021

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Meeting with Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri Basavaraj S Bommai on 27-12-2021 SAI Team M. Ramachandra Gowda, Vice President Smt. Savita V Amarashetty, Directors V Shiivaram, Chhaganmal and Members V Sathyanarayan and Lakshminarayan

Press meet on 30-12-2021 SAI- Secretary, Directors Chhaganmal, V Shivaram and Member V Sathyanarayana

- ➢ Meeting with Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri Basavaraj S Bommai on 27-12-2021

However, during the 46th GST Council convened at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Honorable Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman it was decided to defer the proposal for the time being, retain the status quo on GST rate on textile at 5% and not to raise it to 12%. It was also informed by the finance minister that the issue of GST


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ಜವಳಿ ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಏರಿಕೆಗೆ ವಿರೋಧ


दक्षिण भारत राष्ट्रमत

जीएसटी की बढ़ती दरों को लेकर चिंतित हैं टेक्सटाइल, गारमेंट व सिल्क उद्योग के व्यापारी

फेडरेशन ऑफ टेक्सटाइल एंड गारमेंट एसोसिएशन ने लामबंद होकर एकजुटता के साथ कार्य करने का जताया विश्वास

rate on textile will be sent to the tax rate rationalization committee which will submit its report by February. 2022.

This great relief was gained due to the objections raised by the industry bodies and the concerted efforts of SAI and many other associations in persuading the government about the ill effects of proposed GST hike.

Research Brief

Production of high quality silk having different fluorescent color by transgenic silkworms

H.K. Basavaraja and B.S. Angadi

(Source: Toshiki TAMURA et.al, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan in Annual Report 2009)

Sericulture in Japan has declined over the past two decades with reduction in the amount of annual cocoon production and number of farmers rearing silkworms. The reduction has been caused by the low prices of cocoon and raw silk. To promote sericulture in Japan it was thought to develop new silk and cocoons that can sell for much higher prices than those of the normal (ordinary) silk. In addition, the new silk and cocoons would be distinguished from the cocoon color and silk available from other sericulture countries like China, Brazil and India.

Recently, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences has developed the technology for transgenic silkworms for expression of the character, using this technology the artificially synthesized gene introduced into the silkworm and expressed in silk gland for production of high quality silk.

The production of large amount of recombinant silk and attempts to produce higher quality fabrics. The first developed transgenic silkworms that produce silk having interesting green, red orange florescent characteristics (fig.1). To increase the production of florescent silk, these strains were back crossed with Japanese type (peanut) and Chinese type (oval) parent races with selection in successive generation. The resultant silkworms produced the high quality recombinant silk having different characters. The most interesting silk possesses the florescence of green, red and orange color. They also developed transgenic strain producing very thin and strong silk filament by direct introduction of the artificial gene for thin silk filament race "Hachuring" and reared in large number of silkworms and harvested more amount of cocoons (fig.1). This is turned out to be produced by transgenic silkworm. The silk with cell-adhesive characters were also produced by the same method.

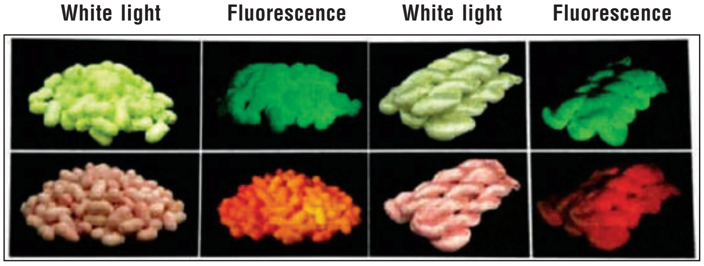

Fig. 1. The cocoons and silk made from the transgenic silkworms introduced green (upper) or red (lower fluorescence gene)

The florescence color of the silk was decreased when the silk was reeled by the usual hot steam and water in normal method. However, also investigated different reeling methods using lower temperature so that, the cocoons without losing the modified characters could be retained and as a result it was found that drying and boiling the cocoons at lower temperature and the use of vacuum treatment and specific reagents were required for reeling. As a result of this innovative, the recombinant silk could be successfully reeled and to produce large amount of silk retaining the florescence color (fig.1) as well as the character of thin filament.

Utilizing these colored silk, the production of textile fabrics for knit dresses, jacket and shawls as shown in the fig. 2 and interior accessories such as lampshades and tapestries.

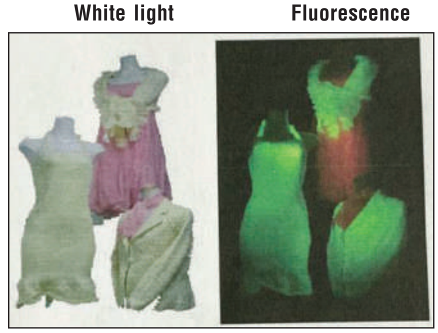

Fig. 2. Women wears made by the recombinant silk with the fluorescent colors.

From these results it was concluded that the production of high quality silk is possible using the newly developed technology that the recombinant silk produced by the transgenic silkworms may open new field in Japanese sericulture and contribute to the increase silk production.

Webinars Conducted by SAI

M. Ramachandra Gowda and E. Muniraju

Webinar 11: Muscardine disease management in silkworm management (16-10-2021)

Resource person

Technical presentation Dr. Balavenkatasubbaiah, Scientist (Retd), CSRTI, Mysuru

Panel members

Sri. S.N. Sreenivas, Assistant Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. M. Nagaraju, Assistant Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. K. Chandrashekara, Sericulturist,

Sri. Venkatachalapathi, Sericulturist

The most common causes for the occurrence of the disease are,

1. Low temperature and high humidity in the rearing house.
2. Prevalence of alternate hosts outside the rearing house.
3. Air borne and infection through skin of silkworms.
4. Environmental support to the pathogen.
5. The fungus once in contact of silkworm, enters the body through skin in 8 hours and the incubation is 2-3 days of time.

Control measures

- Control the alternate hosts of pathogen available in mulberry gardens well in advance and check the entry of spores to the rearing environment.
- Necessary manipulations are effected in the quantity of leaves to be fed and see that the bed is kept dry.
- Provide cross ventilation and free circulation of air in the rearing house without closing the windows and doors and ventilators.
- Ensure scientific disinfection before rearings and proper use of recommended bed disinfectants without fail. Vijetha supplement is the recommended bed disinfectant which can control muscardine for all stages besides normal usage of lime.
- Systematic disinfection of rearing house.
- Usage of recommended bed disinfectants
- Adequate feeding practices depending on environmental conditions.
- Sufficient aeration/cross ventilation in rearing house in late age reraring.

Webinar 12: Quality silkworm seed cocoon generation and Egg Production (13-11-2021)

Open remarks

Dr. Sivaprasad, Director, NSSO, CSB, Bengaluru

Panel members

Dr. Harlapur, Joint Director, NSSO, Benegaluru

Sri. Y. T. Thimmaiah, Joint Director, Seed Areas, Dept. of Sericulture, Govt. of Karnataka

Sri. M. Nagaraju, Assistant Director of Sericulture

Sri. Shivanandaiah, Farmer, Bivoltine seed cocoon producer, Kallanakere, Tumkur Dt.

Sri. Annegowda, Farmer, Pure Mysore seed cocoon producer, Kunigal

Sri. S. B. Naveen, Silk worm Seed Producer, Sangapura, Mandya Dt.

Sri. K. Chandrasekar, Proprietar Chawki Rearing Centre, Yerahally, Mandya Dt.

Accepted the issues with the present B V parental race CSR2 and the problems noticed are as follows.

- Examined and yet to be confirmed whether the fecundity rate of pure breed CSR2 is reduced
- Complaints received from farmers on crop success rate. this point and being examined at field level.
- CSR2 creates problems in high humidity and high temperature conditions.
- FC1 and FC2 also creates problems in 10 months hibernation schedule.
- New double hybrids. Mysore-1 High temperature resistant and Berhampur-1 High humidity resistant new breeds are under trial and will be released for commercial exploitation in another one year.
- Field trials of high temperature resistant breeds are being conducted at present at A P, T N, and Kodathi, Bangalore.
- High humidity resistant breed problem not yet solved and working on this for the past 2 years.
- CSR6, CSR2, and CSR27 high humidity breeds are being examined at CSRTI Mysuru and Behrampore.
- To release one new breed it takes 10 years and therefore proper maintenance of available races at all stages is required at this stage.
- Even now about 80% of the cocoons in the state are only the traditional cross breed cocoons

- The daily brushing programme of p1 dfls at seed areas is being carried out at the rate of 5600 dfls of pure Mysore and 2500 of CSR2 race to ensure the supply of required seed cocoons for the commercial hybrid production in the state
- In the meantime, leaf quality at the gardens of all seed rearing stages is maintained by adopting the tree mulberry plantation system.
- Cellular rearing is being conducted up to p2 levels and the worm testing is made rigid at all staged for disease prevention.
- Drip irrigation, soil testing and soil fertility programmes are also in force,
- About 47% of cocoons are disposed for seed preparations and 53% for reeling.
- The problem for CSR2 p1 brushings is the seed cocoon rates which is around Rs 700/- per kg normally and the expectations of p1 farmers is more than this. Because the commercial rearers are getting an average of Rs.550/per kg of commercial cocoons and the rearing is not so risky compared to seed cocoons. Hence now a days the regular p1 farmers are showing reluctancy to produce p1 cocoons.

Webinar 13: Muscardine disease management in silk worm management (11-12-2021)

Resource person

Technical presentation Dr. B. Nataraju, Scientist (Retd) CSRTI, Mysuru

Panel members

Dr. N.B. Jyothi, Scientist, KSSRDI,

Sri. Sreenivas, Deputy Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. S.V. Siddareddy, Deputy Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. K.S. Kumara Subramanaya, Assistant Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. Shekar, Farmer, Doddanahalli, Sira Tq. Tumakur Dt.,

Sri. P. Krishna, Proprietor, Chawki Rearing Centre, Palamaner, Andrapradesh.

The most common causes for the occurrence of the disease are,

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- Sufficient aeration/cross ventilation in rearing house in late age reraring.

Webinar 14: Powdary mildew disease management in mulberry (8-1-2022)

Resource person

Technical presentation Dr. Arun Kumar, Scientist, CSRTI, Mysore

Panel Members

Sri. M. Nagaraju, Assistant Director of Sericulture

Sri. K. S. Kumara Subramanaya, Assistant Director, Dept of Sericulture,

Sri. C. P. Harish, Farmer, Malluru, Sidlghatta Tq. Chickaballapura Dt.

Sri. K. Chandrasekar, Propreitor Chawki Rearing Centre, Yerahally, Mandya Dt.,

Sri. T. Krishna, Proprietor, Chawki Rearing Centre, Palamaner, Andrapradesh.

The most common causes for the occurrence of the disease are,

- Most common during winter months
- Closure mulberry plantations
- Limited scope for free aeration in the gardens
- Excess irrigation or prolonged rainy days
- Mulberry gardens closure to water bodies
- Mulberry garden soils covered with mulch or weeds
- Lack of precautionary measures

Control measures

- Adoption of wider spacing plantations
- Ensured weed control methods
- Adopting improved and controlled irrigation methods
- Use of sulphur after every leaf harvest during winter
- Adopting integrated package of practice for control of powdery mildew

60th Executive Committee Meeting of SAI

M. Ramachandra Gowda

Ever since its inception, SAI Executive Committee used to meet regularly once a month at its Bengaluru office to discuss about the various issues related to the development of silk industry across the country until Covid-19 pandemic interrupted its regularity in 2020. However, SAI using Zoom platform continued to conduct virtual meetings and addressed the crucial problems confronted by the industry even during that most difficult time. As soon as the situation had slightly improved and the usual social activities were recovered from various Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, it was decided to have a physical meeting. Grabbing this opportunity, young and versatile Director of SAI, Sri Naveen proposed to conduct it at Sangapura, his native place. This was readily accepted by all the office bearers of SAI.

As a result, 60th Executive Committee meeting of SAI was held at Sangapura on 1st December, 2021. Sri S.B. Naveen had made excellent arrangements very meticulously. All those were present including the President Sri V. Balasubramanian, IAS (Retd), Smt. Savitha Amarashetty, Vice-President SAI & the Chairperson KSMB and Sri M. Ramachandra Gowda Secretary SAI, complimented Sri S.B. Naveen for his hospitality and all the arrangements made. Here are some glimpses of the meeting.

SAI Meets Honorable Sericulture Minister

M. Ramachandra Gowda

SAI office bearers lead by Sri C. Narayanaswamy, Honorary President along with Sri V. Balasubramanian, President, Smt. Savitha V Amarashetty, Vice president, Sri. M. Ramachandra Gowda, Secretary, Dr. E. Muniraju, Joint secretary and other members met Honorable Sericulture Minister of Karnataka State Sri. Narayana Gowda at Vikasa Soudha on 11-10-2021 and discussed about the following issues.

- Posting of sericulture commissioner who will have at least 3 to 5 years of service leftover.
- Filling up of the vacant post in the department immediately in order to strengthen sericulture extension activities in the state.
- Revival of BCC meeting on regular basis for effective co ordination between Central Silk Board and Department of Sericulture and private sector
- Strengthening of KSMB financially.

During the meeting Secretary sericulture and Horticulture Sri. Raju Gowda, Chairman KSIC, Sri. Rajendra Kumar Kataria IAS, Sri. Peddappaiah Commissioner, Dr. Subash Naik Director CSB, Dr. Radhakrishna Director KSSRDI were also present.

Honorable minister assured Silk association of India that all the issues raised are very valid and he will immediately order all the concerned authorities to resolve them on priority basis.

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