

Catalytic Development Programme on Sericulture (CDP)

Sericulture is the art and science of raising silkworms for silk production. India is the second largest producer of raw silk after China. In India, Sericulture is a farm-based, labour intensive and commercially attractive economic activity falling under the cottage and small-scale sector. It requires low investment, with high returns and can be taken up along with other traditional crops. Pursuing two crops gives farmers adequate returns and increases their ability to absorb risks.

Extent of the untapped opportunity

- While 7.36 lakh hectare area is under mulberry cultivation in China, it is only 1.79 lakh hectare in India. (*Li Long and Hu Zhuozhong, Indian Silk, 2006*)
- Studies have shown that every acre of sericulture under irrigated conditions had a potential to employ 247 men and 193 women round the year. (Hanumappa, 1986, Jayaram et.al, 1998)

Objectives

Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) is the flagship scheme of the Central Silk Board with the aim to:

- Set up enterprises for seed production, cocoon production, silk reeling, processing, etc.
- Promote Sericulture in the tribal and rural areas of the country as a major instrument of poverty eradication and livelihood generation
- Bring together sericulture farmers in the form of Community Based Organizations to help scale up their activities, synchronize pre and post cocoon activities, strengthen extension and credit flow
- Create 100-150 model mulberry clusters in association with State governments and provide support from R&D institutions of Central Silk Board for exclusive production of Bivoltine silk of international standard

Framework for Implementation

CDP is designed to suit different sericulture zones, and packages will be offered with zone-wise unit costs. The scheme covers 5 zones:

Zone	States
North Western	J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana.
Central & Western	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
Eastern	West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.
North Eastern	Assam(including autonomous councils), Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim.
Southern	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Project implementation would be at the State level, Zonal level, and Central level.

State Level

Project Monitoring Committee (PMC)-Chaired by the Commissioner/ Director of Sericulture of the State, and will include nodal officers from Central Silk Board for the State. The PMC is responsible for- Formulation of action plans/proposals, finalization of beneficiary list, monitoring implementation of CDP and reviewing its progress.

Central Level

Zonal Committee (ZC)- Officer in charge of the Zone under Central Silk Board(CSB) will be the convener of the committee. It will also include scientists, institutes and seed organizations in the zone. ZC will be responsible for consolidating CDP proposals from states, sending them to CSB, monitoring the implementation of CDP in the zone and organizing social audit.

Zonal Level

Apex Monitoring Committee (AMC)- Chaired by the Member Secretary of Central Silk Board(CSB) and includes representatives from Ministry of Textiles and Planning Commission. AMC will appraise the state and zonal proposals, allocate funds, issue guidelines pertaining to CDP implementation and conduct Mid-Term evaluation of the scheme.

Funding Mechanism

CDP comprises of 3 major sectors- Mulberry, Vanya (Vanya is non-mulberry silk and has three varieties- Eri, Tasar and Muga), and Post Cocoon Sector. Funding is available in each of these sectors for the beneficiaries and to State governments for infrastructure development. The scheme has been approved for implementation with a total project cost of Rs 1852.36 crore, of which the GOI share is Rs 889 crore, State share is Rs 426.87 crore and the balance Rs 536.49 crore is beneficiary share. The respective shares of GOI, States and beneficiaries vary with components.

Mulberry Sector

- **Seeds** – Each State Seed farm will be provided assistance of Rs 5 lakh to strengthen facilities, with 50:50 sharing pattern between GOI and State government. Support will also be provided to state and private seed grainages to upgrade their facilities to produce seeds in conformity with quality norms prescribed under CSB (Amendment) Act, 2006. Assistance would be Rs 3.5 lakh with the sharing pattern of 50:50 (CSB:State) for State grainages and 40:40:20 (CSB:State:Grainage) for private grainages.
- **Plantation** – Support will be provided for raising of Mulberry bush as well as tree plantation with a unit cost of Rs 14,000 per acre involving inputs such as chemical fertilizers, farm yard manure, pesticides, etc. Assistance ranging from Rs 25,000-30,000 to cover all types of irrigation such as drip, tube/open wells, ponds, storage tanks, etc will also be provided. Sharing under both components would be 50:25:25(CSB:State:Beneficiary).
- **Rearing House Construction** – Assistance will be provided for three models of rearing houses:
 - 225 sq. ft.- Rs 90,000 with sharing pattern 35:35:30 (GOI:State:Beneficiary).
 - 600 sq. ft.- Rs 1,75,000 with sharing pattern 20:30:50 (GOI:State:Beneficiary).
 - 225 sq. ft.- Rs 2,75,000 with sharing pattern 10:20:70 (GOI:State:Beneficiary).

Vanya Sector

- **Seeds** – Unemployed tribal/rural youth will be identified and trained on grainage technology, and assisted with construction of grainage building, procurement of equipment and working capital. Support will be Rs 2.32 lakh per graineur with a sharing pattern on 60:20:20 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for general states and 80:10:10 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for special status states.
- **Plantation** – Each beneficiary will be assisted with supply of seedlings, cost of plantation development , inputs and soil conservation measures to the tune of Rs 40,000 per hectare along with Rs 17,000 per hectare for maintenance of existing plantation, with a sharing pattern of 60:20:20 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for general states and 80:10:10 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for special status states.
- **Rearing House Construction** – Assistance of Rs.1,00,000 per rearing house shall be provided with a sharing pattern of 35:35:30 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for general states and 80:10:10 (CSB : State : Beneficiary) for special status states.

Post Cocoon Sector

- **Reeling** – Assistance will be provided for construction of reeling sheds for establishment of reeling units. Central share allocation of Rs 6.34 crore has been made to cover construction of 275 reeling sheds. Support for setting up multi-end reeling units and automatic reeling units will also be provided. Central share allocation of Rs 16.79 crore has been made for the establishment of 225 multi-end reeling units and 12.39 crore for the establishment of 20 automatic reeling unit. Furthermore, 5% interest subsidy on the working capital loan, sanctioned to reeling units by the Scheduled Commercial Bank, will be shared by the Centre and State.
- **Twisting** – Assistance will be available for establishment of twisting units which will help in value of addition of silk from the reeling unit, by producing twisted silk. Central share allocation of Rs 7.45 crore has been made for establishment of 125 twisting units.

Convergence with MGNREGA

According to the Joint Convergence guidelines released in October 2013 by the Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Rural Development, the following activities can be taken up under MGNREGA.

- Land Development – Converting uncultivable and barren lands into cultivable lands for plantation of hort plants. This includes weeding and watering.
- Soil Treatment – Staggered/Contour trenches based on the slope of land to facilitate soil and water conservation. Manure application is also covered under MGNREGA.
- Plant protection/Disease Management – Prophylactic and curative measures against insects, pests, and diseases as per the recommendations of the respective research institute would be taken up.

Livelihood Generation through Sericulture, Jharkhand

PRADAAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action) is an NGO engaged in working on livelihood opportunities for the underprivileged across India, by promoting SHGs. PRADAAN started tasar yarn reeling centres in Jharkhand, where SHG members could find a regular source of income. Once the reeling centres took off, the woman producers were organized as a producers company, a separate entity from PRADAAN, called MASUTA. MASUTA is an acronym derived from Mahilla(woman), Suta(thread) and Tasar. MASUTA Producers Company Ltd. has been working in Jharkhand in the districts of Hazaribagh, Dumka, Godda, and Koderma since 2005.

MASUTA purchases tasar silk cocoons and sells these cocoons to its producer members. The women purchase the cocoons as and when they require it. In exchange for this consistent supply of cocoons, the women sell the yarn back to MASUTA, which sells it in the market. The model removes risk for the producer, who knows that when her work is done, she will have a buyer. MASUTA aggregates, grades and sorts the yarn, then stores and maintains a stock of all varieties for potential buyers. MASUTA earns revenue when it sells yarn to buyers. In 2005, MASUTA started with just Rs 1 lakh. By 2009, it had nearly 3,000 producers with an annual turnover of INR 9.5crores. A full-time yarn producer, engaged with MASUTA, can earn an average of INR 20,000 per year.

Also, apart from the sheer quantity of jobs created and income generated, there is also the qualitative, social dimension – tasar offers a dignified job opportunity for marginalized groups like women and landless farmers without being exploitative. Importantly, they do not have to leave their homes in search of work, or work in hazardous environments. They are part owners and have a voice. Working in groups, women build support systems and learn about different ways to cope with their day-to-day challenges.



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