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विद्येविना मति गेली, मतीविना नीति गेली  
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## Status and Prospectus of Sericulture in Maharashtra

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### Abstract

Maharashtra is a non-traditional state in sericulture. Mulberry and tassar silks are mainly produced in the state. Tassar silk is produced in 4 districts and mulberry silk is produced in 24 districts of the state. The sericulture industry has created employment generation of 65.42 lakh man-day during 2016-17. The State ranked at 7<sup>th</sup> position in tassar silk production and at 1<sup>st</sup> position in mulberry silk production among non-traditional States in the country. Negative attitude of stakeholders, less financial sources, availability of prominent alternate cash crops and weak market infrastructure are the major constraints for development of sericulture enterprise. The area under mulberry and tassar plantation is 8700 acres and 12456 hectares respectively. The Govt. has planned to utilize the naturally available 18866 Ha. area under tassar host plantation and to bring about 20565 acres of area under mulberry plantation in the State by the end of FY-2030. The State Govt. has planned a strategy to develop sericulture cluster groups, mulberry plantation only through saplings, training of technical staff and sericulturists; rearing by

chawky worms, encouragement of local self Government, SHG's, Co-operatives, NGO's and individuals to undertake sericulture enterprise. The funds will be made available through CSS, DPC, MGNREGS, RKVY and ATMA.

**Key Words:** Sericulture, Status, Maharashtra State, Sericulturists, Cocoon, Production.

### 1. Introduction

Sericulture is a cottage industry par excellence, with its agricultural base, industrial superstructure and labour intensive nature. It is remarkable for its low investment, quick and regular returns, which make it an ideal industry for India. It is also considered as one of the most effective tools for rural reconstruction and development of the rural society (Sinha, 1990).

Sericulture being a agro-based rural cottage industry, it had played a significant role in providing employment to small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and specially the youth engaged in agricultural sector. It also helped to uplift the socio-economic status of the rural population in Maharashtra State.

Maharashtra has carved out a distant place in the world of textiles by virtue of its exquisite "Paithani" a poem in gold and silk a weaving known for extra-ordinary craftsmanship, occupy a place of honour in the world of fabrics. (Jadhav, 1999). It was seen that several attempts were made to introduce sericulture in Maharashtra during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The beginning of mulberry sericulture in Maharashtra commenced with very small laboratory of sericulture research station established at Pachgani, Dist. Satara, during 1958-59. This center was established to critically examine the economic feasibility of sericulture as a cottage industry. It was only in the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> plan period, mulberry sericulture was introduced in some of the potential areas of the state by Khadi and Village Industries Board.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> five year plan the Government of Maharashtra with the assistance of Central