

## Economics of sericulture

Vadhiyar Mohan.

Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Guntur, A.P.

**ARTICLE ID: 78**

### INTRODUCTION

Silk is the most elegant textile in the world and known as the 'queen of textiles'. India is the second-largest producer of silk in the world, with total raw silk production of 35261 MT annually. Sericulture is an agro-based cottage industry where farmers rear the silkworms for the production of silk, which is providing a gainful occupation to 8 million people in India. It is very much imperative to know sericulture economics to motivate new farmers to take up sericulture and increase their income. With the invention of new bivoltine sericulture technologies, productivity has enormously increased but at the same time, there is a change in quantity and cost of input required.

### ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Sericulture is labor-intensive farming and it requires a high initial investment. The area required is 1 ha for mulberry cultivation and annually we can take 5 crops of bivoltine.

#### 1. Fixed costs.

Sl. No.	Item	Total amount	Annual depreciation if any	Annual cost
1.	Pukka shed (50×20 ft.).	4,52,500.	5%	22,800
2.	Rearing stand.	36,000	10%	3,600
3.	Power weeder 7HP.	34,131	10%	3,413
4.	Plastic mountages and trays	12,000	10%	1,200
5.	(Petrol) Power sprayer to disinfect shed.	6,000	10%	600
6.	(Battery) knapsack sprayer for plant	4,500	10%	450

	protection chemicals.			
7.	Sicature's (to prune/trim the plants.)	2,600	10%	260
8.	Farming sickle's (to harvest shoots.)	480	10%	48
9.	Rent on owned land	-	-	3,500
10.	Interest on fixed capital @8 P.A.	-	-	44,136
Total annual fixed cost				Rs.1,24,14 3/-

## 2. Variable costs.

Sl. No	Item.	Annual requirement.	Rate (INR)	Annual cost.
1.	DFL'S (chawki) including transport.	1700 DFL'S	30/DFL	51,000
2.	Human labour.	352 working days	120/day	42,240
3.	Disinfectant (vijetha).	25 kgs	100/kg	2,500
4.	Bleaching powder	25 kgs	200/kg	5,000
5.	F.Y.M.	12 tonnes	1,500/tonne	18,000
6.	Chemical fertilizers.			
	a). Ammonium Sulphate.	10 bags	580/bag	5,800
	b). SSP.	15 bags	362/bag	5,430
	c). MOP.	5 bags	800/bag	4,000
7.	Plant protection chemicals			
	a). Seri boost (PGR).	12.5 Lts	280/Lt	3,500
	b). Dimethoate 30% EC	2.5 Lts	390/Lt	975
8.	Fuel for machines	25 Lts	85/Lt	2,125
9.	Irrigation charges	-	-	2,500
10.	Interest on working capital @8P.A.	-	-	11,445
Total annual variable cost				Rs.1,54,5 15/-

## COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The annual yield from 1700 DFL'S will be 1445 Kgs (average) of Bivoltine cocoon, with an average price of Rs.340 per kg. This will give us an annual gross income of Rs.4, 91,300/-

(Net profit = Gross income-Total cost). Here, The Total annual cost is Rs.2,78,658/- and Total annual gross income is Rs.4,91,300/- Which gives us an annual net profit of Rs.2,12642/-. And the cost-benefit ratio will be 1.76.



## CONCLUSION

Sericulture can be taken year-round with a constant income, Farmers can earn higher income with less period. Governments are giving subsidies to weaker sections to establish sericulture and also grants incentives to farmers who produce bivoltine silk, e.g. A.P. govt is giving an extra Rs.50 per kg of the bivoltine cocoon. To increase the demand for Indian silk, the Indian government has increased the customs duty on the import of Raw silk & yarn from 10% to 15%. Sericulture can create self-employment for the unemployed rural youth, And also improves the socio-economic status of the small and marginal farmers. Sericulture is one of the most important Agricultural cottage industries.