

# SILK STATE

First Edition

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## SILK: INDIA & ASSAM



Silk production is an art. It is connected with sericulture. Silk is the fine continuous protein fiber obtained from the cocoons made by different insects. The term sericulture, according to Webster's Dictionary originates from 'sericum' implying silk with suffix culture, meaning silk production in English. Hence sericulture implies production of raw silk by raising silk worms. The other term from which sericulture originated is said to be of Chinese origin: 'Seric' meaning silken or 'Su' meaning silk and therefore sericulture means silk breeding.

### Sericulture in India

It is said that sericulture in India is as old as the Indian civilization itself. Some Vedic terms like Suklamber, Pitambar, Pitakauseya or Pitabasa denoted respectively while silk, yellow silk and yellowish brown silk as mention by some Indian authors. Pundarika and Prajapti are the Indian name of the silk worm in the ancient time.

Arthasastra of Kautilya stands as historical evidence of varieties of silk in India. Kautilya has made reference of several kinds of fabrics besides other forest products of worth collected and preserved for the royal exchequer. Among the silk fabrics

the worm *Bombixmori*. Kautilya himself mentioned the three terms belong to the genus silk which is produced by worms fed on leaves of different plants and trees. This proves that the silk of different colors were produced during or before the days of Kautilya. It is worth mentioning that Kautilya also known as Vishnugupta and Chanakya was the Prime Minister of King Chandragupta Maurya who ruled during 321 and 296 BC. Kautilya's Arthasastra also states that sericulture and the silk fabric production industry was prevalent in India since the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, about 100 years before it was introduced in China by the Empress Si Ling Si in 2640 BC.

The silk industry in India had passed through several phases of prosperity and depression. RANIESH CHUNDA DUTT, a noted Indian historian stated that there was decline in the silk manufacture from the days of East India Company and their export was insignificant. However in Assam, silk products were still the national dress for women and each family use to weave sarees for its own use. In Bengal districts, some improvement was seen in MULBERRY, as some scientific methods for rearing the worms were used. In Kashmir the industry has seen strong development because of the import of quality seeds from

1. SILK: INDIA & ASSAM
2. MUGA REARING POTENTIAL IN KAMRUP, SILK FARMS IN ASSAM AND NEED FOR SPECIAL MUGA ZONES.
3. SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTES FUND TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER APART
4. GENERATION CHANGE: MOU SIGNED BETWEEN CANARA BANK AND DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
5. SUALKUCHI: LEGACY, HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY
6. AN OVERVIEW OF SERICULTURE & HANDLOOM VALUE CHAIN UNDER APART
7. PHOTOGRAPHS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER APART BY DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE, GOVT. OF ASSAM

Kautilya mentioned are Dukula, Khauma and Patrorna of Vonga, Kashi, Pundra, Magadha and Suvarnakudiya as well as Kauseya of China. K.L. Barua a historian interpreted *DUKULA* as MUGA from the worm *Antheraea Assama*, *KHAUMA* as ERI from the worm *Philosomiaricini* and *PATRORNA* as 'paat' or MULBERRY silk from

Europe. In Punjab however, a reintroduction-cultivation of silk worms, has ended in failure.

According to PROF. P.N. BANERJI, an economist, the main sources of *MULBERRY* silk in India were Mysore, Coimbatore in Madras, Kashmir, certain districts of West Bengal and few scattered areas in Assam and Punjab. *TASAR* is produced mainly in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, some districts of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. *MUGA* is produced in Assam and *ERi*s produced in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, and Madras. In 1952 more than a million persons were dependent on silk worm rearing which was 17.44 lakhs pounds which declined to the pre-war period (1939-1940).

### Sericulture in Assam

Sericulture is a part and parcel of rural Assam's life since time immemorial. In the post-independence era the state and the central government have taken various schemes to develop the sericulture scenario of Assam. By understanding the employment generation potential of this activity, sericulture activities were initiated in poverty alleviation as well as employment generation schemes. The reports published by the Census authorities of India titled, "A REPORT ON SELECTED HANDICRAFTS OF ASSAM" (1961) has highlighted the importance of sericulture in Assam, as next to weaving which is practiced like the core activity during

agricultural off season.

Being an agro based economy, the poverty of masses can't be erased without giving due attention to the agriculture in India. Sericulture, on the other hand entails various quality for upliftment of rural society. It is estimated that almost 72 lakhs persons are engaged in various sericulture activities in the country and sericulture can generate employment at the rate of 11 man days per kg of raw silk production (in on-farm and off-farm activities) throughout the year. This potential is par-excellence and no other industry generates this kind of employment, especially in rural areas, hence, sericulture is used as a tool for rural reconstruction.

*MULBERRY* fodder plant cultivation and silk worms rearing from cocoons production also provide high returns with a low gestation period. By adopting a stipulated package of practices, a farmer can attain net income levels up to rupees thirty thousand per acre per annum. Sericulture can be practiced even with very low land holding. An acre of *MULBERRY* garden and silkworm rearing can support a family of three without hiring labor. So it is ideal for weaker sections of the society. It addresses the equity concern of the society too. Because of so many advantages, planners always have given focused importance to the sericulture sector.

## MUGA REARING POTENTIAL IN KAMRUP, SILK FARMS IN ASSAM & NEED FOR SPECIAL MUGA ZONES

**B**oko, a small township of Kamrup district dominated by tribal families is indeed a seed zone of *MUGA* Silkworms. Around 500 families are engaged in *MUGA* culture some of them are engaged in soil to silk activities. The *MUGA* farmers collect the silk moth from surrounding Meghalaya hills, prepare seedsto initiate *MUGA* silkworm rearing, harvest cocoons, sell to traders/keep a part for further seed preparation/reeling. Out of 500 farmers, 225 are engaged in organized activities with three well established silk traders who prepare seed, reel the cocoons for yarn and convert it into fabric/sell the yarn to weavers of Vijaynagar and Palashbari area.

Boko is producing about twelve lakhs to fifteen lakhs *MUGA* cocoons annually and the established traders prepare about 2.5 to 3.0 (worth Rs. Twenty four lakh) quintal *MUGA* seed annually. In Boko itself three reeling units are working which produce 2 to 2.5 (worth Rs. Thirty five lakhs) quintal *MUGA* yarn. 85-90% of yarn is sold in Vijaynagar and Palashbari market. A few weavers are engaged in *MUGA* fabric weaving.



### MUGA YARN

There is a tremendous demand for *MUGA* seed and at times it is sold on a higher rate than fixed by Govt. i.e. Rs 8000 per kg (Goes up to Rs 15000/kg). The bigger share of seed produced goes to B.T.C. or in Goalpara district.



### MUGA PRODUCT

The following table gives an insight into the Raw Silk Production of last 5 years in Assam. It can be observed that the *MUGA* raw silk production, though is increasing, but is not increasing much competitively as seen in the case of *Eri*. Meanwhile, the production of *MUGA* raw silk in Kamrup district for 2015-16 was 8 MTs which is sufficient to meet the district internal demand itself. There are about 1100 families engaged in *MUGA* rearing in Kamrup district and they are mainly located in the Chaygaon-Boko belt.

## RAW SILK PRODUCTION IN ASSAM

YEAR	RAW SILK PRODUCTION IN M.T.			
	ERI	MUGA	MULBERRY	TOTAL
2011-12	1061.61	113.66	12.01	1187.28
2012-13	1864.02	109.0	25.0	1998.02
2013-14	2545.6	127.5	27.24	2700.34
2014-15	2345.0	126.0	26.23	2497.23
2015-16	2554.78	127.0	31.02	2712.8

*Source: Directorate of Sericulture, Govt of Assam*

## DISTRICT WISE MUGA RAW SILK PRODUCTION IN ASSAM

RANK	NAME OF DIST.	RAW SILK PRODUCTION IN MT
1	SIVASAGAR	16.36
2	GOALPARA	16.0
3	LAKHIMPUR	13.5
4	DHEMAJI	13.0
5	DIBRUGARH	9.66
6	KAMRUP	8.0

*Source: Directorate of Sericulture, Govt of Assam*

Boko has the Regional MUGA Research Station of the Central Silk Board, Govt of India, a well-established MUGA Silk Farm as well as a Seed production unit of Assam State Sericulture Dept. Besides it has an established Seed Production Unit of MSSO, Central Silk Board. RMRS, Boko has the mandate to work on regional problems of MUGA silk, while the seed production unit prepares quality seed for supply to the MUGA seed farmers. The State SERI Farm is established to prepare seed. The state unit is also having a trading unit for sale and purchase of MUGA silk cocoons/yarn.

## MUGA SILK WORMS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER HOST FOOD PLANT

RMRS Boko is focused on solving the disease aspects of MUGA silkworm by taking up research projects and transmitting the technologies developed in to the field of beneficiaries through technical demonstrations. RMRS Boko is also raising a nursery of MUGA silk worm host plants and supplying to different States of N.E. region.



## MUGA COCOONS

Though a potential area in MUGA culture, Boko has inherited problems of exploitation by middleman and actual farmers and reelers don't get its proper share in the activity. The crops are usually financed by the big traders and farmers are compelled to sale the product to a defined party on lower rates than fixed by the govt. The seed is sold on premium to the needy rearers. Reeling unit workers get a low rate /kg of yarn production. Majority of reeling units have been created under various schemes of MUGA sector.



## MUGA REELING MACHINE

Boko can be developed in to a FULL-FLEDGED MUGA SEED ZONE by supporting financially and giving proper training to the seed producers and seed rearers. All the (three in private sector) seed producing units have been fully supported by govt schemes.

The entire region from Kukurmara (Near Chayagaon) to Boko and also into Goalpara district, south of the National Highway and close to the Meghalaya hills (even inside Meghalaya) is suitable for sericulture farms and Muga seed culture. There is a need to explore protecting his area for sericulture and other environmental purposes before industrialization takes over.



## SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTES FUND TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER APART



**Guwahati, Assam, 01 March:** Shri Ranjit Dutta, Minister for Handloom Textiles & Sericulture, Govt of Assam, distributed funds for construction of eri rearing house to the selected beneficiaries under the World Bank financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART).

Under the scheme, Department of Sericulture will fund a total of 800 number of eri rearing houses in the selected project districts, for better rearing and production of eri silk in the state. Out of the total project target, 270 beneficiaries have been selected for the year 2018-19. The cost of the eri rearing house is Rs 1 lakh out of which 80% or Rs 80000 is being funded under APART. The balance Rs 20000 will come in as beneficiary contribution as their share. For the benefit of the beneficiaries, a MoU has been signed between Department of Sericulture and Canara Bank to provide loan upto Rs 15,000 to the farmers to fund the beneficiary contribution. The loan, if availed has to be repaid back in 7 years duration. An interest subvention scheme is also under consideration for payment of the loan interest by

the Department.

Shri Ranjit Dutta, addressing the gathering of farmers, said that they should make the best use of the eri rearing scheme and also other schemes introduced by the government, and encouraged them to move towards better production practices. He directed the officials for proper implementation and coverage of beneficiaries from all eri and muga producing areas of the State. Shri Dutta welcomed the initiative of Canara Bank, to provide financial assistance to the farmers under the ambit of APART Project.

Shri Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner & Chairman, ARIAS Society in his brief speech encouraged the beneficiaries to utilise the amount

at the earliest and start immediate construction of the eri rearing houses, so that they get the maximum benefit from the scheme.

Shri Vinod Seshan, IAS, State Project Director, ARIAS Society, briefed the scope and deliverables of APART over the project period of 7 years. He also informed about the other aspects of the project which will cover silk viability studies, support for muga farmers, training and capacity building of both farmers and departmental staff etc.

Shri Anjan Kumar Sarma, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Handloom, Textiles & Sericulture also encouraged the farmers to avail this opportunity with full dedication and contact the Department officials for any kind of help and support they required.

The programme was attended by farmers from Kamrup district, officials from Canara Bank, Sericulture Department and ARIAS Society.

## GENERATION CHANGE: MOU SIGNED BETWEEN CANARA BANK AND DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE

**Guwahati, Assam, 07 March:** An MOU has been signed between Canara Bank and Department of Sericulture, Govt of Assam for funding the requirement of value chain financing of Eri farmers in Assam under the World Bank financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). Under the scheme, Department of Sericulture will fund a total of 800 number of eri rearing houses in the selected project districts, for better rearing and production of eri silk in the state. Out of the total project target, 270 beneficiaries have been selected for the year 2018-19. The cost of the eri rearing house is Rs 1 lakh out of which 80% or Rs 80000 is being funded under APART. The balance Rs 20000 will come in as beneficiary contribution as

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Eri silk culture is an age old and suitable village small scale house hold industry being practiced by the people of Assam and the other North Eastern states of the region. Nearly 2.517 lakh families are involved in eri rearing and culture in Assam. Eri silk culture involves very low input and gives very attractive

return (from both silk shells and pupa) as per the present market. But in recent times, a decline is seen in farmers who continue practicing eri rearing and eri culture due to a variety of challenges which include the need for finance, equipment, research etc

Keeping this in view, APART through Department of Sericulture is implementing eri value chain initiative to improve productivity of the entire value chain. Agricultural value chain finance is concerned with the flows of funds to and within a value chain to meet the needs of the participants which includes both bank finance and insurance requirements. Eri sector in Assam has a huge requirement for value chain financing which is planned to be met through the project initiative as well as proper bank

linkage which will help in financial inclusion of the farmers

At this juncture implementation of various schemes for development of Eri culture in the state by the World Bank funded project APART is a very time worthy and encouraging intervention to boost up Eri silk production in the region. The project covers mostly the poor and marginal sericulture farmers who need financial help to uplift their sericulture activities and production of quality cocoons. The signing of the MOU with Canara Bank for funding the beneficiary contribution will ensure that none of the beneficiaries are excluded from availing the project benefits as well as open them with avenues for availing banking services even after the project period ends.

## SUALKUCHI: LEGACY, HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY



Sualkuchi is the only village in Assam where silk production is done in commercial basis in an extended manner since many centuries. The silk industry has been the major source of economy of the village. The place is a Centre of silk industry with magnificent history of weaving and silk rearing. The silk is known in this place from the days of Kautilya. Silk weaving and reeling etc have been an age old affair in Sualkuchi descending from generation to generation as valuable traditional knowledge. Father of the nation M.K. GANDHI commented about the fabrics of Sualkuchi when he visited the place on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1946 as *“ASSAMESE WOMEN WEAVES FAIRY TALES IN THEIR CLOTHS.”*

### THE SUALKUCHI GATE

Sualkuchi is a small census town. It consists of two revenue villages, namely, Sualkuchi and Bamun-Sualkuchi, both standing on the north bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra, 32 km west of Guwahati, the capital of Assam. The two combined revenue villages or census towns popularly known as Sualkuchi covers an area of 12 square kilometers, 4 kilometers from east to west and 3 kilometers from north to south to the bank of river Brahmaputra. It provides residence to about 21,526 local

people, excluding the migrant weavers and other laborers as per 2011 census. However the inclusion of the migrants would increase the population up to 50,000 persons, at present.

As a matter of fact Sualkuchi was a “craft village” having several cottage industries till the forties of the last century. Besides the handloom industry, oil pressing in the traditional *ghani* in the Bamun-Sualkuchi, goldsmith of the Sonaripara, pottery in the Kumarpara area in west Sualkuchi comprised some of those important cottage industries. The industries other than handloom are now almost extinct and all the artisans have taken up silk weaving as a profession. Even the fishermen too of the river side area have taken up silk weaving as the main source of income. Sualkuchi is popularly known as *“THE MANCHESTER OF THE EAST”* for the specialization in the silk industry.

### CATEGORIZATION IN THE SILK INDUSTRY OF SUALKUCHI

The total working population of SUALKUCHI HANDLOOM CLUSTER is divided into five distinct classes as outlined below relating to the manner in which they are related to the silk fabric production in Sualkuchi.

**CATEGORY 1:** People involved in works like reeling, card punching,

*khew-baw* work etc form this category of workers. They are mainly the helpers to the industry. They are economically weak, emotionally insecure and socially vulnerable.

**CATEGORY 2:** Tiny loom owner with 1-3 looms at home is the second category of the strata. They are facing lack of working capital. They need cheap raw materials and a minimum price for their product. They often do distress sale to keep the production afloat. Though various agencies have taken schemes for upliftment of Silk industry at Sualkuchi, but it is seen that this group has not benefited much. These are tiny volume weavers and protecting them is key to strengthening the handloom industry at Sualkuchi. So raw materials at cheap rate, market guaranteed price for production, social security schemes additionally must be there for them.

**CATEGORY 3:** This category includes entrepreneur's having 4 to



10 looms in their homes or in a different shed. They run small factories. Some owners of this group are also master weaver. Their problem is little different than earlier category. It is felt that working finance and non-availability of skilled labor is the major problem for this group. Expert assistance, entrepreneurship development programmes, credit access etc are the needs to sort out their problems. This group is specifically facing more hardship in fields like shortage of laborers, market volatility etc because of their noviceness.

**CATEGORY 4:** This group is small in percentage but in reality they dominate the market. They are the entrepreneurs with more looms i.e. between 10 and 40/50. Working finance, high price of raw materials, sale of production are not a major problem for them. Economies of scale give them production strength. They also enjoy comparatively steady supply of labor than the other categories. But, lack of knowledge about product diversification, potential national markets, export markets etc had kept their potential untapped. Though there are greater possibilities to make them active to showcase the Sualkuchi brand (as they are financially strong) but their ignorance and lack of proper initiative have kept them dormant.

**CATEGORY 5:** The last category of the strata, comprises of traders and *Resham Shop owner* of Sualkuchi and other places in Assam where Sualkuchi fabrics are sold. Knowledge to detect fake material (a major problem for Sualkuchi), value addition process of cloth, modern designs etc are in need for this group for survival and to keep Sualkuchi's glory uplift. But traditional mode of business is the major hardship for this group. They also need to adopt modern online methods of sales as well.

## AN OVERVIEW OF SERICULTURE & HANDLOOM VALUE CHAIN UNDER APART

Sericulture & Handloom Value Chain will focus on end to end interventions to strengthen sericulture in Assam. The planned interventions will be implemented by the ATMAS, and Department of Handloom and Textiles & Directorate of Sericulture in collaboration with Central Silk Board, Central Eri and Muga Research and Training Institute, Assam Agricultural University, North East Institute of Science and Technology, National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, and other research, academic and private institutions. The *seed to raw silk* part of the value chain will target about 16,000 producers and the *raw silk to fabric* part of the value chain will target about 10,000 weavers. The major interventions planned are:

- (i) Organize producers into producer groups,
- (ii) Support cluster level infrastructure such as community *jali* houses, nurseries, cocoon houses, rearing houses, cocoon drying chambers, grainage houses, and weaver workspace for collective actions;
- (iii) Technical assistance for improved skill and design development,
- (iv) Facilitate technology up-gradation and access to finance for the value chain stakeholders; and
- (v) Upgrade existing marketing outlets, developing market channels, and launching branding campaigns.

### Sericulture Value Chain

The broad objectives include:

- (i) Increase production of raw silk,
- (ii) Increase area under plantation,
- (iii) Increase cocoon yield and reeling efficiency, and quality of silk; and
- (iv) Increase incomes of producer-entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities across the value chain.

The major investments under APART will be to:

- (i) Organize producer-entrepreneurs into Producer Groups and Farmer Producer Organization;
- (ii) Establish community-run Common Services Center (CSCs) to facilitate collective actions and provide extension services and handholding support
- (iii) Create cluster level infrastructure such as community *jali* houses, nurseries, cocoon houses, eri rearing houses, cocoon drying chambers, grainage houses, and
- (iv) Provide support though technical assistance and financial intervention packages that facilitate creation of productive assets by farmers.

### Handloom Value Chain

The broad objectives include:

- (i) Increase production of hand- woven silk, and
- (ii) Increase visibility of Assam's silk brands and expand presence in national and overseas markets.

The major investments under APART will be to:

- (i) Organize weaver-entrepreneurs into Producer Groups (PGs) and Farmer Producer Organization, and providing them skill and design development support
- (ii) Develop demonstration units for propagating new technologies at the field level,
- (iii) Work with EDPF (Enterprise Development and Promotion Facility) to provide business development support to entrepreneurs (both existing and start up) in the silk value chain
- (iv) Upgrade existing marketing outlets [Assam Apex Weavers & Artisans Co-operative Federation Ltd. (ARTFED) and Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd. (AGMC)] and developing market channels and launching branding campaign

Five districts Lakhimpur, Kamrup, Sibsagar, Jorhat & Sonitpur have been prioritized on the basis of plantation area, Nos. of rearers, reelers, spinners and weavers, production of raw silk and silk fabrics in the districts. Total 17,000 beneficiaries (10,000 in Sericulture sector and 7000 in handloom sector) will be covered under the project. Particular emphasis will be on creating menu of investments that target income increases for the target population including women & indigenous people.

**Strategy under APART:** The salient aspects of the sector strategy are as follows:

1. **Focus on Assam's strengths:** Of the four varieties of silk produced in India (Mulberry, Tasar, Eri, Muga), the component will focus on two varieties that are the strengths of Assam - Eri and Muga. Assam's climatic conditions are particularly suited to the production of these two varieties.
2. Expand export markets and untapped national markets with sophisticated branding and marketing: Traditionally, Muga silk production has been endemic to Assam and its products have been popular among the Assamese. Majority of sales of Muga products are realized in the markets of Assam and the neighbouring states. Eri, on the other hand, is produced in several states such as Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odessa, Andhra Pradesh among others, and sells in several markets across the country. While exports of both these varieties are limited, there is rising demand and interest for these varieties in countries such as Japan, US, Europe and West Asia. The component will aim to advertise the brand values of Muga (the 'golden' thread) and Eri (the 'non-violent' 'virgin silk' thread) in these markets and create export linkages. The component will also aim to tap demand in blue ocean national markets with a sophisticated branding campaign.
3. **Eliminate infrastructure bottlenecks:** The component will invest in community infrastructure such as community jali houses, nurseries, cocoon houses, reeling sheds, weaving work sheds (individual and group) among others at the cluster level in order to eliminate production bottlenecks and provide support to reduce losses, improve yield and scale up production.
4. **Focus on quality, productivity, cost-efficiency and collectivism:** The component will invest in Common Services Centres (CSCs) at the cluster or sub-cluster level that will facilitate collective efficiencies, knowledge / technology transfer, information

dissemination, linkages to schemes, resulting in reduction of production of costs and improved yield. Special emphasis will be laid on improving the grade of the produced raw silk as well as finished products in line with the marketing strategy of increasing exposure to export markets.

5. **Focus on modern technology and extension services:** The component will pilot and scale up application of modern technologies and innovations in target clusters in partnership with technical and academic institutions (such as Assam Agricultural University) and private agencies. These pilots will then be offered as extension services across a wider target area through the network of CSCs. For enhancement of production of silk fabrics, high productive sectional warping mechanism, high yielding improved looms, mechanised/computerised designing equipment, sophisticated apparel and garment manufacturing facilities, standardised quality control facilities, specialised finishing and packaging will be introduced as per guidance of Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), NIFT, NID etc.
6. **Promote entrepreneurship through customized financial products and handholding support:** The component will aim to provide the necessary incubatory support to producers and weavers to help them grow their enterprises. Key to this is facilitating finance and market linkages. The component will develop customized financial products based on the varying needs of seed entrepreneurs, silk producer entrepreneurs and silk weavers. Details are covered in Sub-comp C-3.
7. **Plantation/intercropping Strategy** The project will support the maintenance of existing plantation of Government firm/Centre/VGR and in Private Sectors. These options include intercropping with the newly raised plantation with Eri Food plants as well as Som/Sualu food plants for Muga so that returns from the investments can be seen after one year. In case of Eri -Kesserue Plants can be intercropped with Castor and Tapioca with the Muga Som Plants. Since, the production cycle for both, Castor and Tapioca is short (six months), rearing can be explored with the farmers taken up and production of cocoon will be come after one month of rearing. This can be repeated for a couple of years.

#### **ACTIVITIES TILL DATE BY SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

- Ceremonial launching of the project APART was organized with participation of ERI Beneficiaries from Kamrup District at Guwahati on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2019.
- Beneficiary Selection for the year 2018-19 in Project Districts completed.
- 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Distribution of Fund to 44 Beneficiaries of Kamrup completed with a provision of Bank Loan upto Rs.15,000 from the Canara bank to the farmers to meet the beneficiary contribution. An interest subvention scheme is also under consideration for payment of the loan interest by the Department.
- Procurement for 2.55 Lakh no. of SOM/ KESSERU seedlings completed.
- 5 Nos. of Awareness camps organized in 5 Project Districts covering 750 Sericulture Farmers.
- 50 nos. of Officers/ Officials from the Department of Sericulture were imparted training for smooth implementation of the schemes under APART.

Photographs of activities under APART by Department of Sericulture, Govt. of Assam

