

SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Silk is the fine strong soft lustrous fiber produced by silkworms. The word silk sounds luxury and class. Silk is the queen of textile and the naturally produced animal fiber. Till today, no other fabric can match it in luster and elegance. As long as human desire for silk garments continues, the demand for sericulture activity remains. "**Sericulture**" means cultivation of silkworms, which finally produces silk.

- Anantapur District occupied first place in Sericulture in the State.
- The Mulberry acreage is around 15,000 acres covering 11,800 Nos. farmers under Mulberry cultivation.
- One acre of mulberry provides gainful employment nearly 4 to 5 persons directly or indirectly throughout the year.
- The net income levels of the farmers have increased for the last 5 years from Rs.40,000/- to Rs.50,000/- per annum per acre of mulberry cultivation.

Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) ::The Department of sericulture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme known as "Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) with the assistance from Central Silk Board. Main aim of implementation of CDP is technology development and absorption, quality up-gradation, investment generation, productivity improvement and employment generation, especially to women, SC/ ST and below poverty line farmers.

The activities of the department are mainly concentrated in the Divisions of Hindupur, Madakasira & Penukonda. Further the department is implementing Cluster Promotion programme in the divisions of Hindupur, Madakasira & Kalyandurg with assistance of Central Silk Board to improve Bivoltine Hybrid production.

ON FARM SECTOR::

Mulberry plantations:: The good mulberry gardens are available in the divisions of Hindupur and Madakasira. The department is providing assistance towards cost of Saplings etc @ Rs.8800/-, out of which Rs.6600/- is subsidy and Rs.2200/- is beneficiary contribution

Rearing sheds :: The government is providing 50% subsidy i.e Rs.75,000/- on unit cost of Rs.1,50,000/- the remaining 50% amount i.e. Rs.75,000/- is beneficiary contribution /bank loan. The Government also extending Pavalavaddi facility on the loan raised for construction of rearing sheds to the farmers. The good no.of rearing sheds are also available in Hindupur and Madakasira divisions

Govt. cocoon markets :: The Govt. cocoon market Hindupur is the biggest market in Andhra Pradesh. There are other two markets available one at Dharmavaram and another at Kadiri in Anantapur District. The entire cocoons transacted are being utilized in the Anantapur District for conversion of silk yarn.

NON FARM SECTOR::

More no.of silk reeling units are available at Hindupur, followed by Dharmavaram and Kadiri. The Govt (State & Central) will provide 75% subsidy for establishment of Multiend reeling units and twisting units. In Hindupur division 27 Multiend reeling units (214 basins) and 68 Nos of Twisting units (22460 Nos spindles) are installed. The reelers are producing quality silk (3 A, 4) and also the silk produced is marketed after twisting.

Further one Automatic Reeling Unit is under establishment at Hindupur (by M/s Pragna Silks) and unit will start functioning during 2011.