

Chapter V

Government Policies for Silk Industries and its Benefits for Female Weavers

5.1 Introduction

Silk is the most stylish and graceful textile among the world. Silk has supreme grandeur, natural sheen, and inherent affinity for dyes, light weight, high absorbance, soft touch and high in stability. Because of these unique features silk is known as the “Queen of Textiles” the world. It provides livelihood opportunity for millions of people, owing to its high employment potential with a very low capital requirement. This industry is a rural based industry, on-farm and off-farm activities and vast employment generation potential has involved the attention of the planners and policy makers to recognize the industry among one of the most suitable avenues for socio-economic development of a largely agrarian economy of India. Indian culture of silk production started on 15th century, which has a rich and interesting history in silk production. Presently, the “Sericulture” industry provides employment to approximately 8.25 million persons in rural and semi-urban areas in all over India. Out of these people, a large number of workers belong to the economically weaker sections of society, mostly including women. India’s traditional and culture bound domestic market and an amazing diversity of silk garments reflects geographic specificity and helped the country to achieve a leading position in silk industry. India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the four known commercial silks, namely, Mulberry, Tasar, Eri and Muga, of which Muga which is produced only in India with its golden yellow glitter is a pride of the country. India is the Second largest producer of silk in the World followed by China. Among the four varieties of silk produced in 2016-17, Mulberry silk accounts for 70.1% (21,203 MT), Tasar silk 10.8% (3,259 MT), Eri silk 18.6% (5,629 MT) and Muga silk 0.56% (171 MT). The total amount of raw silk production 30,263 MT (CSB report, 2017).

India’s population is very high and unemployment is the basic problem of the Indian economy. As discussed above, the sericulture sector can generate huge employment opportunities with a very minimum investment cost. So, the Govt. and the Ministry of India gives a privilege to the development of this industry and always tries to engage more and more population on this sector. Ministry of Govt. implements

various plans, policies, schemes and subsidies for the growth and development of this sector.

This chapter explains about the various Government policies undertaken for the development of silk sector and the various benefits of female weavers generated through these schemes. Here section 5.1 Introduction section, 5.2 discusses about the various govt. schemes, 5.3 discusses female weavers benefits, 5.4 discusses about the Sualkuchi Training centre and 5.5 conclusion parts. The chapter is based on both primary and secondary in formations. The secondary data are collected from various sources like news papers, magazines, journals, internet, officials like Directorate of Sericulture, India and Assam, Ministry of Handloom and Textile, statistical handbooks etc. Primary data are collected through direct personal interview.

5.2 Government plan and policies

Government should take policy to raise productivity, provide skill and technology development, improve economic conditions, facilitate information and research development and to empower the weaker sections of the society. Some of govt. plan and policies for the development of this sector are discussed below

5.2.1 Central Silk Board

The Central Silk Board (CSB) was established on 1948 by an Act of Parliament (Act No.LXI of 1948). This board is a legislative Body. The CSB is functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It has its head quarter at Bangalore. The Board comprises 39 members appointed as per the powers and provisions conferred by Sub-Section 3 of Section 4 of the CSB Act 1948. The periods of selection of their members are of 3 years. The Chairperson of the Board to be appointed by the Central Government and two officials to be nominated by the Central Government. One member of them shall be the head of the Silk Division in the Ministry of Textiles as the Vice-Chairperson and one member shall be the Secretary of the Board but both them being the officers not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government.

5.2.1.1 Central Silk Board (CSB) Administration

The CSB run with four basic components. These four includes

- i. Board Secretariat
- ii. Regional Offices
- iii. Certification Centers and
- iv. Raw Material Banks.

Board Secretariat: The Board Secretariat of CSB monitors the performance of different schemes and coordinates with Ministry and States in implementation of assorted projects in sericulture sector.

The Raw Material Banks: It operates ceiling price to stabilize the market price of cocoons to guarantee remunerative price to primary or basic silk producers. The Raw Material Banks are divided into two categories.

- i. Raw Material Bank (RMB) for Tasar and
 - ii. Raw Material Bank (RMB) for Muga
- i. The Raw Material Bank (RMB) for Tasar are located at Chaibasa (Jharkhand) with its 4 Sub depots, one each at Warangal (Andhra Pradesh), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Bhandara (Maharashtra) and Raigarh (Chhattisgarh).

5.2.1.2 Functioning Of Central Silk Board

The basic function of Central Silk Board is to co-ordinate the sericulture development programs in different states & for undertaking pre-shipment review of silk goods. For these, the Central Silk Board has established 10 Regional Offices. They are at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jammu, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Lucknow, Patna and 3 Certification Centres at Bangalore, Varanasi & Srinagar. Regional Offices of Central Silk Board maintain a close relationship with the State Sericulture Departments, field units and CSB field functionaries to co-ordinate transfer of technology. The regional Offices are also conveners of State Level Sericulture Coordination Committee meetings constituted by the Central Silk Board. The on hand staff strength of CSB is 3,154 as on 01.04.2017. (CSB report, 2017)

The mandated activities of CSB are Research and Development, protection of four tier silkworm seed production network, leadership role in commercial silkworm seed production, standardizing and instilling quality parameters in the various

production processes and advising the Government on all matters regarding to sericulture and silk industry. These mandated activities of Central Silk Board are being carried out by the 306 units of CSB located in various States of the country through a incorporated Central Sector Scheme “Integrated Scheme for development of sericulture Industry” with the following four components:

1. Research & Development, Training, Transfer of Technology and I.T. initiatives.
2. Seed Organization
3. Coordination and Market Development
4. Quality Certification Systems, Export, Brand Promotion & Technology Up-gradation.

5.2.1.3 Functions of ISDSI

The main functions, objectives and performance of “Integrated Scheme for development of sericulture Industry” are explained below:

5.2.1.3.a Research & Development, Training, Transfer Of Technology And I.T. Initiatives

The main Research & Training Institutes of the CSB provide scientific and technological support for increasing production and productivity on sericulture through modern ways. There are 3 main institutes of R & D and they are at Mysore (Karnataka) , Berhampore (West Bengal) and Pampore (J&K) . These three institutes deal with Mulberry silk whereas the institute of Ranchi (Jharkhand) deals with Tasar sericulture and Lahdoigarh, Jorhat (Assam) deals with Muga and Eri culture. Regional Sericulture Research Stations (RSRS/RTRS/RMRS) of Mulberry and Vanya silk have been functioning for the development of regional technology package and distribution of research findings as far the need of the region. Again, there is a network of Research Extension Centre (RECs). This centre’s sub units for mulberry and vanya silk are also functioning to provide additional support to the related people with silk and sericulture. Again, to provide Research &Development support in after cocoon producing sector, the Board has established an institution, named Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI)and it is situated at Bangalore. Apart from that, the CSB has also set up some other institute, laboratory and centre, such as: Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory (SSTL) in Bangalore (Karnataka), Central Sericultural Germplasm Resource

Centre (CSGRC) at Hosur (Tamil Nadu) and Seri-Biotech Research Laboratory (SBRL) at Bangalore.

5.2.1.3.b Training

The R&D institutions of CSB, covering all the activities on the silk value-chain pertaining to all the four silk sub-sectors, are intensively involved in training, skill seeding and skill enrichment on a sustainable basis. It spreads all over the country.

From the year 2015-16, CSB's capacity building and training initiatives programmes are restructured under 5 main heads. The following five heads to be implemented and monitored by the Capacity Building & Training Division:

(i). Skill Training & Enterprise Development Programmes (STEDP): Under STEDP, various short-term training modules focusing on popularization of sericulture technologies, Entrepreneurship development, in-house and industry Resource Development, lab to land technology demonstration programmes, Specialized Overseas Training, training impact assessment surveys etc have been planned to be taken up. Some of the popular programmes under this component are:

(ii) Establishment of Sericulture Resource Centre (SRC): These training cum facilitation centres are established in select Mulberry Bivoltine & Vanya clusters. The unit cost is of Rs.3.50 lakhs, which act as an important link between Extension Centres of R&D laboratories and the beneficiaries. The purpose of these SRCs is - technology demonstration, skill enhancement.

(iii) Capacity Building & Training by R&D Institutes of CSB: In addition to conducting formal long-term training programme (Post Graduate and Diploma in Sericulture) the Research & Development institutes of Central Silk Board will also conduct technology-based training for both the farmers and other stakeholders. Apart from that the institute organizes Krishi Melas, farmer's interaction workshops, Farmer's day etc. for making skilled framers in sericulture and other industry stakeholders.

(iv) Capacity Building in Seed Sector: Silkworm seed sector is the most critical sector which drives the entire silk value series. The quality of the silk seed determines the quality of the silk industry output. Therefore addressing the capacity building and training needs of this sector is of supreme importance. In this conduct various training

programmes for the industry stakeholders like – Pvt. Silkworm Seed Producers, Managers, Adopted Seed Rearers, and work force attached to Govt. owned grain ages.

(v) Information, Education and Communication (IEC): IEC is meant for supporting Capacity Building and Training initiatives by popularizing recommended technologies through Handouts, Brochures, booklets, pamphlets, etc. This IEC also suggest to producing technology based study materials, instructional videos and documentary films to make better and easy understanding the industry.

5.2.1.3.c Transfer of Technology (TOT)

The technologies issued for the above mentioned projects are being effectively transferred to the field through various extension communication programmes such as, Krishimelas, Farmers' Meet, Group Discussions, Audio Visual programmes, Enlightenment programmes, Field Days, Technology demonstrations etc. During 2016-17, up to the end of March 2017, a total 2040 programmes have been organized. On those programmes, 46 technologies were transferred successfully to the consumer level under pre-cocoon sector. More over that, in case of post cocoon sector a total of 2291 field programmes/ technology demonstrations were conducted and 107265 cocoon and silk samples have been tested and get a effective result (CSB report, 2017).

5.2.1.3. d Seed Organization

The Central Silk Board has a series of Basic Seed Farms supplying basic seeds to the various State seed centre. Its commercial seed production centre enlarge efforts of the States in supplying commercial silkworm seed to state silk farmers.

5.2.1.3. e Coordination and Market Development

The Central Silk Board (CSB) administration includes Board Secretariat, Regional Offices, Certification Centres and Raw Material Banks.

The **Board Secretariat** of CSB monitors the implementation of various schemes and the board coordinates with the Ministry and States in implementation of diverse projects in sericulture.

The **Regional offices** organized and carried out several National meetings, Board meetings & Review meetings, other high level meetings.

The **Raw Material Banks** operate floor price to stabilize the market price of cocoons to guarantee and stabilized remunerative price to primary producers and farmers.

5.2.1.3.f Quality Certification System, Export Brand Promotion & Technology Up gradation

The basic objective of the Quality Certification System (QCS) is to set off suitable measures towards increasing quality assurance, quality judgment and quality certification. Under this scheme, there are two components viz. “Cocoon and Raw Silk Testing Units” and “Promotion of Silk Mark” is being introduced.

Quality of cocoons indicates the performance during reeling and the raw silk product’s quality. Cocoon Testing Centres are established in different cocoon markets all over the country with the support under CDP/CSS facilitate cocoon testing. The network of Certification Centre of Central Silk Board attached to the Regional Office carryout voluntary pre-shipment inspection of silk goods meant for export to ensure quality of silk goods exported from India to all over the world.

Silk Mark tested the purity of silk products through the “Silk Mark Organization of India” i.e. (SMOI). The symbol silk mark label is a promise to its customers to protect the interests of the consumers from the traders- selling spurious products in the name of pure silk.

Central Silk Board (CSB) is introduced a new idea to marking the purity of silk. This purity symbol is famous by the name of “Silk Mark” by the Silk Mark Organization of India (SMOI). “Silk Mark”, is a promise label, protection of the consumers from the traders selling unauthentic products by the name of pure silk.

5.2.2 Sericulture Development Schemes by Central Silk Board (CSB) In North-Eastern States

North Eastern region is the only region among all over the India, which produce all four varieties of silk, viz. Mulberry, Ok Tasar, Muga and Eri. All over the North-Eastern region contributes 20% of silk production of India's total silk production (Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, 2017).

The production of all varieties of raw silk during the year 2016-17 in North Eastern States is 6,087 MTs as per the following break-up:

Table: 5.1

Raw Silk Production by North-Eastern States in the Year 2016-17

Production of different varieties of silks in N.E.	
Region	
(production units are in MTs)	
Mulberry	333
Tasar	5
Eri	5,578
Muga	171
Total	6,087

Source: Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, 2016-17

From the above table, it is seen that the amount of Eri production is highest in north eastern states by CSB by the year 2016-17. The production of Tasar is lowest during the financial year. The production of Eri is highest in North-eastern states because each state produces Eri silk and as well as consumption amount of Eri is also high in comparison to other varieties of silks. On the other hand, the production of Tasar and Muga silk are concentrated on Assam only. Due to high price of Muga, most of the entrepreneur do not like it to produce. As a result, the production of Muga and Tasar are also low in North-Eastern states.

5.2.3 North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) for Sericulture support/ development in North East Region

Under the scheme NERTPS, two sericulture projects have been approved namely:

1. Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP) and
2. Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP)

These two projects under NERTPS covers 3 varieties of silk, viz. Mulberry, Eri and Muga sectors in all NE States. The projects aim at holistic development of sericulture in all its spheres of silk production, starting from plantation development to production of fabrics with value addition at every stage of production chain. These projects have been approved at a total cost of Rs.819.19 crore with GOI share of Rs.690.01 crore and they are implemented from 2014-15 to 2018-19 financial year. The projects are expected to contribute additional production of 2,285 MT raw silk during the project

period 2014-15 to 2018-19 and 1,100 MT silk per annum after project period involving 33,550 families. This will aim to generate employment to 1,67,700 persons (Govt. of India/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture, 2015-16). The details of ISDP and IBSDP projects including progress and status Utilization Certificates are indicated below:

(i) Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP)

ISDP is an umbrella scheme adopted by the NERTPS. It is an addition scheme to the regular schemes of the ministry. Under ISDP 16 Sericulture Projects have been approved with a total cost of Rs.582.42 crore (GOI share of Rs.479.60 crores) for implementation of entire 8 North East States viz., Assam, BTC, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. These funds were released for implementation of the financial year since 2014-15 to 2018-19 (Govt. of India/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture, 2015-16). The amount of total expenditure under this ISDP scheme will be met from the 10% budget pay out being earmarked for the north east states. This expenditure includes setting up of Silk Printing, Processing unit for Tripura, Soil to Silk for BTC and PCT for Nagaland. While 15 projects are meant for implementation by States to combine the States' efforts to make stronger the existing facilities, which includes: support for infrastructure creation at farmers/ seed cocoon producers/reelers/weavers' level in identified areas, one project is meant for creation of Seed Infrastructure for CSB to produce and supply quality seed to North Eastern States.

3,114 ha of plantations have been developed against the project target of 4,100 ha under Mulberry, Eri and Muga sectors by involving 9,507 beneficiaries against the target of 24,798 beneficiaries up to March 2017. But, this development is quite lesser than the targeted amount. During this period, 1,216 MT Raw Silk was produced in the project areas against the target of 2,076 MT, which is again less than the targeted amount. Ministry has released Rs.249.78 crore for the above projects, against which the expenditure reported is Rs.164.46 crore (66%) (CSB report, 2017).

Objectives of ISDP:

1. Revival, expansion and diversification of sericulture in the NE states with special emphasis on Muga and Eri.
2. Improving productivity and quality at all levels starting from cocoon production to fabric through skill up gradation and incorporated additional support.
3. Horizontal expansion of food plants with improving package of practice with convergence of MGNREGA.
4. Income generation of the target groups (specially by the female groups) through sericulture industry.
5. Creating sustainable livelihood for the farmers and sericulturists.

The following table indicates a brief review regarding ISDP:

Table: 5.2
Review Regarding ISDP

Sl no.	particulars	Targets
1	Title	integrated sericulture development project
2	Project area	Muga: Kamrup, Cachar, Golaghat and Lakhimpur (600 beneficiary) Eri: Dhemaji, Sonitpur and Morigaon (1200 beneficiary)
3	Project period (3 years)	2014-15 to 2016-17
4	Total project cost	6667.33 lakhs
5	Fund received from MOT for the year 2014-15 as 1 st installment	Rs. 1467.40 lakh
6	UC submitted to MOT	Rs. 1297.8890 lakh
7	UC pending with DOS Assam	Rs. 169.5090 lakh

Source: Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture,
2014-15

Table: 5.3
Funding pattern of ISDP

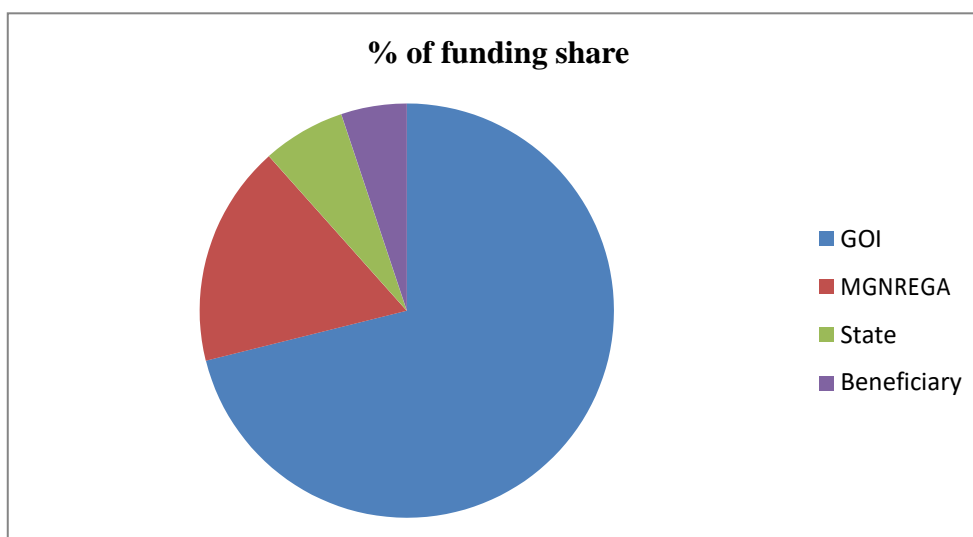
agency	Share (Rs in lakh)	% of total share
GOI	4741.78	71.12%
MGNREGA	1152.66	17.29%
State	431.11	6.47%
Beneficiary	341.78	5.13%
total	6667.33	100.00%

Source: Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture, 2014-15

From the above table, it is seen that Govt. of India has the highest percentage of share on ISDP i.e.71.12%, which have to provide Rs.4741.78 lakh on the project. MGNREGA has captured the second highest position in it i.e. 17.29% of share, whose monetary value is Rs.1152.66 lakh; where state and beneficiary has 6.47 % and 5.13% of share holders. These two shareholders have an amount of money of Rs. 431.11 lakhs and 341.78 lakhs respectively.

The division of amount of percentage share can be presented by the help of the following pie diagram-

Figure 5.1
Percentage of Total Funding Share ISDP



Source: Excel Sheet (Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, Directorate of sericulture, 2014-15)

So, more than 70% of the total share is captured by the GOI. So, GOI has the most dominating role on the on ISDP.

(ii) Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project [IBSDP]

There are Eight Projects on Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development for all North Eastern States (except Manipur) with a total cost of Rs.236.78 crores (GOI share of Rs.210.41 crores).This amount have been approved for implementation from the financial year 2015-16 to 2017-18. The basic objective of the project is to production of International quality bivoltine silk to substitute import in the coming years. The project tries to cover 200 ha under mulberry plantation in 2 blocks at each cluster. IBSDP have an aim to involving approx 1,100 women beneficiaries per State including weavers. All over the North Eastern states, it aims to cover 4,000 acres of mulberry plantation and around 8,750 women beneficiaries dividing in 8 clusters in North Eastern States. The integral part of the project is to social Mobilization and Women Group Formation along with supporting interventions for plantation development and infrastructure creation. These projects are presently under implementation in respective States (Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture, 2015-16).

IBSDP targets:

Table: 5.4
IBSDP Project Targets

Sl no.	particulars	Targets
1	Title	Intensive Bivoltine sericulture development project for Mublerry
2	Project area	Dist- Darrang, Block- Kalaigaon & Sipajhar
3	No. of beneficiary	1.100 No.s women beneficiary
4	Executing Agency	Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
5	Implementing Agency	Directorate of sericulture, Govt. of Assam & REC,CSB, Mangaldoi
6	Project period	3 years from 2015-16 to 2017-18
7	Funding Agency	Ministry of textiles under NER- Textile promotion scheme

Source: Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture 2015-16

5.2.3.1 Funding pattern under IBSDP

Table: 5.5
Funding pattern of IBSDP

agency	Share (Rs in lakh)	Percentage of total amount
GOI	2445.50	82.76%
MGNREGA	182.20	6.17%
Beneficiary	327.15	11.07%
total	2954.85	100.00%

Source: Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture

From the table given above, it is seen that Govt. of India has the highest percentage of share on IBSDP i.e.82.76%, which have to provide Rs.2445.50 lakh on the project. Beneficiary has captured the second highest position in it which provided 11.07% of the total share, whose monetary value is Rs. 182.20 lakh. The third share holder of IBSDP is MGNREGA. Who have an amount of Rs. 327.15 lakh and the percentage of share is 6.17%.

5.2.3.2 NERTPS financial attachment for Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP)

The NERTPS physical target and financial target & achievement for Integrated Sericulture Development Project (ISDP). The project is divided on 16 different areas viz, Assam, BTC, BTC (EDPB), BTC (Soil silk), Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur (Valley), Manipur (Hill), Meghalaya, Mizoram, Mizoram (IMSDP), Nagaland, Nagaland (IESDP), Nagaland (PCT), Tripura, Tripura (printing), Mulberry and vanya seed infrastructure under CSB. The project is newly initiated during 2016-17. Assam has the second position regarding total cost (29.55 crore). Mizoram consist highest amount of cost (30.15 crore) and Tripura consist the lowest amount of cost (29.43 crore). The total amount of cost in NERTPS is 582.42 crore, where GOI's share is 479.60 crore (Central Silk Board, Bangalore & Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, 2017).

5.2.4 Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute (CMER & TI)

To provide R&D support in Muga and Eri silk industry in North East India, Central Silk Board (CSB), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India launched Central Muga Eri Research Station (CMERS) at Titabar, Assam in 1972. This CMERS was divided into two different parts on 1982. These two divisions are:

- i. Regional Sericultural Research Station, Titabar for mulberry research and
- ii. Regional Muga Research Station (shifted to Boko)

Again, in 1987, CSB established an exclusive Muga Research and training institute named as The Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute, which is at Lahdoigarh, Jorhat of Assam District. It is run under central silk board, Ministry of textile: govt of India. It is an ISO certified institute, whose ISO certified no. is 9001:2008.

Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute is a Research and Development (R &D) institute in the field of Muga and Eri culture. The institute has been successfully undertaking entire gamut of R&D activities to provide the needs of the on-farm and post-cocoon sector of Muga and Eri culture in sericulture industry. Muga and Eri culture is a rural based industry of all the North Eastern regions and some of the parts of West Bengal. This institute came into being a full-fledged Research & Training Institute in 1999 and on the same year, it was renamed as the “Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute” with a mandate to serve as the apex R&D institute for both Muga and Eri.

5.2.4.1 Mandate of the Institute

The institute is act as an apex Research Institute for providing research and developmental support for Muga and Eri sericulture.

1. To perform basic, strategic and applied research to enlarge production and productivity of silkworms and their host plants.
2. To improve the food plants as well as silkworm eco-races and hybrids.
3. To conduct socio-economic research for assess sustainability of newly developed technologies.

4. To spread the research findings to the end users through extension and training mechanism.

5.2.4.2 Activities of the Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute

- i. The main activity of the institute is to exploration, collection, introduction and conservation of Muga and Eri food plants and silkworm germ plasm.
- ii. To develop suitable technologies and package of practices for improving production of Muga and Eri silkworms and their food plants.
- iii. To work on germ plasm improvement in Muga and Eri silkworm ecotypes through usual breeding and through biotechnological approach.
- iv. To promote and collaborative inter-institutional research programme with other research institutes located in entire North East region.
- v. To develop suitable and modern technologies on Muga and Eri post cocoons for easy extraction, product diversification and popularization of technologies for wider assimilation.
- vi. To organize various extension programme in association with DOS of NE states through the nested units.
- vii. To report Training on Muga and Eri Rearing Technology, Seed Technology, Reeling and Spinning and organize the Refresher Course for DOS staff.

5.2.4.2.1 Muga Raw Material Bank

Muga Raw Material Bank (MRMB) for Muga are located at Sibsagar in Assam with 3 Sub-Depots, namely Dhakuakhana, Sualkuchi (Assam) and Coochbehar (W.B.). These sub depots are functioning with the principal objective of ensuring economic and fair price to the genuine Muga cocoon producers.

5.2.5 "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry" (ISDSI)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the present India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodar Modi, has given his approval for Central Scheme "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry" for the next three years started from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The ISDSI Scheme has four components –

- i. Research & Development (R&D), Training, Transfer of Technology and IT Initiatives
- ii. Seed Organizations and farmers expansion centres
- iii. Coordination and Market Development for seed, yarn and silk products and
- iv. Quality Certification System (QCS) by creating among others and creating a chain of Silk Testing facilities, Farm based & post-cocoon Technology Up-gradation, and silk product Export Brand Promotion.

5.2.5.1 Financial lay out

A total amount allocated for this scheme is of Rs.2161.68 Crore, which has been approved for the implementation of the Scheme from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The scheme will be implemented by the Cabinet Ministry through Central Silk Board (CSB).

5.2.5.1.1 Idea about the scheme

The main aim of the scheme Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry is to improve the quality and productivity of silk products through R&D intervention. The focus of R&D intervention is to promote improved crossbreed silk and the import substitute Bivoltine silk. Thus the Bivoltine silk production in India enhances to such a level that raw silk imports become nil by 2022. Thus the govt. tries to make India self-sufficient in both raw silk and silk outputs.

R&D interventions will include compete improvement through the development of improved host plant varieties. They also tries to improved disease resistant silkworm breeds by having collaborative research with such reputed National Research organizations like IITs, CSIR, IISc and international research institutes on Sericulture in Japan, China, Bulgaria etc.; Technological developments with respect to both pre cocoon and post cocoon sectors. Thrust will be given on technology up gradation and making mechanization affordable. Use of silkworm by-products (pupa) for poultry feed, sericin for cosmetic applications and product diversification into non-woven fabrics, silk knit, silk denim etc. will be given thrust for added value consciousness.

Seed Sector: in this section, Seed Production Units will be prepared and strengthened to bring in quality standards in production network. Apart from that increasing the production capacity to cater to the increased silk production target. Financial, technological and raw material support would be provided for approved seed rearers to generate high quality seed cocoons. Some other basic functions of this institute are to include setting up new Cold storage, providing mobile disinfection units and equipment support for the whole silk mechanization.

Registration process: Under registration process of Seed Act and reporting by seed production centres, basic seed farms and extension centres will be automated by developing web based software. All the beneficiaries (farmers, rearers and seed producers) are will be brought on a DBT mode with Aadhaar linkage. A Helpline was set up for timely redressed of the needy one.

Brand Promotion: Brand promotion of the Indian pure silk is by “silk mark”. Silk mark gives the certificate of purity of the cloths not only the domestic market but in the Export market as well.

Help for Female: the scheme specially tries to provide help for the females. The scheme provides special financial support to the female weavers and entrepreneurs. The scheme “Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry” (ISDSI) will promote Women Empowerment and livelihood opportunities to SC/ST and other weaker sections female of the society. The scheme will help to increase productive employment of female from 85 lakhs to 1 crore by 2020.

5.2.5.a Improvement over the earlier scheme

The scheme “Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry” has following improvement over the earlier scheme:

(i) The scheme aims to achieve self-sufficiency in silk production by 2022. To achieve this, production of high grade silk in India aims to reach its production by 20,650 MTs by 2022. Currently, the amount of production is only 11,326 MTs. The scheme tries to make raw silk import at zero level.

(ii) It is the first time where there is clear focus on improving production of high quality of silk. It is proposed to increase 4A grade silk from the current level of production from 15% to 25 % of mulberry silk by 2020.

(iii) The Research & Development projects trying to develop disease resistant silkworm, host plant, productivity enhancing tools and implements for reeling and waving etc. This will be done in collaboration with Ministries of Science and Technology, Agriculture and Human Resource Development department.

(iv) The implementation strategy is based on convergence at the State level with the schemes of other Ministers like MGNREGS of Rural Development, RKVY & PMKSY of Ministry of Agriculture. The basic aim of these is to maximize the benefits of the people related with sericulture.

5.2.5.b Impact of Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute

The scheme is expected to increase the silk production from the level of 30348 MTs during 2016-17 to 38500 MTs by end of 2019-20 with the following interventions:

- Research & Development to improve productivity from the present level of 100 Kgs to 111 kgs of silk per hector through the increase of plantation by the end of 2019-20.

- Large scale propagation of improved reeling machines (Automatic Reeling Machine for mulberry; improved reeling/spinning machineries and Buniyad reeling machines for Vanya silk) under Make in India programme to produce quality silk to meet to the required market demand.

5.3 Government Silk Policies and benefits of Female weavers

In our country, development of silk industry is un doubly related woven with participation of women and the production of silk has been known as a profession of the women, for the women and by the women. Ministry of Textiles has been taken various measures for empowering women through sericulture through various activities. A bird view of these is presented below:

Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry: The Central Sector Sericulture Scheme in the Cabinet Meeting chaired by our respected Prime Minister Narandra Modi ji. This centrally sponsored “Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry” will now continue from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with total outlay of Rs. 2161.68 crore. This scheme will promote Women Empowerment and will also provide livelihood opportunities to SC / ST along with creation of around 85 lakh to 1 crore jobs till the end of 2020. The scheme will benefit 85 lakh people in the silk sector (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20). It will provide livelihood opportunities for women, those belonging to SCs and STs, and other weaker sections of the society across the country, including those from Left-Wing Extremism affected areas and North Eastern Region.

Women Empowerment under Silk Samagra: The Scheme “Silk Samagra” is an Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry has been able to sustain and strengthen the Sericulture activities in the country. The ongoing Central Sector Scheme “SILK SAMAGRA” has been approved by the Government of India for continuation beyond XII Plan for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 at a total allocation of Rs.2161.68 crore Sericulture is mainly known as a house hold activity being practised by women. About 55% of women are engaged in silk production value chain. Under Silk Samagra, Government of India has set a target to produce 38500 MTs of raw silk and to generate 100 lakh productive employments from 78.50 lakhs in 2013-14 (additional 21.50 lakh). With this the employment of women in sericulture is expected to increase to 55 lakh in 2020 from 43.20 lakh (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20)

North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS): The project tries to cover 200 ha under mulberry plantation in 2 blocks at each cluster. NERTPS have an aim to involving approx 1,100 women beneficiaries per State including weavers. All over the North Eastern states, it aims to cover 4,000 acres of mulberry plantation and around 8,750 women beneficiaries dividing in 8 clusters in North Eastern States. The integral part of the project is to social Mobilization and Women Group Formation along with supporting interventions for plantation development and infrastructure creation.

These projects are presently under implementation in respective States (Govt. of Assam/ Handloom Textiles & sericulture, directorate of sericulture, 2015-16).

Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute: Muga silk is produced in India mainly by tribal women through the age old thigh reeling practice which is unhygienic, labour intensive, involves drudgery and is unproductive. Invariably, this practice leads to skin blemishes, allergies and infections besides, causing more inconvenience to women. In order to eradicate this thigh reeling practice, the Government has decided to completely eradicate the thigh reeling with improved Buniyaad Reeling Machines by supplying 10,000 machines by 2020. Towards this, 4956 machines are being supplied to the women beneficiaries by March 2019 so as to ensure good health, hygiene besides rightful earning to the poor rural and tribal women reelers (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20).

Act East Initiatives: To create livelihood opportunities in North East Region through sericulture, in line with the **Act East initiative** of Prime Minister of India, the Textiles Ministry is implementing 32 projects under its North East Region Textile Promotion scheme (NERTPS) from 2014-15 onwards with Central Government's share of Rs.849 crore through various segments of silk production value chain from farm to fabric. It is directly benefiting 60,000 beneficiaries covering around 45,000 women beneficiaries (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20). This project basically helps the textile industry to produce silk products in a bulk amount, by that the government tries improve the amount of exports to the rest of the world. By promoting export, the region introduces their culture to the world, preserve tradition, and contribute to GDP of India.

Power loom Sector: Stand-up India Scheme is available for new Power loom units established by a person who belongs to SC/ST/woman entrepreneur category and financial assistance to the tune of 25% margin money (Max. Rs.25 lakh) on the machinery cost is admissible subject to the borrower bringing upon 10% of the project cost as his/her own contribution. Under this scheme, reimbursements of credit guarantee fee up to 1% of the loan amount is also allowed. Till date, out of 276 applications submitted through online system for Stand-up India scheme under Powertex India Scheme, 250 applications pertain to women entrepreneurs. The estimated investment is

about Rs. 200 crore from 01-04-2017 to till date (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20).

Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS): With a view to address the critical skill gap in the textile sector, the Ministry of Textiles introduced ISDS. Under this scheme, 6, 41,983 women were trained since 2014-15 to 2018-19 which is 72% of total trained under the scheme. Out of this 6, 17,915 have been assessed and 5, 32,660 have been placed in their respective sectors (Handloom and Textile Department, Govt. of India, 2019-20).

5.4 Silk Related Training centre in Sualkuchi

Sualkuchi is the centre of Assam of the production of silk. Here highest numbers of Assam silk are produced. Sualkuchi is the historical place to produce Assam silk. In this village almost every household have at least one household. But though almost every household have their own loom, but all of them are not used it as a commercially. Still there are many people who use their looms for domestic purposes. The people of this area especially the females are the born weavers. Without any formal training they able to know every step of weaving. Because weaving is in their blood. By birth every day they have the experience of weaving by their old generation or from the elders. So they earn this art by their childhood. Even every child of Sualkuchi respect silk and thread. Because they know that silk is the only thing on this area that provides their food and livelihood.

“Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” (confluence of tradition with modernity) is a fashion institute. This institute was formed on 2008, which was an initiative of Kamrup District Administration of Govt. of Assam. This was inaugurated by that time’s honorable chief minister of Assam, Tarun Gogoi in presence of Sjt. Pranab Gogoi (Honorable minister, Handloom & Textiles) and Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma (Honorable Minister, Health & Family Welfare etc. Deptt. Govt.of Assam) on 30th August 2008. The basic objective of this institute is to give training to the local people about silk production. Production includes Tie and Dye, spinning, weaving, mulberry thread realing, fashion designing and garment construction.

The basic motive of this institute is to give free training to the local people regarding silk and silk related products. So, initially they started to give training to the local peoples. They gave training for both male and female people. They started their

first batch in the year 2008 where 25 people took admission and completed successfully their training. This training lasts for 6 months. Initially, there was not mention about any educational qualification. The minimum 18 years age is required for got admission. After the successful complication of first batch training, the “Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” started the second batch. Their seat capacity is now 25 students per batch. They give admission twice a year, since their course duration per batch is only 6 months. Their first batch started at February every year and completed at August. The second batch started From August to till February.

“Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” also provides extra training if any organization or govt or institution take initiative or give funds. After 2015, the institution “Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” renovates and it tie-up with CSR program. Now they run by government of Assam with the collaboration of CSR program. When this renovation was started, the institution requires some educational qualification. Apart from 18 years age they require minimum educational qualification is 10th pass. Now they give training in a broader sense and few new subjects are included under their course, which makes the candidates more interesting to take the training. They named the course as “Free Training on 6 months integrated course on Fashion and Textile Technology”. This new course includes the following topics-

1. Fashion illustration
2. Elements of Design
3. Pattern making
4. Pre and post loom process in handloom
5. Fashion/ Colour/ Trends Forecast
6. Printing (screen, block, tie and dye, batik)
7. Hand Embroidery
8. Yarn and Fabric designing (Natural and chemical)
9. Diversified Product Development
10. Design development
11. Fiber to fabric
12. Online Marketing
13. Costing
14. Product finishing and packaging

Apart from that, now they are agree to give training not only local people but also all the candidates who are interested all over Assam. Because till that time almost all local people trained and they started their personal business. The institution provides some extra training and courses on the basis of the sponsorship of some other institutions and sometimes by the remaining funds of CSR programs. Presently, there are 8 employees engaged on this institution. There are 1 principal, 2 faculty members, 2 offices assistant, 1 accountant, 1 peon and 1 driver. These are government employees and govt. gives them their salaries according to government rules and regulation (Field Survey, 2017).

“Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” is the only formal silk related training institute in this area. Sometimes government and some other private institutes provide some short time courses regarding the silk fashion and designing but local people are not interested for this. According to them “Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology” is already given them sufficient knowledge about this industry.

In 2017-18 state budgets, Rs 20 crore has been sanctioned for Sualkuchi to establish a yarn depot with passbook facility. Under this scheme a bank passbook to be given to each weavers. These passbooks are like ration cards to the weavers and also an identity card or like a record card where all purchases and transactions are recorded with the yarn bank. The initiative of passbook has been implemented in three gaon panchayat out of eight gaon panchayat in Suakuchi. Here government has identified 3,281 weavers with 7,000 looms that will get mulberry yarn at 20% subsidy rate with per loom 1.5 kg yarn per month (Sualkuchi Yarn depot office). During the time of data collection, respondents informed that they get benefited from this “yarn depot” and they get subsidized rate of yarn, specially mulberry yarn. Weavers also informed that, one person with each handloom, get 1.5 kg of subsidized rate of yarn for one month. This helps them to reduce their cost of production.

Sualkuchi Tant Silpa Unnayan Samiti is the organisation who rallied for the official trademark- has been long demanding subsidies for yarn.

5.5 Conclusion

The sericulture sector can generate huge employment opportunities with a very minimum investment cost. So, the Govt. and the Ministry of India gives a privilege to the development of this industry and always tries to engage more and more population on this sector. Ministry of Govt. implements various plans, policies, schemes and

subsidies to the growth and development of this sector. The Central Silk Board (CSB) was the 1st organization established by the Indian Government to look sericulture

activities in the country. The CSB is functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The basic function of Central Silk Board is to co-ordinate the sericulture development programs in different states & for undertaking pre-shipment review of silk goods. NERTPS, ISDP, IBSDP, CMER & TI, ISDSI are the various programs taken by the government to improve the sericulture of the country. Though there are various other plans and programs to look the sericulture and silk industry's development, but these numbers are not sufficient. They need more such programs and policies to train the people related to sericulture and develop the society by generating employment opportunities. Female are mostly associated with the silk industry than the male. The benefits provided by the various government policies are mostly helps the females and specially the rural women. These policies not only help the female to getting employment opportunities but also helps them to become an independent and empowered women.

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