

No. 26011/5/2014-Silk  
Government of India  
Ministry of Textiles  
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Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated September, 2014.

To

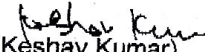
1. All Principal Secretary/ Director (Sericulture)  
of State Govt. (As per list attached)
2. Member Secretary, CSB Bangalore

**Sub: Workshop on Empowering Women through Sericulture held on  
17.09.2014-reg.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith the minutes of the Workshop on  
Empowering Women through Sericulture held on 17.09.2014 for information and  
necessary follow up action.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Keshav Kumar)  
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel: 23061826

Encls: as above.

**Proceedings of the National Workshop on "Empowering Women through Sericulture"**

Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India organised a National Workshop on "Empowering Women through Sericulture", on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Senior Officers from the Ministry of Textiles, State Govt., Central Silk Board and other related Departments, progressive women farmers from 27 silk producing States participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to honour outstanding women sericulturists from each of the silk producing States to acknowledge their valuable contribution for the development of silk industry and discuss the critical issues relating to development of sericulture for production of quality silk.

2. Dr. S.K.Panda, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, in his Key Note address, stated that the challenge before the Nation is to generate productive employment opportunity for the youth. He emphasised the need for inclusive and participatory approach for making development sustainable. While reiterating the focus of the Nation on skill, scale & speed, Make-India Brand, Zero Defect – Zero Effect on environment and Adarsh Gram, he explained about the relevance of Sericulture Industry for inclusive growth. He stated that the challenge is to improve quality and productivity to produce international grade import substitute silk and also emphasised on convergence and effective synergies.
3. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles inaugurated the workshop and released a book-let on "Women Achievers in Sericulture". He felicitated 54 women achievers from 27 States who have achieved significant success in production and productivity through adoption of improved technology packages.
4. The progressive women achievers, while sharing their success, informed that through sericulture their income and social status has improved and they could provide good education to their children.
5. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles released a book on "Mulberry Sericulture in New Areas Empowering Tribal Women" and a film on "Soil to Silk", written and scripted by Dr. S.K.Panda, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles.
6. Shri N.S.Bisse Gowda, Chairman, Central Silk Board in his address stated that three mantras for sericulture development are Feed, Seed and Breed and Central Silk Board is making all efforts to produce quality leaf to provide good feed to silkworms, quality disease free laying and robust silkworm breeds.
7. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles in his presidential address stated that the Ministry of Textiles is implementing various schemes to promote textiles including sericulture. The priority of the Government is to provide productive employment opportunity to rural people and it is heartening to know from the women farmers that sericulture is providing them gainful employment. He expressed happiness about the innovative practices adopted by the women in sericulture and hoped that the workshop will draw suitable strategy and rollout plans for the production of quality silk in the country.
8. Ms Sunaina Tomar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles extended vote of thanks to all participants.

9. Ms. Ishita Roy, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board made a presentation on 'Methods and strategy to increase bivoltine silk production'. She presented the methods to be adopted for bivoltine development in important thrust areas like quality seed, robust silkworm Breed & improved mulberry varieties, Capacity Building and Post Cocoon Technology.

10. Dr. R.K.Datta, Director (Retired), Central Silk Board made a technical presentation on 'Bivoltine Sericulture Promotion in India' wherein he explained the important technological interventions and stressed the need for better extension support mainly from the Departments of Sericulture for successful bivoltine crop.

11. The interactive session with the States was chaired by Dr. S.K. Panda, Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles. Issues expressed by the States and action to be taken which came up during discussion are as follows.

11.1. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam stated that Muga sector needs special incentives to promote growth of the sector. Adequate support is not forthcoming from Forest Departments to develop systematic food plantation. Fund flow from MGNREGS is quite low. Individual Beneficiary Scheme (IBS) of MGNREGS is not available to sericulture sector.

Under the Right to use forest land Act, action is being taken by the State Govts for providing rights to forest dwellers. Such areas as well as degraded forest land, adapahi areas may be developed with the host plants of tasar and muga. Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), vanya silkworm host plantation can be developed by the State Forest Departments. Intervention of the Chief Secretaries may be sought to advise Forest Departments to make use of these facilities. With regard to MGNREGS, States may replicate Tripura model in collaboration with the Rural Development Departments. Use of Yarn for weaving of silk fabrics may be taken up with Handloom Departments and Fashion Institutes for product design, development and diversification to ensure better value realisation.

11.2. Special Secretary to Govt. of Jharkhand mentioned about the practise in his State in tasar development mainly in the areas of seed, plantation development in collaboration with Forest Departments, reeling, forward linkages through Jharcraft in product development and marketing, collaboration with NID / NIFT on product development, promotion of organic silk through accreditation, tasar eco race conservation utilising natural sal plantation, Resham Doot Concept for community involvement.

The Secretary (Textiles) suggested that experience of Jharkhand be circulated to other States for replication. Officers of Tasar producing States may visit Jharkhand to study the practice for replication in their States with necessary changes.

11.3. Commissioner of Sericulture, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh requested for higher allocation under CDP considering the vast potentiality of the State for large scale expansion of sericulture.

All the States were requested to avail funds through convergence programme and utilise CDP funds for critical gap filling.

- 11.4. Principal Secretary, Govt of Karnataka stated that the State intends to produce 1500 MTs of Bivoltine silk during 2014-15, for which seed is a serious constraint. He sought support for increasing seed production by reviving the State grainages and private sector participation. The Central subsidy for construction of rearing house needs to be increased to promote Bivoltine. Support available to drip irrigation is quite low which needs to be increased. There is need for improving MIS and monitoring system through IT applications.

Practice followed in Karnataka for MGNREGS convergence as a direct implementing agency may be studied. With regard to increase of CDP subsidy, it was stated that it is difficult to increase central subsidy of CDP schemes of XII Plan at this stage. However, the suggestion of the State may be studied for consideration in the mid-term appraisal. Regarding IT application for monitoring, the best practice of the State needs to be studied for implementation in all the States.

- 11.5. The State of Bihar is implementing Mukyamantri Resham Pariyojana for large scale expansion of sericulture. The State requested for CSB support for seed supply to meet the gap and new REC for extension support. State also requested for release of CDP central share of funds directly to DOS account through Central Silk Board, instead of releasing the same to treasury.

The fund flow to the States through the consolidation fund of the State is being done as per the decision taken by Govt. of India and Planning Commission. CSB cannot establish new Research Extension Centre; however, the existing unit could be relocated to the needy area.

- 11.6. The representative of Andhra Pradesh sought support for solar unit for Rearing Houses and Reeling Units.

It was decided to obtain support of Ministry of Non Conventional Energy for utilising solar energy and other non conventional energy for sericulture activities in all States. It was also decided that CSB should study the requirement of solar and other non-conventional energy for various activities of sericulture and prepare a project for converging the schemes of Ministry of Non Conventional Energy with CDP

12. With a view to examine all related issues and taking action Member Secretary, CSB was advised to look in to the following:

- (i) A Technical Committee to study all technical issues covering important areas like seed and cocoon sector, post cocoon technology in adoption of technology etc., and suggest best models for improving the productivity and quality of silk. The Committee will also suggest roles and responsibilities of CSB, DOS and Private sector.
- (ii) Another Committee may study all administrating issues and suggest the best practices for adoption in different states.

The Committees should submit detailed Action Plan Point wise within one month, based on which further action may be taken for promotion of Sericulture industry giving particular attention to production of quality yarn and ensuring high economic return to rearers.