

## SERICULTURE IN N.W.F.P.

BY

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Sericulture is a labour intensive, agro-based cottage industry in the rural areas. It involves small investment on the part of farmers but offers them high economic returns in a short period of 30 to 35 days during spring when they do not have much work on their farms. It also provides jobs to the farming families particularly to women, old persons and children who cannot work else-where on the farms.

Large areas of NWFP potential wealth of mulberry trees, the only food of silkworms. Climatic conditions for silkworms rearing are also suitable in many parts of the province. Silkworm rearing is therefore, carried out throughout the province where mulberry trees plants are found in abundance. The following sericulture centres have been established over the years in the province.

1. Peshawar, Peshawar Division.
2. Haripur, Hazara Division.
3. Naurang, D.I. Khan Division.
4. Chitral, Malakand Division.
5. Parachinar, Kurram Agency.
6. Miranshah, North Waziristan Agency.
7. Wana, South Waziristan Agency.
8. Kadda, Orakzai Agency.
9. Khar, Bajaur Agency.
10. Grainage Centre, Khanaspur(Ayubia).
11. Grainage, Centre, Parachinar.
12. Silk Filature, Parachinar.

The following activities are undertaken these centres are:-

### Mulberry nurseries and plantations

Mulberry trees are essential for development of sericulture. Therefore, improved exotic varieties of mulberry with leaves of high nutritive value, high leaf yield and suited climatically to different areas are raised through cuttings at the centres.

### Mulberry farms

To find out suitability of different varieties of mulberry through bio-essay method, its plantations have been established over about 5 hectares area at above

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sericulture centres. Research trials for determining foliage yield of different varieties of mulberry under various, climatic and soil conditions as well as under different spacing regions are also in progress at Peshawar, Naurang and Haripur centres.

**Silkseed production**

About 10 boxes of imported F1 silk seed are reared departmentally for production of seed cocoons for F2 seed production at Ayubia and Parachinar centres. Disease free silk seed is essential for development of the silk industry. However, proper research facilities and pure lines of silkworm are not available locally. Therefore, 1000 packets of F2 seed are produced annually in grainages at Parachinar and Ayubia. To meet the silkseed requirement of province, 3000 to 3500 are also imported every year. During 1989, the Pakistan Forest Institute provided 20 layings of each of Japanese and Chinese pure lines. These lines are being multiplied for production of disease free F1 hybrid silkseed.

**Silk Filature**

To provide marketing facilities to the farmers for sale of cocoons produced by them, small reeling units have been established at different sericulture centres. About 5 tonnes of silk cocoons are purchased and reeled departmentally every year at these centres. This has helped in setting a reasonable sale price of cocoons for the farmers and has ensured farmers quick disposal of their products. On successful rearing 10 to 15 Kgs of cocoons are obtained from one packet of silk seed by the farmers which are sold either to private silk dealers or to department at the rate ranging from Rs.150/- to Rs.200/- per kg. A rearer usually easily earns Rs.2000 to Rs.3000/- with in a period of 30 to 35 days.

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Mulberry farms

To find out suitability of different varieties of mulberry through bio-assay method, six plantations have been established over about 2 hectares area at above

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