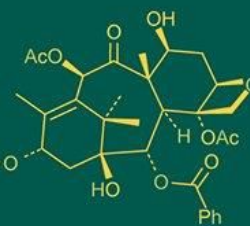
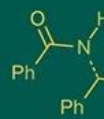


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Constraints faced and suggestions given by the sericulturist in adoption of improved sericultural production practices

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2023-24 with the objective to know constraints faced and suggestions given by the sericulturist in adoption improved sericultural production practices. For the study Jalna district was selected from Maharashtra state. 12 villages were selected randomly from the respective talukas from Jalna district and 10 respondents from each village were selected purposively from the list of beneficiaries of sericultural beneficiaries of Jalna district constituting the sample size of 120. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. Data was gathered using a well-structured interview schedule. To interpret constraints faced and to draw conclusions, statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and coefficient correlation were used. Respondents were asked through interview schedule to provide their thoughts on constraints faced and suggestions given while adopting improved sericultural production practices. The primary constraint faced by respondents was the strong emphasis on traditional practices (87.50 %) and primary suggestion given by respondents was that the farmers should be informed about updated technologies (83.33%).

Keywords: Adoption, sericulturist, constraints, improved, suggestions, practices, etc.

Introduction

India encompasses an upscale and sophisticated history in silk production and silk trade dates back to fifteenth century. India is the second largest producer of silk within the globe after China. The word Sericulture is derived from Greek word "Seri cos" means 'Silk' and English word 'Culture means 'Rearing Silk is the fibrous protein of animal organ produced by silkworm for spinning a cocoon. Silk consists of two proteins Le. Fibroin (structural centre of silk) and Sericin (sticky material surrounding it). It was discovered in China between 2600 and 2700 BC and popularly known as "Queen of Textiles" the world over due to its glittering lustre, elegance, durability and tensile properties.

In India, mulberry silk is produced extensively in the states of In India, mulberry silk is produced intensively in the states of Karnataka (8722 MT), Andhra Pradesh (6903 MT), Assam (5004 MT), Tamil nandu (1886), west Bengal (1325 MT), Meghalaya (1014 MT), Jharkhand (834 MT), Maharashtra (414 MT), (Central silk board, (2022-23) Many researchers from different parts of Maharashtra have studied various aspects of sericulture industry. Hiware et al., (2004) [18], carried out a study on status of sericulture industry in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nager district, Maharashtra. He concluded that, there is increasing trend in sericulture industry of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nager district and total 90 villages with 277 beneficiaries were conducting sericulture practices. Dewangan (2013) [19] investigated that sericulture fulfils the opportunities of livelihood for tribal. He concluded that Sericulture is the activity of low investment and high output. The history of sericulture industry in Maharashtra extends from Satavahana Empire which was an Indian dynasty based in Dharani Kota and Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh as well as Junnar (Pune) and Pratisthan (Paithan) in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is a non- traditional mulberry silk producing state in the country occupying 1st position amongst non- traditional state (Hiware C. J, 2016) [20] carried out a study on socioeconomic status and health risks among sericulture industry workers of Maharashtra.

Therefore, the present study is carried out to know the in adoption of recommended sericultural production practices with the following objectives.

Objective

To know constraints faced and suggestions given by the Sericulturist in adoption of improved sericultural production practices.

Methodology

The present study was undertaken in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2023-24 in Jalna district was selected purposively from Marathwada region, three talukas namely Jalna, Ghansawangi and Mantha were selected purposively and four villages from each taluka were selected purposively for the study. From each selected village, ten sericulturist were selected purposively, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study.

Data was collected by personally interviewing the sericulturist. The collected data was analysed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and coefficient correlation were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions.

The independent variables were education, land holding, family size, annual income, farming experience, area under mulberry cultivation, market orientation, no of training, extension contact, social participation, knowledge of improved sericultural production practices. Adoption was the only dependent variable.

Results and Discussion

The objective of the study was to know the constraints faced and suggestions given by sericulturist in adoption of improved seicultural production practices. Detailed information on these constraints and suggestions given is presented in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Table 1: Constraints faced in adoption of improved sericultural production practices.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1)	Machinery cost is expensive	98	81.67	I
2)	Unavailability of skilled labour	96	80.00	II
3)	Lack of cocoon storage facility	94	78.33	III
4)	Fluctuation in price of cocoon	93	77.50	IV
5)	Cash is not available immediately after selling of cocoon	92	76.67	V
6)	Frequent incidence of disease and pest	91	75.83	VI
7)	High cost of initial stage of cocoon production	90	75.00	VII
8)	High cost of insecticide and pesticide	80	66.67	VIII
9)	Greater distance for selling cocoon to market	70	58.33	IX

Table 1 shows that the primary constraint faced by respondents was the machinery cost is expensive with 81.67 percent Other constraints faced by sericulturist was as follows: 80.00 percent Unavailability of skilled labour; 78.33 percent encountered difficulties due to a lack of cocoon storage facility; 77.50 percent faced issues with fluctuation in price of cocoon; 76.67 percent struggled with

the cash is not available immediately after selling of cocoon; 75.83 percent had constraints related to a frequent incidence of disease and pest; 75.00 percent high cost of initial stage of cocoon production; 66.67 percent faced challenges due to high cost of insect and pesticide and 58.33 percent deal with greater distance for selling cocoon to market.

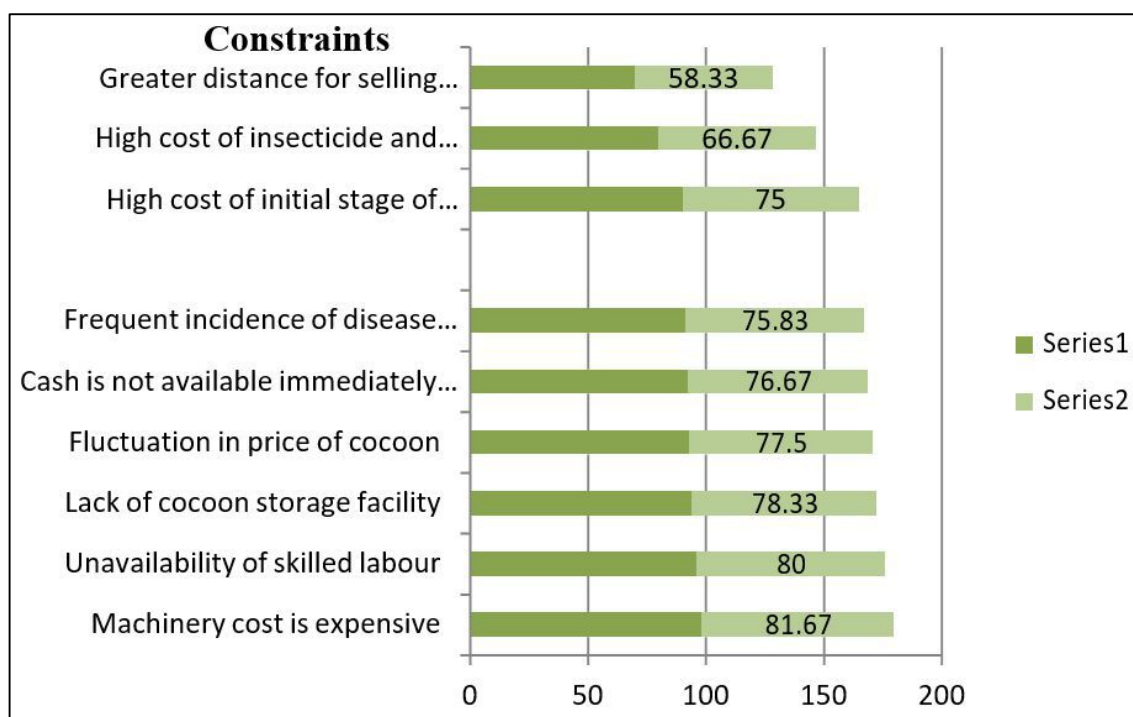


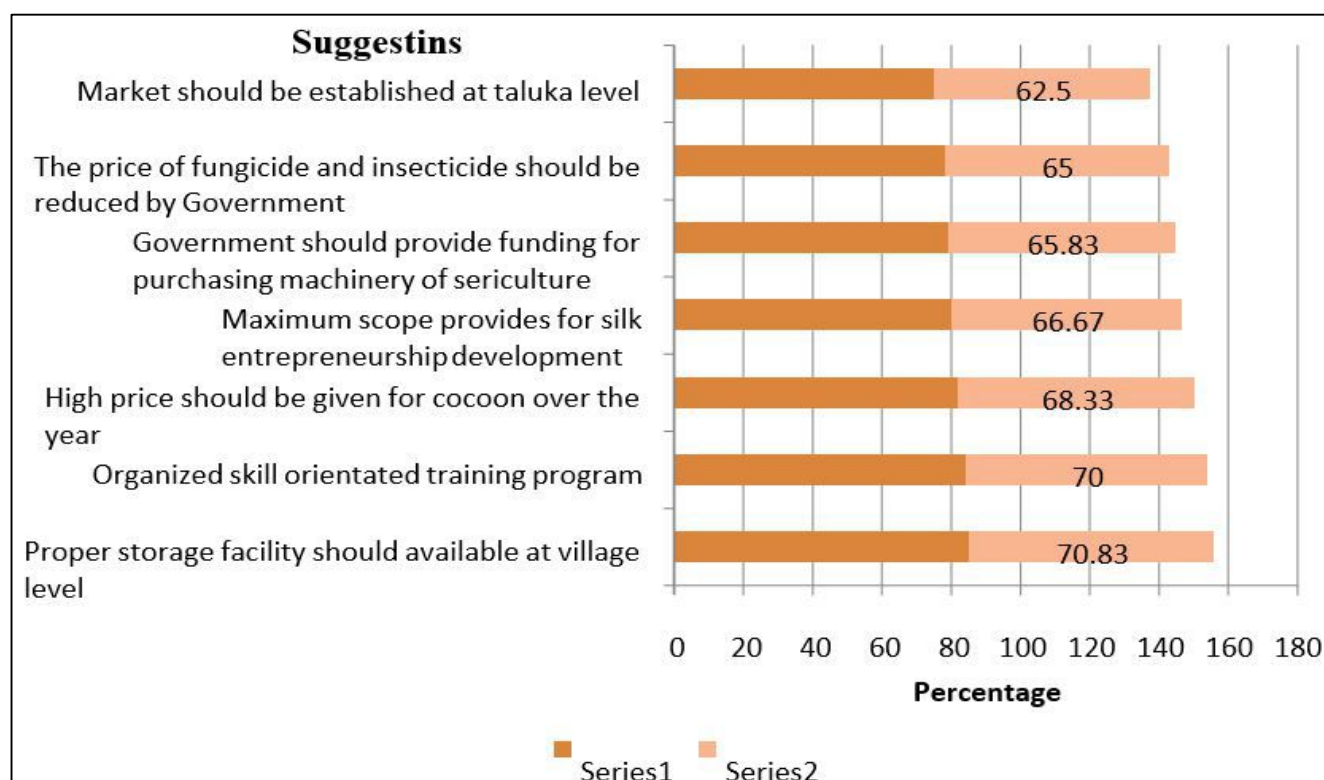
Fig 1: Constraints faced in adoption of improved sericultural production practices.

Table 2: Suggestions to overcome the constraints in adoption of improved sericultural production practices

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1)	Proper storage facility should available at village level	85	70.83	I
2)	Organized skill orientated training program	84	70.00	II
3)	High price should be given for cocoon over the year	82	68.33	III
4)	Maximum scope provides for silk entrepreneurship development	80	66.67	IV
5)	Government should provide funding for purchasing machinery of sericulture	79	65.83	V
6)	The price of fungicide and insecticide should be reduced by Government	78	65.00	VI
7)	Market should be established at taluka level	75	62.50	VII

Table 2 reveals that the majority of respondents offered several suggestions to overcome constraints in adoption of improved sericultural production practices. A significant 70.83 percent recommended that sericulturist proper storage facility should available at village level. Additionally, 70.00 percent suggested organized skill orientated training program. To address price issues, 68.33 per high price should be given for cocoon over the year. Furthermore,

66.67 percent maximum scope provides for silk entrepreneurship development. Funding also emphasized, with 65.83 percent government should provide funding for purchasing machinery of sericulture and 65.00 percent suggesting that the price of fungicide and insecticide should be reduced by government, 62.50 percent market should be established at taluka level.

**Fig 2:** Suggestions to overcome the constraints in adoption of improved sericultural production practices

Conclusion

The primary constraint faced by sericulturist was the strong emphasis on machinery cost is expensive. The other significant constraints reported was unavailability of skilled labour, lack of cocoon storage facility should available at village level. Additionally, organized skill orientated training program. To address price issues, high price should be given for cocoon over the year. Furthermore, maximum scope provides for silk entrepreneurship development. Funding also emphasized, with government should provide funding for purchasing machinery of sericulture and suggesting that the price of fungicide and insecticide should be reduced by government and market should be established at taluka level.

The suggestions given sericulturists in adoption of improved sericultural production practices that, sericulturist suggesting proper storage facility should available at village level, sericulturist should be organized skill orientated

training program, high price should be given for cocoon over the year, maximum scope provides for silk entrepreneurship development, government should provide funding for purchasing machinery of sericulture and the price of fungicide and insecticide should be reduced by government and market should be established at taluka level.

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