

DEVELOPMENT OF *MUGA* AND *ERI* IN ASSAM

The Golden Magical Thread

The use of *muga* and *eri* silk is quite closely associated with the culture and tradition of the Assamese society and occupies a unique place in the socio- economic life of the people of Assam. The *eri* culture is mostly predominant among sericulture in the State and *muga* culture is unique and confined particularly to the Brahmaputra valley and neighbouring States. *Muga* silk is golden yellow in colour and is quite attractive. *Eri* culture is practiced not only for self but also for the protein rich pupae for consumption of people as a delicacy. The *eri* silk has special thermal properties, which supplement the requirements of warm clothing to some extent. The art of weaving is very popular among the women folk of Assam. Sericulture has provided the best ground for removal of underemployment and unemployment, which are common of the country. Assam accounts for highest production of non- mulberry silk, *muga* and *eri*. The State alone contributes 99 per cent and 63 per cent of the total *muga* and *eri* raw silk production in the country.

With a aim for sustainable development of *muga* silk and *eri* silk in the State with the objective towards qualitative and productivity improvement, meeting the requirement of silk worm food plants, quality seed, cocoon and raw silk, establishing necessary marketing linkages, the Rural Development, Government of Assam started two projects namely, Development of *Muga* in Assam and Development of *Eri* in Assam in the year 2000. The total financial outlay of the project was Rs. 1177.12 lakhs and Rs 499.78 lakhs. The Projects are under completion and the Department is hopeful of wrapping up the Projects by 31 March 2004.

The distinct look and smooth feel of Muga and Eri is an instant inspiration for fashion designers all over the world

PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT OF *MUGA* IN ASSAM

As per the approval of the Government of India this Project was implemented in 4 (four) districts of Assam, namely, Kamrup, Goalpara, North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. Sericulture being a labour intensive avocation and having a great potential has created great employment opportunities. From one kilogram of *muga* sale production and processing has provided 250 mandays or one man-year of employment. From the project, employment generated so far is 58200 man-years in both on farm and non-farm sectors. The project resulted the production of following quantities of *muga* raw silk, spun silk, commercial cocoons, and seed cocoons and seed production.

Explore the world of muga, an exclusively be yourself, every time – all the time!

OUTPUT	QUANTITY	VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)
Pl dfls	50,000	0.50
Commercial dfls	2,40,000	2.40
Seed Cocoons	12,00,000	12.00
Commercial Cocoons	1,52,00,000	152.00

Raw Silk (MT)	16.36	674.30
Spun Silk (MT)	12.24	55.08

With increase of production the per capita income has also increased considerably.

DEVELOPMENT OF *ERI* SILK IN ASSAM

Showcasing of diversified eri products for better marketing

As per the approval of the Government of India this Project was implemented in 4 (four) districts of Assam, namely, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Golaghat and Karbi-Anglong. *Eri* is also know as *endi* or *errandi*. *Eri* Silk is produced by the *eri* silk worm. As a result of the implementing of the project, the following quantity of *eri* spun silk and *eri* fabric has been produced.

OUTPUT	QUANTITY	VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)
<i>Eri</i> fabric (Lakh mtr)	5.66	2266.1
Spun Silk	4000	20.00

See also: <http://www.hinduonnet.com/businessline/2000/10/09/stories/140960as.htm>