



Silk Samagra – An Integrated Scheme for Sericulture Development

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Sericulture is an agro-based cottage industry having huge employment and income generating potential in rural and semi-urban areas. Silkworm rearing is mainly practiced in rural areas of the country providing livelihood to weaker section of the society. Around 12,03,942 farming families and 56,013 reeler families are involved in sericulture related activities in the country. India is the only country in the world producing all the four commercial varieties of silk viz., Mulberry, Tasar, Eri and Muga positioning it as a global leader in sericulture. To harness this potential and strengthen the sericulture value chain, the Government of India launched the “Silk Samagra” an Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry (ISDSI) during the year (2017-20) under the aid of the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles with aim & objective to scale up production by improving the quality and productivity and to empower downtrodden, poor and backward families through various activities of sericulture in the country. The program focuses on strengthening sericulture activities across India by improving silk quality, productivity, technology adoption and market development, thus supporting livelihoods and reducing import dependence.

Components of the Scheme

The four components of Silk Samagra are:

- Research and development, Training, Transfer of Technology and I.T. initiatives
- Seed Organizations
- Coordination and Market Development
- Quality Certification Systems/Export Brand Promotion and Technology up-gradation

All four components of the Silk Samagra scheme are interconnected and collectively work towards a common goal. The seed production units generate basic and commercial seeds of healthy silkworm breeds that are developed by research institutes. Stakeholders are equipped with essential training through advanced technology programs, while the outcomes of various projects are shared with them to further promote the silk industry. Additionally, the quality certification system ensures and maintains the standards established by R&D units for silkworm seeds, cocoons, raw silk and other silk products across the entire value chain.

Objectives of the scheme

- Undertake research and development (R&D) activities to develop and improve food plants, silkworm breeds, silkworm seed production techniques, and silkworm rearing practices.
- Strengthen post-cocoon operations by promoting the utilization of advanced post-cocoon technologies.
- Maintain a four-tier seed multiplication network to ensure the supply of nucleus and basic seeds to state-level seed production units.
- Provide quality certification for both state and private seed production units.

- Offer comprehensive technical support to state seed production units.
- Conduct statistical analysis of silk production to facilitate import and export market development.
- Stabilize the prices of Muga cocoons through efficient raw material management and financial support from Central Silk Board (CSB) units.
- Ensure the quality and purity of silk used for trading and promotion through initiatives like the Silk Mark certification.
- Provide assistance for door-to-door service agents for disinfection and input supply, and support improved reeling units such as automatic reeling machines, multi-end reeling machines, improved twisting machines, and post-yarn facilities for quality silk and fabric production.
- Extend subsidies and funding for essential infrastructure including reeling units, irrigation facilities, silk processing units, and seed production centres.

Approval and realising of Funds

- Project proposals from each State are first reviewed by the respective State-level Project Monitoring Committee, which forwards its recommendations for approval.
- All States are required to submit their project proposals annually by June 30.
- The proposals, along with the necessary documents and compliance to scheme guidelines, are examined by the Central Silk Board (CSB).
- Once approved, the CSB disburses funds to the States through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) using the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism.

Table 1: Funds allocated under plan programmes of the Silk Samagra since 2017-18.
(Rs. in crore)

Scheme	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Silk Samagra	161.50	120.00	182.50

(Source: Annual report, CSB.)

Table 2: Funds released for different sectors under the scheme

S. No.	Sector	Funds released (Rs.)
1	Cottage basin and Domestic basin	1.99 lakh
2	Multi-end reeling units	17.09 lakh
3	Automatic reeling units	79.83 lakh
4	Automatic dupion reeling units (international quality)	45.76 lakh
5	Twisting units	10.04 lakh per unit
6	Eco de-gumming machine (sericin powder)	10 lakh
7	Pupae processing units	20.82 lakh per unit
8	Reeling cum-twisting machines	28,000 lakh
9	Wet reeling machines	30,000 lakh
10	Pedal/motorized spinning machines	7,000 per unit
11	Solar spinning machines	21,000 lakh
12	Computerized Aided Textile Designing units	5.75 lakh
13	The Fabric processing unit (250 kg)	31.50 lakh per unit
14	Arm dyeing unit	21 lakh
15	Fabric finishing units	9 lakh per unit
16	Single-phase HP electric motor	25,000 lakh

Silk Samagra – 2 (2021-22 to 2025-26)

Silk Samagra - 2 is the second phase of the integrated scheme for the development of the sericulture industry in India implemented by the Central Silk Board. It covers the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of approximately Rs. 4,679.85 crore. It is a scaled up, financially enhanced and more comprehensive continuation of the original Silk Samagra

scheme. It aims not only to raise production and quality but also to strengthen the supply chain, promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices, encourage private entrepreneurship and modernize the sericulture industry for the future.

Conclusion

The Silk Samagra Scheme has emerged as a comprehensive initiative that strengthens every stage of sericulture, from seed production to marketing, while enhancing rural livelihoods and empowering women. By integrating technology, infrastructure support and skill development, it has improved productivity, quality and sustainability in silk production, reducing dependence on imports and promoting self-reliance. Beyond economic benefits, the scheme contributes to rural development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, making it a transformative program for revitalizing and globalizing India's silk industry.

References

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