



AGRI MAGAZINE

(International E-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 03, Issue: 01 (January, 2026)

Available online at <http://www.agrimagazine.in>

© Agri Magazine, ISSN: 3048-8656

Sericulture Farming

*R. Deepika, Dr. B. Guna and Mrs. S. Sandhiya

Nalanda College of Agriculture, M.R. Palayam, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding Author's email: ramandeepika519@gmail.com

Sericulture is the agricultural practice of rearing silkworms, primarily *Bombyx mori*, for the production of natural silk. It is an agro-based, labor-intensive industry that plays a significant role in rural employment generation and economic development, especially in countries like India, China, and Thailand. Sericulture integrates mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, cocoon production, reeling, and weaving, making it a sustainable and eco-friendly farming system. Advances in silkworm genetics, mulberry agronomy, and disease management have significantly improved silk productivity and quality. Moreover, sericulture contributes to women empowerment and supports marginal farmers due to its low initial investment and quick returns. Despite challenges such as pest infestation, climatic variability, and market fluctuations, sericulture remains a viable avenue for sustainable rural livelihoods. This article reviews the fundamentals of sericulture farming, its economic importance, and recent technological developments aimed at enhancing silk yield and farmer income.

Sericulture Farming

Sericulture farming is the practice of rearing silkworms for the production of silk. Silk is a natural protein fiber known for its softness, shine, and durability, and it has been valued for thousands of years. Sericulture plays an important role in rural employment and the textile industry, especially in countries like India, China, and Thailand.



Meaning of Sericulture

The word sericulture comes from the Greek word "Sericos", meaning silk. It involves two main activities:

- Cultivation of mulberry plants
- Rearing of silkworms (*Bombyx mori*)
- Silkworms feed mainly on mulberry leaves and produce silk cocoons, from which silk thread is obtained.



Types of Silk

There are four major types of silk produced through sericulture:

- Mulberry silk – Most common and of high quality
- Tasar silk – Produced by wild silkworms
- Eri silk – Known for its softness and warmth
- Muga silk – Golden-colored silk, mainly found in Assam (India)



Process of Sericulture

Sericulture farming is carried out in the following steps:

Mulberry Cultivation

Mulberry plants are grown in well-drained fertile soil. Their leaves are the primary food for silkworms.

Silkworm Rearing

Silkworm eggs are hatched, and larvae are fed mulberry leaves several times a day until they grow fully.

Cocoon Formation

Mature silkworms secrete silk fiber and form cocoons around themselves.

Harvesting of Cocoons

Cocoons are collected after 8–10 days.

Reeling of Silk

Silk fibers are unwound from cocoons and spun into silk threads.

Importance of Sericulture

- Provides employment to rural populations
- Requires low investment and small land area
- Supports cottage and agro-based industries
- Produces eco-friendly and biodegradable fiber
- Contributes to export earnings

Advantages of Sericulture

- Generates quick income
- Can be practiced by small and marginal farmers
- Involves family labor
- Enhances rural development

Challenges in Sericulture

- Sensitive to climate conditions
- Requires careful handling and hygiene
- Susceptible to pests and diseases
- Market price fluctuations

Conclusion

Sericulture farming is an age-old agricultural activity with great economic and social importance. With proper scientific methods, training, and government support, sericulture can significantly improve rural livelihoods and promote sustainable development

References

1. FAO. (1990). Manual on Sericulture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome.
2. Ganga, G., & Chetty, J. S. (1991). An Introduction to Sericulture. Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi.
3. Central Silk Board. (2020). Sericulture Industry in India. Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
4. Sarkar, D. C. (1986). Sericulture in India. Central Silk Board, Bangalore.
5. Benchamin, K. V., & Nagaraj, C. S. (1987). Silkworm Rearing Techniques. Central Silk Board, Bangalore.