



Barzillai Momin: Inspiration for the new comers in the Muga sector

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Shri Barzillai Momin aged about 45 years from Bolsaldam village in North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, is today an emerging farmer and motivator for others towards muga industry. His education is upto upper primary was not sufficient to have a good idea for making money. He is working as a daily wage basis labour and hardly gets Rs. 8000/ month. In the year of 2011, he got touched with MSSO, P-3 Unit, Rompara and learned all aspect from the staff of the same organization. At that time he thought that he will move with this occupation with the help of his wife. He contacted with Officer in charge of the unit and discussed that he have 2.5 bigha of land in the Rompara village and wants to muga rearing. Officer in charge provide him 400 numbers of som seedling free of cost.



Som plantation

He planted 400 seedlings of som, primary host plant of muga silkworm in 2.5 bigha land during 2012 and started muga rearing with 100 DFLs obtained from MSSO, P-3 Unit, Rompara in 2016. In his maiden harvest, he could get 5000 muga cocoons. Next year, MSSO revised its ASRs list and he got benefitted that he was selected as ASR for the unit. After that he got 50% subsidy for purchasing of muga seed as ASR from the unit. So he purchased higher amount of seed from the unit. The year wise details of DFLs brushing and harvesting of cocoons and income generation are given Table 1 and 2. He is indeed meticulous in maintenance of record like annual data of rearing and harvesting. He received training in various aspect of muga culture from the P-3 unit, Rompara as well as P-4 Unit, Mendipathar. He is actively involved in muga rearing from last 5 years.

Table – 1: Year wise details of DFLs brushed and harvested cocoons

Year	No. of DFLs brushed	Harvested cocoons
2016	100	4970
2017	600	21408
2018	600	19870
2019	1000	34119



Rearing activity at his farm

He could prove that muga culture is a very profitable activity, and motivated many other farmers in his village as well as nearby villages of Bolsaldam to take up muga culture. Sri Barzillai Momin has immense faith in seed quality for muga rearing developed by the Muga Silkworm Seed Organization, Central Silk Board.



Conducting grainage at varandah in his home

At present, Muga rearing is the main source of income for his family of 3 members. The success of Shri Barzillai Momin lies in efficient financial management of both commercial crop i.e. Baisakhi and Late Bhodia. Now, his annual income through muga culture is about Rs. Seventy Eight Thousand and leading a happy life with only 60 to 70 days working as a muga rearer. He firmly believes in the saying “slow and steady wins the race”. He has travelled a long way in half decade for this success and become an emerging muga rearer. He will slowly increase his potential in muga sector and within a time span he will be a role model for the district.

Table -2: Income generation through Muga rearing.

Year	Harvested Cocoon	Per Cocoon Price	Total Return (Rs)
2016	4970	1.30 (RC*)	6461
2017	21408	1.35 (RC*)	28900
2018	19870	10000x3(SC**)	30000
		8970x1.72(RC*)	15428
2019	34119	10000x3 (SC**)	30000
		24119x2 (RC*)	48238

RC* - Reeling Cocoon and (SC**) – Seed Cocoon