



### FROM CHALLENGES TO TRIUMPH: MUGA AND ERI'S SUCCESS STORIES



मूगा एरी रेशमकीट बीज संगठन MUGA ERI SILKWORM SEED ORGANIZATION

केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड CENTRAL SILK BOARD वस्त्र मंत्रालय : भारत सरकार MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: GOVT. OF INDIA रेशमनगर, खानापारा, गुवाहाटी- 781022 असम RESHAMNAGAR, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-781022 ASSAM

### MESSO GUWAHATI SUCCESS STORIES

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### FOREWARD

Muga Seed Development Project was established by the Central Silk Board in Guwahati in 1983 to cater to the need for quality Muga basic seed. It was later renamed as Muga Silkworm Seed Organisation (MSSO) in 2005. MSSO, which included Eri Silkworm Seed Organisation (ESSO), has been merged as Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization (MESSO) in 2021. MESSO's objective is to provide quality Muga and Eri basic seeds in the North Eastern Region and throughout the entire country. Currently, there are two P4 units, eight P3 units and two SSPC units functioning under MESSO for muga seed production. Additionally, there are two ESSPC units cum Basic Seed Farms (BSF) for the production and supply of basic and commercial eri dfls for both traditional and non-traditional eri-growing states.

The two P4 units of MESSO in Mendipathar and Tura, Meghalaya maintain the parental stocks of muga and produce P3 basic dfls, which are further multiplied by 08 P3 units to produce basic muga dfls for further multiplication in P2 farms under DoS. SSPC produces commercial muga dfls for directly supplying to needy commercial rearers. To combat the problems of summer and winter seed crop rearing, MESSO conducts seed crop rearing in nested units besides cooler region rearing in hills of BTC (Assam), West Bengal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand.

MESSO has been mandated with producing quality muga and eri seeds and containing deadly diseases from Muga and Eri cultures for the last five decades. The seed sector is the backbone of the sericulture industry, and MESSO and its nested units are rendering extensive support for the upliftment of the livelihood of sericulture farmers in the region by providing timely seed supply, monitoring and supervision for seed crops, and strategic planning to meet the ever-increasing demand for production and supply of quality Muga and Eri seeds. We also extend service support through various extension activities, tackling the numerous hurdles of seed production, particularly in Muga and Eri, due to climate change and erratic weather patterns. MESSO has successfully motivated non-traditional states like Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh to take up muga culture and eri culture in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. The concerted efforts from the Central Silk Board and Departments of Sericulture of North Eastern States and other states of India have played a pivotal role in enlisting success in the lives of muga and eri stakeholders. The efforts to publish the Success Stories of muga and eri stakeholders highlight how muga and eri culture improves livelihood for the farmers. Moreover, the stakeholders' strong determination to triumph over the challenges will undoubtedly motivate other farmers and empower them to strive hard and recommend sericulture for enhancing income. This is just the beginning of several inspiring stories and odysseys to success undertaken by farmers, which will unveil the potential of muga and eri culture in the years to come.

> Dr. K. Neog Director MESSO Guwahati



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### A Tale of Inspirational Youth with Muga Culture

| Name          | : | <b>Shri Sanjay Mushahary</b><br>S/O Santosh Mushahary    |    |
|---------------|---|--|----|
| Village       | : | Tehsil village   | 28 |
| City District | : | Maithabari, Dhamdhama,<br>P.O. Subankhata, Baksa<br>BTAD | R. |
| Mobile number | : | 9678472148   |    |

### Introduction

Sanjay Mushahary, the son of Late Santosh Mushahary, is a dedicated and innovative muga farmer hailing from the serene village of Tehsil in Maithabari, Dhamdhama, P.O. Subankhata, Baksa BTAD, Assam. He is an adopted seed rearer under SSPC Kaliabari practising muga rearing since the year 2000. His journey into muga silkworm rearing has not only transformed his life but has also significantly contributed to the income of his family.

### **The Expedition**

Sanjay Mushahary's journey into muga culture began with a small piece of muga plantation in the serene village of Tehsil. Determined to make the most out of this opportunity, he embarked on a journey of learning and innovation. Sanjay received essential training and support from Capacity building and training programme organised by Muga Eri silkworm Seed Organisation, SSPC Kaliabari specializing in muga silkworm rearing. Sanjay adopted eco-friendly techniques for cocoon production, disease management, and the rearing of muga silkworms. His commitment to embracing best practices and his dedication to learning about sericulture played a crucial role in his success.

### **Diversification and innovation**

Sanjay Mushahary has established himself as a successful muga silkworm rearer, he has a plantation of 1.5 acre with 1000 som trees, and with a remarkable per-crop rearing capacity of 1000 dfls he earns an average of Rs. 1.2 lakhs per crop in a year. His dedication has enabled him to consistently conduct two to three rearings in a year, specifically during the Baisakhi, Aherua, and Bhodia seasons. He also conducts intercropping of sesame and colacasia which gives him an added revenue. This not only enhanced his family's income but also brought sustainability to their livelihood. The income generated from muga silk production has become a reliable source of financial support for his family.

## Empowering the Community through his success and its impact

Sanjay's has not only benefited his family but has also inspired and empowered his local community. His achievements have encouraged others in Tehsil village and the surrounding areas to explore muga silkworm rearing as a viable livelihood option. He also provides income to unemployed youths in his village by employing them in muga rearing. Sanjay actively shares his knowledge and experiences, supporting fellow farmers in adopting the best practices of sericulture.



### Conclusion

Sanjay Mushahary's success story as a muga silkworm rearing pioneer is a testament to the power of dedication, learning, and community support. His journey, from establishing a muga silkworm rearing operation to consistently conducting successful rearings, showcases the potential of sericulture as a sustainable source of income. With the support of local sericulture experts and organizations, Sanjay's success has not only transformed his family's financial situation but has also become a source of inspiration for his community, leading the way for more individuals to embrace muga silkworm rearing as a prosperous livelihood option in Tehsil village, Maithabari, Baksa, BTAD, Assam.



Reported by Sri Malek Ali and Shri Dipen Borah, STA, SSPC Kaliabari Compilation: Hridya H. Sc-C, MESSO,HQ

### A Story of Resilient Empowerment through Muga Culture

| Name          | : | <b>Shri Jiten Rabha</b><br>S/o Indur Rabha |
|---------------|---|--|
| Village       | : | Dirima Dhupguri                            |
| City District | : | P.O.Singra, Kamrup Rural<br>781135         |
| Mobile number | : | 7896940986                                 |



### Introduction:

Jiten Rabha, son of Indur Rabha, is a dedicated and enterprising private graineur who has made a significant impact on the raw silk production industry. He resides from Dirima Dhupguri in P.O. Singra, Kamrup Rural, his journey as a muga silkworm seed producer has not only transformed his life but has also contributed to the thriving raw silk production sector.

### The Journey:

Jiten Rabha's journey into muga silkworm seed production began with a vision to make a mark in the silk industry. He recognized the importance of high-quality silkworm eggs in the sericulture process through the capacity building and training programme imparted by SSPC Kalaiabri, and he was determined to play a crucial role in supplying these essential resources. Starting small, Jiten acquired a basic understanding of silkworm rearing and egg production through the training programme. He took meticulous care ensuring the production of quality silkworm dfls. Jiten's journey was not without challenges, but his persistence and commitment were unwavering.

### **Contributing to Raw Silk Production:**

Jiten Rabha's role as a private graineur under the supervision of SSPC Kaliabari significantly contributes to the raw silk production industry. He produces 25,000 dfls per crop in the two commercial crop of the year earning a revenue upto Rs. 7.0 lakhs per year. His production of high-quality muga silkworm dfls has become a valuable resource for muga farmers in the region. By supplying them he has played a pivotal role in enhancing the overall quality and quantity of raw silk production. The silkworm eggs produced by Jiten have not only increased the productivity but have also contributed to the preservation and promotion of muga silk, a highly coveted and indigenous silk variety known for its exceptional quality.

### **Empowering the Muga Sector:**

Jiten Rabha's success story as a private graineur has not only improved his financial situation but has also empowered the sericulture sector in Kamrup Rural district of Assam. His commitment to delivering high-quality silkworm eggs has set a benchmark for the industry. He has actively shared his knowledge and expertise with fellow graineurs and farmers, encouraging them to adopt best practices in silkworm egg production. He was recognised by central silk board and assistance for private graineur is provided to him under the silk samagra-2 scheme.

### **Conclusion:**

Jiten Rabha's success story as a private graineur in muga silkworm egg production is a testament to the power of dedication, knowledge, and industry support. His journey, from starting small to becoming a crucial contributor to raw silk production, showcases the vital role that individuals like Jiten play in the Muga sector. With his unwavering commitment and the supply of top-grade dfls, Jiten Rabha's story stands as an inspiring example for others looking to make a meaningful impact in the silk industry.



Reported by Sri Malek Ali and Dipen Borah, STA, SSPC Kaliabari Compilation: Hridya H. Sc-C, MESSO, HQ



### Rising from Refusal: Narayanpur's Muga Farmers Shine

| Name                | Son of                | Address  | Educational<br>Qualification | Mobile No  | Photograph |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Sri Anil<br>Gogoi   | Lt. Dinaram<br>Gogoi  | 1 No Rangati,<br>Lakhimpur<br>Assam-784165           | Class V pass                 | 7620764813 |            |
| Sri Sagar<br>Gogoi  | Lt. Mangala<br>Gogoi  | 1 No Rangati,<br>Lakhimpur<br>Assam-784165           | Class VI Pass                | 7896103358 |            |
| Sri Bulton<br>Borah | Lt. Isheswar<br>Borah | Maghnowa,<br>Padmapur,<br>Lakhimpur,<br>Assam-784164 | HS Pass                      | 9365238460 |            |

In Narayanpur, Assam, a remarkable journey began with three dedicated individuals who transformed their lives and showcased the power of determination and collaboration. Sri Anil Gogoi, Sri Sagar Gogoi, and Sri Bulton Borah are residents of Rangati village, Narayanpur, who took on the role of ASR (Adopted Seed Rearer) under MESSO, P3 unit, Narayanpur, and their journey is a testament to their unwavering commitment to the Muga culture.

Their story began in January 2023 when MESSO, P3 unit, Narayanpur, conducted the Late Bhodia crop, 22-23 Grainage.

As per schedule, the unit had to supply DFLs (Disease Free Layings) to different state agencies. However, when it came time to deliver the last consignment to ADS, Sibsagar, they suddenly refused to accept the DFLs, alleging that the previously received DFLs did not hatch properly. This refusal left the unit in a difficult situation, unsure how to supply the remaining DFLs.

Amidst this challenge, the controlling officer of MESSO, H.Q, Guwahati proposed a solution: supply the remaining DFLs to the unit's active ASRs. This suggestion led the Unit to communicate with three determined farmers: Sri Anil Gogoi, Sri Sagar Gogoi, and Sri Bulton Borah. They accepted the responsibility of rearing the Muga silkworms.

The farmers reared 1000 DFLs and set up a small shed in the rearing field, where they would spend their days and nights tending to the Muga worms. They knew that the key to success lay in protecting the delicate larvae from insects, birds, and predators while ensuring their proper care from brushing to harvest. Their hard work and dedication paid off. The Muga worms thrived under their watchful eyes, and there were no hatching issues. As the Aghenua crop progressed, the three farmers diligently nurtured the silkworms.

Their efforts were rewarded when they collected an impressive 72000 matured Muga worms and harvested an astonishing 65000 good quality cocoons. This success not only vindicated their commitment but also showcased their expertise in Muga Culture, which they inherited from their ancestors.

The journey of Sri Anil Gogoi, Sri Sagar Gogoi, and Sri Bulton Borah has not only secured their livelihood but has also contributed to the growth and prosperity of the Muga silk industry in Narayanpur, Assam, leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.



**MUGA SILKWORMS BRUSHING & TRANSFER** 



SRI ANIL GOGOI



SRI SAGAR GOGOI





**SRI BULTON BORAH** 





**COCOON HARVEST** 







POST COCOON: MUGA SILK YARN PREPARED BY SRI ANIL GOGOI

POST COCOON: MUGA REHA AND SADAR MADE BY SRI SAGAR GOGOI

Reported & Compiled by: Sri Nabajit Pathak , FA and Smt. Bimala Gogoi, STA, MESSO, P3 Narayanpur, Assam

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### Story of an Inspiration: A White Gold Sericulturist

| Name                         | : | Sri Lakheshwar Rabha                        |    |
|------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of   | : | Late Manik Rabha                            |    |
| Village/ City                | : | Upar Barjuli Jarihat, PO<br>Pacha, PS, Boko | 25 |
| District                     | : | Kamrup Rural                                |    |
| PIN                          |   | 781 135                                     |    |
| Educational<br>Qualification |   | 10th std                                    |    |
| Mobile No                    |   | 7635960310                                  |    |

Sri Lakheshwar Rabha (53 years), S/o Late Manik Rabha, from Kamrup (rural) district of Assam is a small farmer who has been practicing ericulture for the past 18 years. He has become a successful eri seed cocoon rearer and has inspired fellow tribal eri rearers with his achievements. His entire family is involved in host plantation cultivation and eri rearing, and they all work together to maintain six acres of eri host plantation with castor, tapioca and kesseru. Sri Lakheshwar Rabha elevated himself from an ordinary traditional rearer who reared about 5-10 dfls during 2005 to a potential eri seed cocoon producer, who can rear 100-150 dfls/ crop in 2023. His wife Smt. Archana Rabha (51 years) provides him with all moral support for the intensive overlapping rearing (6-7 crops/year) taken up by him during various seasons. His three sons Sri Ganapathi Rabha (36 years) Rajiv Rabha (33 years) and Janambeer Rabha (26 years) also provide back up support to him in organising the activities involved in rearing.

With the guidance and technical support of the of Eri Basic Seed Farm (EBSF), MESSO, CSB unit at Topatoli, Sri Lakheshwar Rabha has shown continuous improvement in seed cocoon rearing and has elevated himself from an ordinary traditional rearer to a potential eri seed cocoon producer who can rear 100-150 dfls/crop. Viewing his progress in the seed cocoon production an enthusiastic group of tribal rearers got inspired in locality. The rural tribal people of this region belongs to tribal communities viz. Garo, Rabha, Roy and Bodo. The Eri cluster headed by Lakheshwar Rabha supplies around 2-2.5 lakh seed cocoons to CSB during autumn crop alone every year.

Sri Lakheshwar Rabha's success is a result of his courage, strength, hard work, dedication, and open-mindedness to scientific intervention in the seed cocoon rearing process. He believes that income from ericulture is consistent and risk-free, and he has gained knowledge through the years to handle seed cocoon rearing successfully by adopting scientific practices like disinfection, avoiding overcrowding, and planning and scheduling brushing based on the prevailing climate etc.. His achievements have inspired other tribal rearers in the Nam Tarabari, upper Tarabari, wathertre rongchng, Talukmari, Dilma ading, Hahim, Dagong. Kamrup Rural region and he is now the lead adopted eri seed cocoon producer of EBSF, Central Silk Board, Topatoli.



Reported & Compiled by: Dr. Lalitha Natarajan, Scientist-D, MESSO, EBSF Topatoli, Assam

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### Eri Silkworm Seed Cocoon Rearer –A Tale of Persevarance

| Name                         | : | Sri Sanjit Marek                               |    |
|------------------------------|---|--|----|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of   | : | Late Gittendra Sangma                          |    |
| Village/ City                | : | Damrang Barjuli, Jarihat,<br>PO Pacha, PS,Boko | 25 |
| District                     | : | Kamrup Rural                                   |    |
| PIN                          |   | 781 135  |    |
| Educational<br>Qualification |   | 5th Std  |    |
| Mobile No                    |   | 8099017306                                     |    |

Sri Sanjit Marek (44 years), S/o Late Gittendra Sangma, has been practicing ericulture for the past 15 years. Initially, this marginal farmer started earning his livelihood through piggery, poultry and agriculture during 2008. Gradually, he started doing eri silkworm rearing in a systematic way and gained impetus. Presently, he is one of the most successful eri seed cocoon rearers working with Eri Basic Seed Farm, Central Silk Board, Topatoli.

His entire family labour is being actively utilized for erirearing activities. He maintains 5 acres of systematic eri host garden with castor, tapioca, and kesseru. His wife Smt. Eljera Sangma (38 years) takes care of all the indoor rearing activities efficiently. His two elder sons Sainik Sangma (20) Joel Sangma (18) are actively engaged in harvesting and transporting the leaf from the farm to the rearing house. His farm can support 6-7 crops, properly scheduled in all favourable seasons. His annual income is around Rs 4 - 5 lakhs, out of which 2- 2,5 lakh income is from ericulture. He is an excellent manager who could showcase organized integrated farming activities. He has proven himself self-reliant and his present economic stability and sustainability achieved through ericulture sets him as an inspiration for other tribals in Nam Tarabari, Boko and Hahim. He is open to scientific interventions and recommendations provided by the monitoring team of Eri Basic seed farm, MESSO, CSB, Topatoli. Presently, he is operating a vibrant cluster of eri tribal rearers under his leadership. Every year, they supply 3 lakh seed cocoons as raw material to Eri Basic Seed farm for egg production.

According to him, ericulture is the best quick-earning business, he has ever attempted. He conducts every rearing with lot of passion and interest. He opined that he learned many new things from his mistakes. The by-products generated in eri rearing are being well utilized in his other allied livestock and agriculture activities. The unspin green pupa is a protein rich food for his poultry birds and the litter produced during the rearing activities is recycled as rich nutrient fertilizer to his eri host plantation.



Reported & Compiled by: Dr. Lalitha Natarajan, Scientist-D, MESSO, EBSF Topatoli, Assam

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### Success Story of Muga Rearing in Barak Valley

| Name                         | : | Shri Remojit Barman   |     |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of   | : | (L) Baishindra Barman |     |
| Village/ City                | : | Lakhichara            | 3.7 |
| District                     | : | Cachar                | A   |
| PIN                          |   | 788104                |     |
| Educational<br>Qualification |   | Upto class IX         |     |
| Mobile No                    |   | 9476898159            |     |
|                              |   |                       |     |

Remojit Barman was born on October 10th, 1985, in the village of Lakhichara P.O. Jirighat, in the Cachar district of Assam. He completed his studies up to class IX, but due to his family's financial condition, he had to drop out of school. Remojit tried his luck in cultivating paddy and other vegetable crops, but he could not meet his family's expenses. He also attempted Eri culture by collecting primary food plant leaves, but he could not succeed due to a lack of proper knowledge.

In 2014, with the advice of the State Sericulture Department, Remojit started planting Som and grew 800 Som plants, which are now fully grown and produced 700 plants in his Muga farm. In 2018, after finishing the four-year plantation, he tried the trial rearing of 300g with the advice of the State Sericulture Department and harvested 13000 cocoons. Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of the proper market, he had to stifle the cocoons. Remojit has participated in the Adopted Seed Rearers training under the CBT conducted at Muga Silkworm Seed Organization, Pailapool in 2019, which motivated him towards muga rearing. In 2019, he conducted 400g rearing and harvested 22000 cocoons, earning Rs 40000/- from the sale of cocoons. In 2022, with the proper supervision of the Central Silk Board Pailpool, Remojit conducted 1000g and collected 70000 ripe worms and 50000 seed cocoons, earning a revenue of Rs 150000 during Chhotua 2022. During the Chhotua crop in 2023, he conducted rearing of 1000g and harvested 80000 cocoons, and 50000 seed cocoons were obtained, earning a revenue of Rs 20000.00.

Remojit observed that May to September, due to the very hot weather conditions, and November to December, due to the paddy harvest season, are not suitable for rearing. Instead, the Chhotua season is the most favorable season for him to conduct rearing. He requested that rearing net is very much needed for successful muga rearing and informed that Uzi is the main problem during Chhotua rearing. Recently, he has been selected for assistance under Silk Samagra-2.







Reported & Compiled by: Dr. N. Mahendro Singh, Scientist-C, MESSO, P3 Pailapool, Assam

### Secret key to Success of Muga rearing in BTC

| Name                                  | : | Shri Baburam<br>Basumatary               | 6  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|----|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of            | : | Late Haliram<br>Basumatary               | S. |
| Village/ City                         | : | Taraibar, Harinaguri,<br>P.0 Choraikhola |    |
| District                              | : | Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam                    |    |
| PIN                                   |   | 783370                                   |    |
| Educational<br>Qualification          |   | HrSec. Passed                            |    |
| Mobile No                             |   | 9707290749                               |    |
| No of years involve<br>in sericulture | : | 13 yrs                                   |    |
| Acreage of Muga/<br>Eri Plantation    | : | 1 Acers Muga<br>systematic plantation    |    |
| No of crops done<br>in a year         | : | 3 crops                                  |    |
| Net income from<br>Sericulture        | : | Rs. 25-30,000.00 per<br>crops            |    |

### Detail production last 3 years with revenue generation

| # | Year    | No of cocoon produced | Sale @ Rs               | Amount/<br>Revenue |
|---|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2020-21 | 50,000                | Rs. 3.00/<br>Per cocoon | Rs.<br>1,50,000.00 |
| 2 | 2021-22 | 62,000                | Rs. 2.50/<br>Per cocoon | Rs.<br>1,55,000.00 |
| 3 | 2022-21 | 60,000                | Rs. 3.20<br>Per cocoon  | Rs.<br>1,92,000.00 |

Brief Note of the farmer: Shri Baburam Basumatary is an active muga farmer. He achieved best sericulture's award in 2018 from the Government of Assam. He is an important muga farmer of Kokrajhar district as because whenever foreigners visit Kokrajhar on sericulture work then they will pay visit Shri Baburam's house to see the systematic and scientific rearing and plantation. Shri Baburam attributes his increased return from sericulture to adaptation of the latest technique in his field and proud of his success in sericulture.



DoS BTC, SD Bengtol, in Chirang District, BTC Assam has harvested 1.5 lakh cocoons and generated a mindblowing revenue of Rs. 5.4 lakhs thanks to the incredible dfl source, MESSO P3 Kowabil & MESSO P3 Rompara in Jethua commercial crop.



### Secret key to Success of Eri rearing in BTC

| Name                               | : | Smt Purnima<br>Basumatary                | 0 |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of         | : | Shri Baburam<br>Basumatary               |   |
| Village/ City                      | : | Taraibar, Harinaguri,<br>P.0 Choraikhola |   |
| District                           | : | Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam                    |   |
| PIN                                |   | 783370                                   |   |
| Educational<br>Qualification       |   | Class IX Passed                          |   |
| Mobile No                          |   | 6900711775                               |   |
| No of years involve in sericulture | : | 10 yrs                                   |   |
| Acreage of Muga/<br>Eri Plantation | : | 1 Bigha systematic<br>Eri plantation     |   |
| No of crops done<br>in a year      | : | 8 crops                                  |   |
| Net income from<br>Sericulture     | : | Rs. 5 -8,000.00 per<br>crops             |   |

### Detail production last 3 years with revenue generation

| # | Year    | No of cocoon<br>produced | Sale @ Rs                  | Amount/<br>Revenue |
|---|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2020-21 | 62,000                   | 42 Kg<br>@Rs 750.00 per kg | Rs.<br>1,50,000.00 |
| 2 | 2021-22 | 75,000                   | Rs. 2.50/ Per<br>cocoon    | Rs.<br>1,55,000.00 |
| 3 | 2022-21 | 82,000                   | Rs. 3.20 Per<br>cocoon     | Rs.<br>1,92,000.00 |

Mrs Purnima Basumatary has a great interest in Eri culture and is dedicated to various activities and practices, particularly silkworm rearing. She has a separate rearing house with good ventilation and wire mesh protection. Her garden is wellmaintained and her production of quality leaf is weedicidefree. She ploughs after every crop and has Castor, Kesseru and tapioca plants to feed the worms. In addition to her other household work, she sets an example for achievement through sericulture and promotes fellow farmers in neighboring area s to start Eri rearing.



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### Secret key to Success of Eri rearing in BTC

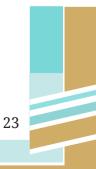
|                                       | _ |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Name                                  | : | Shri Halua Charan<br>Boro                           |  |
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of            | : | Late Birendra Boro                                  |  |
| Village/ City                         | : | Pundibar, Nayakgaon                                 |  |
| District                              | : | Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam                               |  |
| PIN                                   |   | 783376  |  |
| Educational<br>Qualification          |   | Class V Passed                                      |  |
| Mobile No                             |   | 9678475178  |  |
| No of years involve<br>in sericulture | : | 12 yrs  |  |
| Acreage of Muga/<br>Eri Plantation    | : | 2 Bigha Castor and<br>Kesaru, Tapoica<br>plantation |  |
| No of crops done<br>in a year         | : | 8 crops   |  |
| Net income from<br>Sericulture        | : | Rs. 12,000<br>-18,000.00 per crops                  |  |

Detail production last 3 years with revenue generation

| # | Year    | No of cocoon<br>produced | Sale @ Rs                 | Amount/<br>Revenue |
|---|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2020-21 | 55,000                   | 36 kg @Rs.750<br>per kg   | 27,500             |
| 2 | 2021-22 | 68,000                   | 45 kg @ Rs.750<br>per kg  | 34,000             |
| 3 | 2022-21 | 79,000                   | 52 kg @ Rs. 800<br>per kg | 42,200             |

Eri culture is a part of the cultural ethos and tradition of the Bodo community since time immemorial. He is also a State Sericulture awardee. He used to sale eri pupa in the market from where he earn a lot. He encourages other farmers also by providing basic eri dfls and teaching them the technique of layer rearing.





### Secret key to Success of Eri rearing in BTC

| Name                                  | : | Mrs Rajahri Nazary                                  |               |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Son / Daughter/<br>Wife of            | : | Shri Kwdwn Nazary                                   | - Contraction |
| Village/ City                         | : | Batabari, Choraikhola Pt.I                          | 9.01          |
| District                              | : | Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam                               |               |
| PIN                                   |   | 783376  |               |
| Educational<br>Qualification          |   | Hr Sec Passed                                       |               |
| Mobile No                             |   | 9678864160  |               |
| No of years involve<br>in sericulture | : | 6 yrs   |               |
| Acreage of Muga/<br>Eri Plantation    | : | 1 Bigha Castor and<br>Kesaru, Tapoica<br>plantation |               |
| No of crops done<br>in a year         | : | 10 crops  |               |
| Net income from<br>Sericulture        | : | Rs. 10,000 -16,000.00<br>per crops                  |               |

### Detail production last 3 years with revenue generation

| # | Year    | No of cocoon<br>produced | Sale @ Rs                   | Amount/<br>Revenue |
|---|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2020-21 | 63,000                   | 42 Kg @Rs 750.00<br>per Kg  | 31,500.00          |
| 2 | 2021-22 | 69,000                   | 46 Kg @ Rs 750.00<br>per Kg | 34,500.00          |
| 3 | 2022-21 | 84,000                   | 56 Kg @ Rs 800.00<br>per Kg | 44,800.00          |

Bodo women are known for their inherent skill in rearing and weaving, and Eri is considered a legacy of the Bodo community. She is an active rearer of Eri culture and has been involved in traditional rearing activities since her childhood, learning from her mother. She is also a skilled weaver and sells both Eri cocoons, pupa, and finished products.



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### Muga Silkworm Rearing Pioneer in Rhi Bhoi Meghalaya

| Farmer Name | : | Mr. Suresh Dumlong  |  |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| Address     | : | Umtham, Moronger,<br>Nongpoh, Dist- Ri-bhoi,<br>Meghalaya |  |

#### Introduction:

Mr. Suresh Dumlong is a young and enthusiastic farmer from Umtham, Moronger, Nongpoh, Meghalaya. His journey into muga silkworm rearing has not only transformed his life but has also added a significant boost to the income of his family. With an impressive 1-acre Som plantation that he established in 2014, Mr. Suresh has been able to conduct two to three rearings in a year, specifically during the Baisakhi, Aherua and Bhodia seasons. His dedication and the support he received from MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh, have turned him into a successful muga silkworm rearing pioneer.

#### The Journey:

Mr. Suresh Dumlong's journey into muga silkworm rearing began with the establishment of a 1-acre Som plantation featuring 400 nos. of Som plants in the serene and picturesque location of Umtham, Moronger. This endeavor was initially undertaken as an experiment, with the idea of enhancing his family's income and securing a sustainable source of livelihood. Under the guidance of the MESSO, P-3 Unit in Nongpoh, Mr. Suresh received the necessary training and technical support that played a pivotal role in his success story. These experts provided him with the knowledge and skills needed for muga silkworm rearing, cocoon production, disease management, and best practices for rearing muga silkworms.

### **Rearing Capacity:**

Mr. Suresh has established himself as a successful muga silkworm rearer, with a per-crop rearing capacity ranging from 300 to 500 dfls per season. Through muga silkworm rearing, Mr. Suresh Dumlong has not only enhanced his family's income but also achieved sustainability in their livelihood. The income generated from muga silk production has become a reliable source of financial support for his family.

### **Empowering the Community**:

Mr. Suresh's success has not only benefited his family but also inspired and empowered his local community. His achievements have encouraged others to explore muga silkworm rearing as a viable livelihood option.

### **Conclusion:**

Mr. Suresh Dumlong's success story as a muga silkworm rearing pioneer is a testament to the power of dedication, learning, and community support. His journey, from establishing a 1-acre Som plantation to consistently rearing muga silkworms with remarkable capacity, showcases the potential of sericulture as a sustainable source of income. With the support of MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh, Mr. Suresh's success has not only transformed his family's financial situation but has also become a source of inspiration for his community, leading the way for more individuals to embrace muga silkworm rearing as a prosperous livelihood option in Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya.



Reported & Compiled by: Dr. N. Mahendro Singh, Scientist-C, MESSO, P3 Pailapool, Assam

# Niten Rabha: An all-rounder in muga culture from North Garo Hills

| Name          | : | <b>Niten Rabha</b><br>S/o Late Sibdhan Rabha                    |      |
|---------------|---|---|------|
| Village       | : | Rompara, Resubelpara,<br>North Garo Hills– 794108,<br>Meghalaya | A    |
| Mobile number | : | 6009842857  | MIAR |

His education is upto upper primary level. He and his family actively engaged in sericulture from last 20 years. He is started his sericulture career with muga rearing. In 2015, CSB gave assistant to him for construction of kachha grainage house and afterwards he became registered private grenuiar under P3 Unit, Rompara. His wife smt. Rupali Rabha is also rear the eri worms at her house.

### Start of his journey-

He learned muga culture from his family. He has 4 bighas of land with 500 som plant and some tapioca plantations at his farm. He has vast experience about muga and eri silkworm. He got touched with Officer in charge of P3 Unit Rompara. In the scheme for the adoption of Private Grenuiar under MESSO, he got chance to uplift his skill in grainage activity. In the year of 2015, CSB gave assistance to him for construction of Kachha grainage and afterwards he started grainage and supply the DFLs to the rearer in the Garo Hills region as a registered PGs of MESSO. He has a capacity to produce more DFLs but due to lack of resources he could not get as per demand. Last year, under the Silk Samagra -2 scheme P3 Unit selected him as a best PG and will give assistance of 5 lakh rupees for construction of grainage house and supply all the accessary which is required for grainage. This could be helping him to increase his production upto15000 grams of DFLs.

Table – 1: Year wise details of total cocoons and DFLs production.

| Year | Total cocoons<br>purchase | DFLs production<br>(in g) |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2018 | 15000                     | 4970                      |
| 2019 | 5000                      | 1200                      |
| 2020 | 25000                     | 9584                      |
| 2021 | 30000                     | 9950                      |

### Table -2: Income generation through Muga grainage.

| Year | DFLs<br>production<br>(in g) | Price                      | Total Return<br>(Rs) |
|------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2018 | 4970                         | 49700 (DFL)<br>4500 (CPC)  | 54200                |
| 2019 | 1200                         | 12000 (DFL)<br>1500 (CPC)  | 13500                |
| 2020 | 9584                         | 95840 (DFL)<br>8750 (CPC)  | 104590               |
| 2021 | 9950                         | 99500 (DFL)<br>10000 (CPC) | 109500               |

DFL\* - Price from DFLs and (CPC\*) - Price from CPC

The above mentioned return is only from grainage activity. He also get money from muga silkworm and eri silkworm rearing.

### **Recognition and award:**

He was participated in the different training programme organised by P3 Unit, Rompara and P4 Unit, Mendipathar. He is very much interested to learn new imitative from the Scientists from Central Silk Board. Now his son Mr Banishwar Rabha is also learn sericulture from his parents. He got many appreciations from P3 unit, Rompara.

### Message of the story:

He got the information from P3 unit Rompara that Garo Hills is the seed zone for muga silkworm and took this opportunity and applied for registered PG under CSB. Many of the adjoining district of Assam farmers came and purchased DFLs from him. Now every year he got more than 1 lakh rs from grainage with the investment is only 10 thousand rupees because of rearing was conducted by himself with the help of other member of family. Due to integration of all sericultural activity he is known as allrounder in sericulture in all the adjoining place of Garo Hills.



Kachha Grainage room



Silk samagra - 2 Physical verification team



Rupali Rabha with Eri cocoon



Purchasing cocoon for grainage



Cocoonage room



Som plantation

Reported and compiled by: Dr. Vikram Kumar, Scientist-C, CSB, Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization, P-3 Unit, Rompara, Resubelpara, Meghalaya

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# Binong - The Muga Silkworm Rearing Maestro of Nongpoh

| Name                   | : | Mr. Dispar Binong   |       |
|------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Address                | : | Umtham, Moronger,<br>Nongpoh, Dist. Ri-bhoi,<br>Meghalaya.                                    | Jor 1 |
| Land and<br>Plantation | : | 2 acres of Som plantation with 700 Som plants.  |       |
| Rearing Seasons        | : | Two to three rearing<br>cycles per year during<br>the Baisakhi, Aherua and<br>Bhodia seasons. |       |
| Rearing Capacity       | : | Remarkable capacity of<br>500-800 disease-free<br>layings (dfls) per crop.                    |       |

### Introduction:

Mr. Dispar Binong, a diligent farmer hailing from the serene village of Umtham, Ri-bhoi, Meghalaya, has carved a remarkable successstory in the domain of Mugasilkworm rearing. Hisjourney from modest beginnings to becoming a source of inspiration for fellow farmers in the region reflects his relentless dedication, unwavering commitment, and the crucial support he received from Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization, (MESSO) P-3 Unit, Nongpoh, Meghalaya.

### The Beginning:

Mr. Dispar's fascination with Muga silkworm rearing began with a vision to optimize his Som plantation. Som leaves, being the primary food source for Muga silkworms, offered the perfect synergy for sericulture. Nevertheless, his journey was not devoid of challenges, and he embarked on a path fraught with hard work and determination.

### **Technical Support:**

A pivotal factor in Mr. Dispar's success was the technical guidance provided by the MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh. The experts from MESSO offered invaluable insights into best practices for Muga silkworm rearing, encompassing cocoon production and disease management. This support greatly enhanced Mr. Dispar's skills and elevated the quality of his yield.

Furthermore, his diligence did not go unnoticed. He is selected as a beneficiary for providing assistance from the Silk Samagra-2 Scheme, which offered technical assistance, empowering him to make substantial investments in advanced infrastructure, technology, and resources for his Muga silkworm rearing venture.

### Inspiring the Community:

Mr. Dispar Binong's success transcended his personal achievements. His dedication and the excellence of his Muga cocoon production served as an inspiration to numerous farmers in the neighboring areas. He emerged as a local mentor, generously sharing his knowledge, innovative techniques, and personal experiences. This catalyzed the growth of Muga silkworm rearing within the local community.

In Conclusion, Mr. Dispar Binong's commitment to Muga silkworm rearing, his ability to leverage his Som plantation, and the invaluable support he received from MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh have collectively transformed him into a true success story in the realm of sericulture. His journey stands as a shining example of how dedication, innovation, and the right support can transform a humble farmer into a source of inspiration for an entire region. His story underscores the immense potential of Muga silkworm rearing as a sustainable and profitable enterprise for farmers in Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya.

Compiled & Reported by Abhishek Singh, Scientist-C, MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh Meghalaya.

# Lakme Marak : A Seri Entrepreneur from Garo Hills, Resubelpara

| Name       | : Ms Lakme Marak                            |                |
|------------|---|----------------|
| W/o        | : Shri Bimbarson Sang                       | ma             |
| Address    | North Garo Hills,<br><sup>:</sup> Meghalaya | and the second |
| Mobile No. | : 7005428684                                | he should be   |

Lakme Marak w/o Shri Bimbarson Sangma is an entrepreneur from North Garo Hills, Meghalaya. She started her career from the post cocoon sector. She deals with all silk related products at Lakme Weaving house, Resubelpara. She emerged as seri entrepreneur with the help of State Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board. She is registered member of Silk Mark, Guwahati.

### The start of journey:

She got training on post cocoon technology at DSO, North Garo Hills in the year of 2019. During this training she learnt a lot about post cocoon. After that she established her own reeling and spinning center at Resubelpara. In initial day she faced a lot of problem related to pre cocoon area. So, she got contacted with Officer in charge of P3 Unit, Rompara for accessing Muga and Eri cocoon for her post cocoon center. With the help of P3 Unit she got huge number of muga and eri cocoon from nearby area. With the time she got a lot off demand of her product then she expand her center and purchased 7 nos of loom, 2 nos. jacquard and 6 nos. of handloom loom. This year she applied for other machinery under Silk Samagra-2 scheme with the help of pofficer in charge P3 unit, Rompara. Now she is moving to pre cocoon area also. This year she reared 500 grams of DFLs to fulfill the objective of Soil to Silk. Within 3 years of time span she expands her center from pre cocoon to end product of silk. District administration is also support her by giving assistance. She is also giving training to the new comers in the field of post cocoon technology under the Samarth Scheme of Ministry of Textile.

| Year  | No. of employment generation | Training given to the<br>new comers |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2020  | 4                            | 00                                  |
| 2021  | 14                           | 00                                  |
| 20122 | 19                           | 30                                  |

| Table -2: Income | generation through | gh Muga j | post coccoons. |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|

| Year | Cost   | Gross<br>Income | Net return |
|------|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 2020 | 80000  | 180000          | 100000     |
| 2021 | 300000 | 600000          | 300000     |
| 2022 | 600000 | 1000000         | 400000     |

## **Recognition and award:**

She was honoured and awarded as a best seri entreprenuer of North Garo Hills district in the Vanya Resham Krishi Mela, organized by MESSO, Guwahati at P-4 Unit, Mendipathar in 2022. She got a chance from Department of Textile, Government of Meghalaya to visit France and exchange the ideas for betterment of Silk industry. This year CSB selected her as a best entrepreneur and sent her to New Delhi for attending National Handloom Day, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. She is a registered member of Silk Mark, Guwahati.

## Message of the story:

Garo hills are a hub of muga cocoon and every year they sell more than 10 lakhs of cocoons to the entrepreneur of Assam. She understands the gap and with the help of Centre and state she established her centre. Within a short time of 3 year she expands her turnover to 10 lakh rupees. Still she could not reach the mark of demand so she tried to expand her business from pre cocoon to post cocoon and became a best seri entrepreneur of the Garo hills.



Attended Silk Samagra - 2 Meeting



Attended Muga Awareness Program



Collecting cocoons from farmers field



Lakme Weaving Centre



Product of Lakme Weaving Centre



Attended National Handloom Day at Delhi

Reported and compiled by: Dr. Vikram Kumar, Scientist-C, CSB, Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization, P-3 Unit, Rompara, Resubelpara, Meghalaya

# A Tale of Success: Mr. Ton Roy Kongor's Journey in Muga Silkworm Rearing

| Farmer<br>Name | : | Mr. Ton Roy Kongor   |
|----------------|---|--|
| Address        | : | Kharpati, Moronger,<br>Nongpoh, Dist- Ri-bhoi,<br>Meghalaya. |



#### Introduction:

Mr. Ton Roy Kongor's success story in Muga silkworm rearing is a testament to dedication, hard work, and the power of sustainable sericulture. With his unwavering enthusiasm and a thriving one-acre Som plantation, Mr. Kongor has not only transformed his family's income but has also become a source of inspiration for local farmers.

### The Journey Begins:

Mr. Ton Roy Kongor's journey in sericulture commenced in 2012 when he established a one-acre Som plantation, comprising 450 healthy Som plants. His foresight in selecting Som plants laid the foundation for his success, as Muga silkworms primarily feed on the leaves of these trees. Armed with dedication and the right resources, Mr. Kongor embarked on a journey that would transform his life and the lives of many in his community.

### **Diversifying Activities:**

Mr. Kongor's involvement in Muga silkworm rearing did not stop at simply tending to his silkworms. He recognized the importance of sustainable seed production and supply to local farmers, thereby enhancing the sericulture ecosystem in his region. His commitment to sharing knowledge and resources was pivotal in bringing prosperity to his village. He conducts two to three rearing cycles in a year, synchronized with the Baisakhi, Aherua and Bhodia seasons, ensuring a constant production flow. Each rearing cycle boasts a capacity of 300-400 dfls.

### **Technical Support and Training:**

One of the key factors contributing to Mr. Kongor's success is the technical support and training he received from MESSO, P-3 Unit in Nongpoh. This support was instrumental in honing his skills, staying updated with best practices, and navigating potential challenges in sericulture.

### A Source of Sustainability:

The sericulture activities initiated by Mr. Kongor have provided a strong foundation for sustainability in his family's income. The revenue generated from Muga cocoon production and seed supply has not only improved his own financial stability but has also trickled down to benefit the entire community. His success is a living testament to the potential of sericulture as a viable and sustainable livelihood.

### **Conclusion:**

Mr. Ton Roy Kongor's success story in Muga silkworm rearing is a remarkable example of how an individual's dedication, supported by the right training and resources, can bring prosperity to an entire community. His journey, from a Som plantation in Kharpati, Meghalaya, to becoming a local inspiration, showcases the transformative power of sustainable sericulture. Mr. Kongor's endeavors stand as a shining example for those looking to harness the potential of silkworm rearing for financial stability and community development.

Compiled & Reported by Abhishek Singh, Scientist-C, MESSO, P-3 Unit, Nongpoh Meghalaya.

# Non Traditional Belt Muga Rearing: A Ray of Hope for Seed Crop Rearing For Kotia Commercial Link At Kalimpong Area

| Name of the<br>Farmer | Shri Paldentsering<br>Lepcha |   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Father's Name         | : Late Dupsering Lepcha      | - |
| Village               | : Lower Echhey Gaon          |   |
| District              | : Kalimpong, West Bengal     |   |
| Mobile No.            | : 9800065601                 |   |

Shri Paldentsering Lepcha and his family are new Muga rearers from Lower Echhey Gaon, Kalimpong District, West Bengal. They started Muga rearing in 2021 and currently have 200 own Soalu (Kutmeru plant in Nepali word) food plantations for Muga rearing. Shri Lepcha is a progressive sericulture farmer who is also engaged with mulberry Bivoltine sericulture. He faced various challenges during unfavourable seasons, such as seed crop rearing during Aherua and Bhodia. However, he found hope in the Kalimpong area and Darjeeling area for muga Kotia commercial crop link and was entitled as a seed crop rearer under DOS West Bengal.

Shri Paldentsering Lepcha also received CBT training for Adopted Seed Rearer organized by Central Silk Board, MESSO, P-4 Unit Mendipathar. Among the others recommended practices, he adopted Burshing practices through perforated paper envelopes, which helped him to get good brushing at the brushing plot. He also adopted a scientific pruning schedule that helped him to get a good number of cocoons.

This year, Shri Lepcha collected 100 gm. Muga Dfls from ADS,

Kalimpong and reared them at his own field and got 4300 cocoons, thereby generating an income of approximately Rs. 17000/- within a month. He was given hands-on training by DOS West Bengal and Central Silk Board, MESSO, P-4 Unit Mendipathar, and as a result, he got better yields.

In the last two years, Shri Paldentsering Lepcha earned a total income of Rs. 30,000 & Rs. 40,000 from Muga rearing during Aherua (May-June) and Late Bhodia (September-October - Seed Crop) respectively.

Details of income from Muga rearing in two years

| Year | Dfls Reared (gm.) | Total income (Rs.) |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 | 100+100=200       | 30000.00           |
| 2023 | 150+100           | 40000.00           |

Shri Paldentsering Lepcha has become a role model in his area for the success achieved as a progressive Muga rearer. Encouraged by him, two other rearers in his area initiated Muga rearing in his village. This year, he got the Best Farmers award from ADS, Kalimpong, Govt. West Bengal as a Chief Guest in CBT, Organized by CSB, MESSO, P-4 Unit Mendipathar, North Garo Hills, Meghalaya.



Fig.1-During Field visit: Late Bhodia Seed Crop Rearing at his own field.

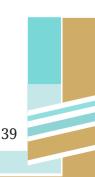




Fig. 2. With his Golden yield : Shri Paldentsering Lepcha with his Muga cocoons [Late Bhodia (August-September) Crops-2023]



Fig. 3. During Brushing period : Shri Paldentsering Lepcha working in his field

[Late Bhodia (August-September) Crops-2023]



**Fig. 4. For extrinsic motivation:** Shri Paldentsering Lepcha receiving Best farmers Award from ADS, Kalimpong, Govt.West Bengal during in CBT, Organized by CSB, MESSO,P-4 Unit Mendipathar, North garo Hills, Meghalaya at RSRS Kalimpong office.

Reported By: Shri Mahasankar Majumdar, Scientist-C, MESSO, P-4 Unit Mendipathar. Meghalaya

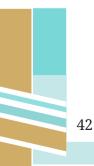
# **Ericulture flourishing in Tamilnadu**

| Name                       | : | <b>T. Sivauchappa</b><br>S/o Uchakavadu                                |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Village                    | : | Jeenmanatham Village,<br>Anchetty Taluk, Kottayur<br>Post, PIN. 635102 |
| City District              | : | Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu  |
| Education<br>qualification | : | SSLC   |
| Mobile number              | : | +91 8526214929   |
| Aadhaar number             | : | 3438 0371 9248   |



Sri. Sivauchappa is a successful ericulture farmer from a small village, Jeenmanatham, in Kottayur, almost 70 km away from Hosur city in Krishnagiri district. The majority of the people of this village are engaged in agriculture, such as cultivating paddy, ragi, and pulses. Few people are also engaged in mulberry sericulture. He is the only farmer doing ericulture in this small hamlet. He started ericulture after hearing from his close networks. Then he approached the ESSPC, Hosur, and discussed the possibilities for exploring this opportunity. Thereafter, he attended a skill training conducted by ESSPC, Hosur. Though he was a little reluctant to take up ericulture, with the motivation of the scientists and experts as well as hands-on experience in the training program, he decided to take up ericulture initially on an experimental basis, starting with a small quantity of DFLs. After continued success in rearing, he attained confidence and started rearing more DFLs in every crop under the supervision of the scientists and technical staff of ESSPC, Hosur. Presently, he is rearing 40-50 DFLs in one crop and obtaining a 60-70% yield. He says that though he is cultivating gram and ragi on a small scale, the major source of income is coming from ericulture, which is considered a livelihood. His yearly earnings from ericulture are nearly 1.2 lakhs. His family includes a wife and four daughters. His wife and daughters are also helping him with various activities such as leaf plucking, rearing, disinfection, mounting, and harvesting. With small earnings from ericulture, he could educate his daughters. Presently, he is rearing in a small room adjacent to his home. Insufficient space for silkworm rearing has been a major setback. He cultivated castor plants by obtaining the seeds from ESSPC, Hosur. Selling castor seeds is another source of additional revenue for him. He takes the utmost care in chawki rearing and moulting. Adoption of new technologies such as rearing room disinfection with Astra and Ankush for bed disinfection and black boxing for uniform hatching are major technologies that helped to get more yield. In the castor cultivation, he installed a drip irrigation system to utilize water economically. Recently, he has been selected for financial assistance under Silk Samagra-2. He ensures that this assistance will certainly help him to construct a more spacious rearing room for rearing more DFLs and proper maintenance of the garden with sufficient inputs. Thus, he hopes for more production and quality seed cocoons in the years ahead.





# Tale of Self Reliance through Ericulture

| Name                       | : <b>T. Prasanna</b><br>: S/o Thimmarayappa                         |     |
|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Village                    | Andheevanapalli Village<br>: Denkanikottai Taluk, -P<br>PIN. 635107 |     |
| City District              | : Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu   | · · |
| Education<br>qualification | : 9 <sup>th</sup> standard  |     |
| Mobile number              | : +91 9626061356  |     |

Born in a small village, Andheevanapalli, in Denkanikottai taluk of Krishnagiri district, Sri T. Prasanna took agriculture with his parents as a source of livelihood after his schooling. He helped his parents in agriculture, especially the cultivation of paddy, ragi, and pulses. After hearing about ericulture from one of his friends, he attended the skill training in ericulture at ESSPC, Hosur, and started eri silkworm rearing by renting a small space away from his house. As he started ericulture first in the village, there were reactions from the villagers, saying it would contaminate the area. Then he informed the neighbors about the environmentally friendly nature of ericulture and initiated rearing using stray castor plants in 2017. Presently, he is rearing about 40-50 DFLs every month. His average yield is 60-70 kg/100 dfls. He earns about 1 to 1.2 lakhs from eri silkworm rearing every year. Simultaneously, he is cultivating ragi and pulses and also getting additional income by selling the castor seeds for Rs. 80 per kg. He has 1 acre of castor cultivation with a high-yielding castor variety. He says ericulture is the major income source for him, as other agriculture such as ragi and pulses take six months for harvesting and also require more

manpower. However, ericulture will gave him income in a short period and elevated and could educated his two sons from the income from and resulted to elevate societal status. Also, the involvement of family members in rearing activities helps him attend to other work. He wants the ericulture to be done for at least 10 crops in a year by extending castor cultivation to 2-acre land. This farmer wants to cultivate tapioca to rear the silkworms during the winter months as the castor leaves are unavailable during the winter. Technologies such as Astra for the disinfection of the rearing room, Ankush for bed disinfection, and black boxing for the uniform hatching of eggs are major technologies that helped to get him more yield. He also applies cow dung abundantly in his 1-acre castor garden to get quality leaves, which is very important for a good yield. He takes the utmost care in chawki rearing and moulting; he says this helps him to avoid diseases and quality output. He has been selected for financial assistance under Silk Samagra-2. Rearing of more DFLs, extension of castor garden to 2 acres, and continuous rearing are his expectations by availing of this financial assistance.



Reported By: - Dr Prateesh Kumar PM, Scientist-D, MESSO, ESSPC Hosur, Tamilnadu

# Success in non-traditional states with MESSO's intervention

### 1) Madhya Pradesh

The Panchmarhi hills in Madhya Pradesh have arich variety of food plants that are perfect for muga rearing in the spring and autumn seasons. The Department of Sericulture in Madhya Pradesh has been working diligently since 2018 to establish a natural consortium for muga rearing. As a result of their efforts, the area has recently been upgraded to a Genetic Biodiversity Silk Tech Park in October 2023. Last five years DSO Narmadapuram has



been dedicated to find ways to improve muga rearing in an area where it was once thought impossible for muga worms to thrive. Their efforts are aimed at unlocking the potential of this unique region and creating new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Their dream to develop the region as a **potential biodiversity hotspot** for sericulture has become a reality with the **technical support of MESSO and timely dfls supply to ensure the maintenance of the genetic pool in the natural habitat.** The immense cooperation extended from Commissioner Sericulture, Madhya Pradesh Madan Kumar Nagargoje (IAS), District Sericulture Officer, Narmadapuram, Shri Sharad Shrivastava, and heartfelt contributions from Field Officer Sericulture, Bio Silk Tech Park, PanchMarhi, Shri Ravishankar Rajawat and his subordinates who worked tirelessly deserves a special mention for making this a reality.



Reported and Compiled By: - Dr Lopamudra Guha, Scientist-D, MESSO, HQ, Guwahati

### 2) Odisha



Directorate of Sericulture, Orissa are buzzing with Eri rearing, thanks to the tremendous team at Eri Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Hosur, Tamilnadu for supplying with Eri dfls for State level multiplication flourishing at Directorate of Textiles, Odisha. Eri 1<sup>st</sup> state grainage of 2023 - 24 started at Ess Khordha, Mswss Chandaka & Mdf Dasapalla,Odisha.

### 3) Mizoram



Its heartening to hear farmer Sri Lalhmingliana, Phullen, Aizawl District, Mizoram that his rearing yielded 15,254 cocoons from commercial dfls supplied from MESSO, SSPC Kaliabari and farmer has generated a profit or Rs.42,000/-from a single crop.

### 4) Uttarakhand



Eri rearing at Uttarakhand ADS, Haridwar, Uttarakhand shared the progressive rearing at state level. Kudos to Eri Basic Seed Farm in Topatoli, Assam for supplying 800 basic dfls to Uttarakhand for multiplication.

### 5) Sikkim



Brushing of Muga dfls at Rorathang, East Sikkim and Rangpo, South Sikkim at an elevation of 1600 ft mean sea level. An enchanting journey for a new cooler zone rearing begins.

## 6) West Bengal



With the support of DOS Sikkim, CSTRI Berhampore, RSRS Kalimpong, and our team Kowabil and Mendipathar successfully completed the cooler zone rearing and with tremendous coordination Aherua grainage were conducted at RSRS Kalimpong, and dfls supplied for crucial Bhodia crop multiplication has been a remarkable achievement.



Multiplication at state level from Basic Seed source of MESSO is so heartening and satisfying, as reported by Deputy Director, North zone, DOS West Bengal Muga rearing in Darjeeling, SSDF-Lingsey Kalimpong and farmers level targeting a successful harvest for P1- Kotia, the biggest crop of the year, being supervised by AD-Kalimpong and GTA staff.

## 7) PUNJAB



Tamilnadu to Punjab Eri rearing in full progression at Divisional Sericulture Office, Directorate of Horticulture, Sujnapur, Pathankot, Punjab. Kudos to Team Eri Silkworm Seed Production Centre in Hosur for supplying Eri dfls to Punjab.

Reported By: - Shri Mahasankar Majumdar, Scientist-C, MESSO, P-4 Unit Mendipathar, Meghalaya & Shri L.K. Lahon, STA, P3 Kowabil, BTC, Assam



# MESSO GUWAHATI SUCCESS STORIES

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