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THE TREND OF SILK PRODUCTION IN INDIA: DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN PERIOD

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Abstract

The sericulture industry is one of the major rural cottage industries in India. The backbone of the rural economy in India is the rural cottage industries and the Sericulture industry is one of the backbones of the rural economy. Therefore, during the Five-Year Plan, special emphasis has been laid on the development of the sericulture industry among the rural cottage industries. The Government of India has from time-to-time formulated various developmental projects and schemes for the development and expansion of the sericulture industry. As a result, silk production has increased in an unprecedented manner during this five-year plan. During the entire five-year plan period, the production of silk has increased by about 3457.79%. During this plan period, the production of Tasar and Muga silk increased by about 2741.74% and 372.22% respectively, which is comparatively lower than the Mulberry silk (3387.38%) and Eri silk (6027.17%). Except for Muga silk, the trend of increasing the production of other silks is quite significant. Therefore, the government should give more importance to increase the production of Muga Silk.

Keywords:Five-Year Plan Period, Sericulture, Trends of Silk Production.

1. Introduction

Indian human civilization is one of the oldest human civilizations in the world. Many ancient cultures and fine arts are associated with Indian human civilization. Patterns of which can be identified in Indian human civilization. One of the oldest industries in present-day India is the sericulture industry. The sericulture industry is not only one of the oldest industries in India; it is also one of the oldest industries in the world. It is difficult to say when silk is originated, but all the ancient historical data that have been found suggest that the first silk appeared in China around 2640 BC [1]. At present, China and India are the major producers of raw silk in the world and they, together produce about 97% of the world's raw silk production. At present India is the second-largest producer of raw silk in the world silk market after china. More than 18 percent of world raw silk production is contributed by India. India is the only country in the world that produces all four varieties of silk namely Mulberry, Tasar, Eri, and Muga. Mulberry is the largest practiced sericulture industry in the Country. Mulberry silk production contributed almost 80 percent to the entire raw silk production in the country. In India, Mulberry silk is produced mainly in Karnataka, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh importance of the sericulture industry in the economy is immense, especially in the rural economy. The contribution of the silk industry in the development of the rural economy is considerable. The sericulture industry creates additional sources of income in rural areas and helps in alleviating the problem of unemployment. Keeping in view the importance of the sericulture industry, the Government of India has adopted various plans for the expansion and development of the sericulture industry during the Five-Year Plan. The development of the silk industry has been unprecedented during the Five-Year Plan period and as a result, the production of raw silk has increased tremendously. Before the start of the Five-Year Plan, the production of raw silk in India was about 853 MT in 1950 and at the end of the Twelfth Plan i.e; in 2017, the production of raw silk increased to about 30346 metric tons. Thus, the production of raw silk has witnessed an unprecedented increase during the Five-Year Plan. The expansion of the silk industry during the Five-Year Plan has also increased the export income from silk and at the same time employment has also increased. Due to these various reasons, the silk industry has got a special place in the Indian Five-Year Plan.

2. Significance of the study

The sericulture industry is one of the most promising agro-based rural industries and the activities of this industry create new employment opportunities in rural areas as well as provide supplementary income. Currently, the sericulture industry is playing a very important role in the Indian economy. It is also emerging as an important industry in terms of earning foreign exchange. In the financial year 2017-18, the export earnings from the silk industry were about Rs. 1649 crore and the number of people working in this industry was about to 86 million. This paper seeks to show the trend of raw silk production during the Indian Five-Year Plan period and highlights the efforts of the Government of India in developing this industry.

3. Research Methodology

The present paper is based on secondary data. The secondary data is collected from various published sources such as Journals, books, thesis, annual reports, and websites, etc. The duration of this study is the entire five-year plan period i.e., 1951-52 to



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2016-17. In this study, an attempt has been made to present a picture of the production trend of silk in India during the Five-Year Plan. Examine the objectives of study data were analyzed by using- various statistical tools such as Mean, Standard Deviation (S.D), Coefficient of variance (C.V), Compound Average Growth Rate (CAGR), etc.

4. Objectives of the study

- (a) Shows the plan-wise raw silk production.
(b) Shows the variety wise raw silk production.
(c) Shows the trends of total raw silk production during five-year plan period.

5. Raw silk production in India during the five-year plan period

Indian sericulture industry is a heritage of Indian society. Economically, the importance of this industry is immense. It can be said that since independence, the role of rural cottage industries in the poverty alleviation of India has been very important. Therefore, during the five-year plan, the Government of India has made efforts to develop rural industries. So, the first goal after independence was to strengthen the Indian economy. In order to strengthen the Indian economy, it is necessary to develop the rural economy first. This is why the emphasis has been on the development of the rural economy since independence. Rural industries need to be developed first for the development of the rural economy and the silk industry is one of the most important industries among the rural industries. The importance of the silk industry in the economy was understood from the British period. Therefore, special emphasis was laid on the expansion and development of the silk industry from the time of the First Five-Year Annual Plan. For the development of the silk industry, the Government of India through the Planning Commission launches various development projects and schemes in different states and provides separate funds for the development of the industry. The following paragraphs discuss the growth of the sericulture industry during the entire planning period.

Table 1: Raw silk production during five-year plan period Unit: Metric tones

Table with 7 columns: Plan year, Raw silk production (Mulberry, Tasar, Eri, Muga, Total), and AGR. Rows include years from 1949-50 to XIIth Plan (2012-17), CAGR, and Coefficient of variance.

Source: Reference No 2 and 3

The table above illustrates the trend of raw silk production in India during the Five-Year Plan period. Before the Five-Year Plan, ie in 1949-50, the total production of silk in India was about 853 metric tons and at the end of the Twelfth Plan, in 1916-17, the total production of silk increased to about 30348 metric tons. Thus, there has been an unprecedented change in the amount of silk production during the planning period. Thus, during the planning period, the amount of silk production increased by 3457.79%. Production of all silks except Muga Silk has increased significantly during the Five-Year Plan. During the plan, the production of

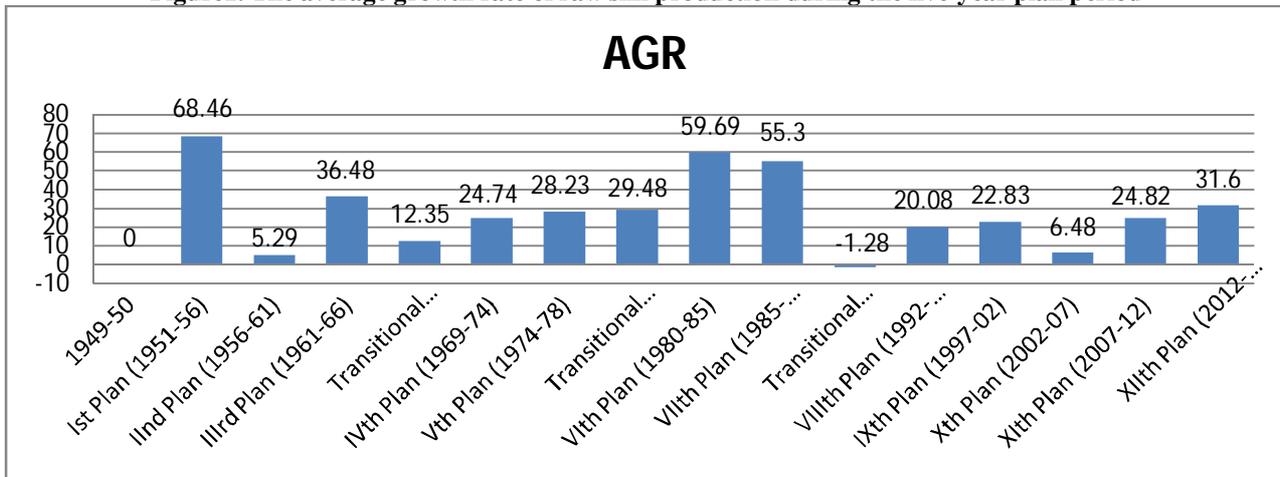


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mulberry silk increased by about 20663 MT, the production of Tasar silk increased by 3153 MT, the production of Eri silk increased by 5545 MT and on the other hand, the production of Muga silk increased by only 134 MT, which is not satisfactory. An interesting thing to note about the production of Tasar and Eri silk is that the production of both silks has increased significantly during this plan period, but the production of Eri silk has increased at a higher rate than Tasar silk. Before the start of the Five-Year Plan in India, Tasar accounted for about 13.48% of total silk production and Eri Silk accounted for about 10.79%. But now at the end of the Twelfth Plan, Tasar's share of the total production of silk is about 10.77% and Eri Silk's share is 18.57%. Since the Sixth Plan period, the growth rate of Tasar silk has slowed down and on the other hand, the production of Eri silk has accelerated. So, the production trend of Tasar silk during the five-year plan is not very satisfactory.

Figure1. The average growth rate of raw silk production during the five-year plan period



Source: Table1

Figure 1 shows the trend of total silk production through the average growth rate during the Five-Year Plan. The average growth rate of total silk production in the first plan was about 68.46% and the average growth rate of silk in the second plan was 5.29% i.e., the production tendency of silk decreased and the tendency to production growth of silk started declining after the second plan. After that, during the Fifth Plan, the tendency to production growth of silk increased by about 28.23%, and during the Sixth Plan, the tendency to production growth of silk increased by 59.69% and during the Seventh Plan, the tendency to production growth of silk slightly decreased. Silk production was increased by about 55.3% during this plan period. During the Eighth Plan, the tendency to production growth of silk was greatly reduced. During this plan, silk production increased by about 20.08%. During the Tenth Plan, the tendency to increase the production of silk was greatly reduced. The growth rate of silk production during this period was about 6.48% and which was the lowest growth rate of the entire plan period. After that, during the Eleventh and Twelfth Plans, the tendency to production growth of silk increased. During the Eleventh and Twelfth Plans, the tendency to production growth of silk was about 24.82% and 31.6% respectively.

6. Finding of the study

The major findings of the study are:

- ▶ The compound average growth rate of total raw silk production during this whole plan period is 5%. Therefore, silk production has increased by 5% per annum during the plan period.
- ▶ The compound average growth rate of Mulberry silk and Tasar silk production during this entire plan period is about 5%. This means that mulberry and Tasar silk production has increased by 5% per annum during this plan period.
- ▶ The composite average growth rate of Eri Silk and Muga silk production during the whole plan period was about 6% and 2% respectively. This means that the production of Eri and Muga silk has increased by 6% and 2% per annum during the period under this plan.
- ▶ In this study, the Coefficient of variance of statistical tools has been used to measure the continuity of silk production and was found that among the silk production, Muga silk rank first in the consistency of production as it shows as 49.23%, followed by mulberry(87.79%), Tasar(142.55%), and Eri(158.42%), which is expressed by the Coefficient of variance.



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7. Conclusion

Lastly, it is argued that during the whole planning period the total raw silk production has increased steadily because Govt. of India has taken a lot of projects and schemes for the development of the sericulture industry besides with this introduced modern technologies, provide financial support and developed a supplementary infrastructure.

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