

Transforming Livelihood through Sericulture Shri C.K. Narayanaswamy



Sericulture has emerged as a dependable livelihood option for many rural farmers, and the journey of Shri C. K. Narayanaswamy from Beechagondalli village in Kolar district is a notable example. He owns about 3.5 acres of land, of which 2 acres are under mulberry cultivation (V-1 variety). Earlier, he was engaged in vegetable cultivation such as potato, tomato, and cabbage. However, fluctuating market prices and low returns made vegetable farming less profitable, prompting him to explore sericulture as an alternative livelihood.

In 2005, motivated by the need for a stable income, he began sericulture activities by rearing cross-breed silkworms. With experience and growing confidence, he shifted to bivoltine silkworm rearing in 2017, which significantly improved both productivity and income. His rearing unit includes a stone-slab roof silkworm rearing house measuring about 100 × 21 feet, providing suitable conditions for efficient crop management.

During the initial years, Shri Narayanaswamy faced challenges such as Flacherie disease, which affected silkworm health and yield. Through guidance from fellow farmers and practical learning, he gradually improved his rearing practices. In 2019, he further strengthened his knowledge by attending a four-day training programme at the Sericulture Training Institute, Channapatna, where he learned improved rearing and hygiene practices.

Over the years, sericulture has significantly improved his livelihood. With financial support, he constructed a separate rearing house and a new dwelling house for his family. The income generated has helped him clear debts, purchase household appliances, and support the education of his children. His daughter has completed LLB and is now practicing as a lawyer, while his son assists him in sericulture.

Currently, he undertakes about eight silkworm crops annually and often receives premium cocoon prices in the market. His farm also generates employment for around six workers. A member of the Farmers Producer Organization at Vemagal, he actively shares his experiences with fellow farmers, serving as an inspiration to others pursuing sericulture.

