S3

RECENT BREAKTHROUGHS IN SERICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA TO MATCH THE REQUIREMENT OF SILK INDUSTRY IN TROPICS

R. K. Datta

Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute,

Srirampura, Mysore 570 008, India

Strengthening of R & D components of sericulture in India since the sixties has led to a quantum jump in silk production and presently India is the second largest producer in the world. This achievement is primarily due to a number of breakthroughs in R & D ,to match the requirements of tropics, by way of introduction of improved mulberry varieties and silkworm breeds, better mulberry cultivation and rearing management practices suited to tropical conditions. Of late, new approaches in molecular biology and biotechnology have also been vigorously pursued to strengthen the current conventional strategies. The present paper attempts to provide an overview of the present status of silk production in both mulberry and non-mulberry sectors, breakthroughs achieved through new approaches of biotechnology and the future prospects for maximizing silk productivity in India.