



# Silk Association of India (SAI)

## NEWSLETTER

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Our Honorary President, Sri C. Narayanaswamy, former M.P, hailing from a sericulture family, naturally developed interest in sericulture activities and concern for its development ever since his young age. A veteran politician with a difference, always focuses on improving human wellbeing and culture. His close association with silk industry made him to quickly understand the problems faced by the grass root level sericulturists and the other stakeholders as well.

His struggle for the betterment of silk industry started way back in 1997-98 at a time when the silk cocoon prices had crashed to the lowest due to the indiscriminate silk dumping by China. To protest that "ReshmeAmaduVirodhiCheluvali" was initiated by late Sri Y.K. Ramaiah, former Sericulture Minister GoK and Sri M.RamachandraGowda, Present Secretary, SAI. Sri C. Narayanaswamy also joined the protest and gave momentum to it, which yielded fruitful results and the GoI imposed anti-dumping duty on silk by China.

### From the President's Desk



I am delighted to place on your hands the inaugural issue of SAI News Letter. SAI's long cherished dream of reaching the sericulture fraternity through this media has realized after a long wait.

Ever since its inception in 2006, SAI has been supplementing the efforts of all the State Sericulture Departments and the Central Silk Board (Government of India) for protecting and promoting the interests of all the stakeholders and the development of silk industry

across the country. Backed by 225 passionate members, hailing from diverse fields like Policy Making, Administration, Research & Development, Silkworm Seed Production, Chawki Rearing, Silkworm Rearing, Reeling, Weaving and other related activities, SAI is envisioning a globally competitive vibrant Indian silk industry. Its entire attention and focus is on addressing the critical issues confronted by the silk industry from time to time and ensure the inclusive growth.

Though, the quality of cocoons and raw silk has improved, area under mulberry cultivation is fluctuating. Our country is now under the threshold of increasing its internationally gradable Bivoltine silk, while sustaining the conventional multi-bivoltine production. A very ambitious raw silk production targets have been set for the coming years by the country and all the States have to tide over the unprecedented set back caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, in the prevailing conditions of water stress, stagnating income of small and marginal farmers and the need for increasing employment especially of women, reducing inequality by transfer of income from richer to poorer sections of society, it is necessary to seek an external funding to implement a comprehensive project. In this direction, SAI has been making concerted efforts to impress upon all States to consider Follow-up-Projects.

**V. Balasubramanian**



## Journey so far

SAI came into existence with 7 enthusiastic members in the year 2006. Consequent to the decision taken during the General Body meeting held on 08-08-2019, Karnataka Registered Silkworm Seed Producers Association (KRSSPA) and Chawki Rearing Centers Association, Karnataka (CRCAK) have merged with SAI recently, increasing the membership number to 225 and the potentials of SAI enormously. Under the shelter of SAI, Silkworm Seed Producers and Chawki Rearing Sub-Committees headed by Sri S.B.Naveen and Sri K. Chandrashekar, respectively are functioning. Technical Committee under the supervision of Dr.S.B.Dandin and Dr.B.S.Angadi, Dr.H.K.Basaravaraja, Dr.T.M.Veeraiah, Dr.E.Muniraju, Sri K.M.Subbaiah, Sri Mustafa Ali Khan and Sri Abdul Azeez as its members, rises to the occasion and timely address all the technical issues from soil to silk. So far, SAI has carried out the following important activities.

- Launched SAI website: [www.saoi.in](http://www.saoi.in) for providing updated information about the silk industry
- On 23-08-2019 conducted a seminar on '**Problems and Prospects of Sericulture**' with participation of 400 persons including Scientists, Officers of State Government, CSB and other stakeholders
- Sri M. Ramachandra Gowda, Dr. S.B. Dandin, Dr. B.S.Angadi and Dr. H.K.Basavaraja participated in the 25th International Sericulture Congress on Sericulture and Silk Industry '**Silk beyond the Textile**' held at Tsukuba, Japan from 19th-22nd November, 2019 conducted by ISC and presented papers. Using this opportunity, they met eminent scientists of Japan and other countries, explained them the activities of SAI, requested them to become its members and extend technical assistance for the growth and development of Indian silk industry
- Since, Karnataka has not implemented any project for the development of sericulture after NSP, SAI motivated by its President, prepared a comprehensive Rs 1500 crore project and submitted it to the Commissioner DoS. Decision by the concerned authority is awaited
- On the request of Director, DoS, Tamil Nadu, SAI EC members visited Salem on 01-11-2019 and held discussions with the field officers and impressed upon them the need for an externally aided comprehensive project for the improvement of Tamil Nadu sericulture, on the lines of Karnataka project prepared by SAI

## M. Ramachandra Gowda and S.B.Dandin

- On 25th November, 2019 Dr.S.B.Dandin and Dr.B.S.Angadi participated in the 'National Silk Policy' meeting convened by the Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi and suggested suitable policy modifications for protecting the interests of all the stakeholders and measures for accomplishing the set targets of Indian Silk Vision 2030
- On 27-11-2019 Sri. Vishal Shinde, M.D, Sahyadri FPO, Nasik (Maharashtra) visited SAI office Bengaluru. During the discussions he expressed the interest of his FPO to invest around Rs 2000 crore in silk industry and requested for a concept note and guidance. Date for the visit of SAI EC members to Sahyadri FPO was also fixed. However, due to Covid-19 pandemic it is temporarily halted
- On 05-06-2020, EC members met Sericulture Minister, Govt. of Karnataka along with other stakeholders and explained the problems faced by the industry due to Covid-19 pandemic and sought for his interference for reviving the industry. A '**Memorandum**' including the following important issues was also submitted
  - \* Elimination of Central Government imposed GST on all silk commodities at all stages of production
  - \* Imposition of duty on the silk imported from SAARC countries on par with China
  - \* Declaration of support price for the commercial cocoons as the cocoon prices have crashed to the lowest
  - \* SAI's meeting with the Chief Minister of Karnataka for accelerating the actions
- As requested by DoS, Karnataka SAI prepared a draft '**Karnataka Silk Policy**' document and submitted it after conducting a series of meetings with all the stakeholders and concerned officers
- On 20-10-2020, SAI EC members along with Chawki Rearing Center owners met Karnataka Sericulture Minister and brought to his notice the long standing Bivoltine Chawki incentive dues. It was also informed to the Minister that different districts of the State are following different criteria for the disbursement of Chawki incentive. SAI emphasized the need for releasing the Chawki incentive directly to the farmers instead of routing it through the CRCs. Minister responding positively, assured that all the pleas will be considered favorably and CRC owners will not face any problems in future
- Conducted 3 Webinars on the burning issues faced by farmers



## SAI Seminar

Seminar on '**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF KARNATAKA SERICULTURE**' was organized by SAI in association with Department of Sericulture, Government of Karnataka, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) on 23rd August, 2019 at KASSIA auditorium, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru. More than 400 persons participated. Welcoming the gathering Sri M.Ramachandra Gowda briefed about SAI, its objectives and activities.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri C. Narayanaswamy, former M P and Honorary President, Silk Association of India. In his inaugural speech, Sri C. Narayanaswamy expressed his views and said that this seminar foresees the common problems and issues for enhancing the quality and increasing the raw silk production in Karnataka.

Sri G.C.Vrushabendra Murthy, Commissioner for Sericulture, GoK presented the status of Karnataka silk industry and its future plans to increase the raw silk production in the coming years.

In 3 technical sessions the following ten presentations were made covering the status, problems faced and the requirements.

### Session I (Pre-cocoon)

1. Mulberry Cultivation by Sri Rajendra Patil, Managuli, Basavana Bagewadi Taluk, Bijapur District
2. Silkworm Seed by Sri M.Ramachandra Gowda, VSSPC, Bengaluru
3. Chawki Rearing by Sri S.B.Naveen, Sangapura, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District
4. Silkworm Rearing by Sri S.V.Swamy, Nonavinakere, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkur District
5. Role of Soil Organic Carbon on soil health for quality mulberry and cocoon production by Dr. E.Muniraju, Scientist (Retd), KSSRDI, Talaghatapura, Bengaluru

### Session II (Silk Reeling)

1. Multi-end Silk Reeling by Sri S.Sadiq Pasha, Siddlaghatta, Chickballapur District
2. ARM Silk reeling by Sri Sunil Kumar, Ramanagara
3. Silk weaving by Sri G.P.Sreenivasa Murthy, M D, KSTDCL, Bengaluru
4. By-products of silk by Sri V.Srinivasa, Sericare, Bengaluru

### Session III (Extension and FPO)

1. Sericulture FPO by Sri A.M.Mayagaiah, Anedoddi

## B.S. Angadi and H.K. Basavaraja

### Plenary Session

Sri M Ramachandra Gowda, Secretary, SAI welcomed the dignitaries and gave a brief account of the achievements of SAI

The following Chairpersons presented the session reports

- \* Dr. P.G. Radhakrishna, Director, KSSRDI, Talaghattapura - Session-I
- \* Dr. Subhas V Naik, Director, CSTRI, Madivala, Bengaluru -Session-II
- \* Smt. Vijayakumari, Joint Director of Sericulture, Department of Sericulture-Session III

Based on the deliberations Dr. S B Dandin, Vice-president, SAI, presented the recommendations of SAI for strengthening and stabilization of the silk industry

(For the details of presentations and recommendations please visit SAI website : [www.saoi.in](http://www.saoi.in))

The following dignitaries who graced the occasion also gave their valuable suggestions for the development of silk industry.

Sri Raju, Hon President KASSIA

Sri D.N. Munikrishna, IPS (Retd) Director, SAI

Sri M.R. Ravi, IAS, Commissioner for Textile Development

Sri R.R. Okhandiar, IFS, M S, CSB

Sri Joy Omen, IAS, Former M S, CSB

Sri C.R. Chikkamath, IAS, Former CoS, Karnataka

Sri V. Balasubramanian, IAS President SAI, presented the history of sericulture in India and Karnataka, Royal patronage given for its development, support by the Governments through five year plans and externally aided projects. He also opined that new recruitment should take place so that there is a mixture of old and new generation, which is very much needed for the overall development. Further, he emphasized on the following issues.

- Better co-ordination between Department of Sericulture and Central Silk Board
- Regular periodical meetings to discuss the contemporary issues and suggest action
- Restart the Bivoltine Coordination Committee Meetings involving Department of Sericulture, Central Silk Board, SAI and other agencies

He wished that this seminar will bring development of all the stakeholders of the silk industry.

Seminar was concluded with vote of thanks by Sri Sonne Gowda.





**SAI meeting with Karnataka Sericulture Minister**



**Glimpses of SAI seminar**



**Glimpses of SAI seminar**



**SAI members with Japanese experts at Tsukuba (Japan)**

## SAI Webinars

To provide solutions to the problems faced by the stakeholders, Silk Association of India is organizing seminars and webinars as and when required. Recently it organized the following 3 webinars.

### 1. Management of Thrips and Mites in Mulberry on 30-09-2020 from 3.30PM to 5.30PM.

#### Speakers

1. Dr Prakya Sreerama Kumar  
Principal Scientist, ICAR
2. Dr. N. Srinivasa  
Head (Agril. Entomology), UAS
3. Dr. Mahiba Helen  
Scientist- D, CSRTI, Mysore
4. Mr. B.S. Ramesha  
Scientist-C. KSSRDI

### 2. Management of Root Rot and Leaf Roller in Mulberry Plantations

**Date: 18/11/2020 from 3.30 to 5.30 PM**

#### Speakers

1. Dr. Arun Kumar G. S.  
Scientist-C, CSRTI, Mysore
2. Dr. Mahadeva A.  
Scientist-C, KSSRDI
3. Dr. Mahiba Helen  
Scientist- D, CSRTI, Mysore

## E. Muniraju and Mustafa Ali Khan

### 3. Management of Muscardine In Silkworm Rearing 24/11/2020 Time 11.30 AM to 1.30 PM

#### Speakers

1. Mr. M.K. Prabhakar  
Deputy Director, DoS, Karnataka
2. Mr. Sreenivas  
Assistant Director, DoS, Karnataka

(For the details of presentations and recommendations please visit SAI **website : [www.saoi.in](http://www.saoi.in)**)

## Looking at Future

SAI, has drawn an annual '**Action Plan**' for the year 2021-22 to support the development of silk industry, including the following key events.

- Holding fortnightly '**Sericulture Consultation**' through Webinars
- Adopt a sericulture village for the skill development of farmers and their holistic development
- Publish updated reference books on 'Race Maintenance and Multiplication', 'Bivoltine Silkworm Seed Production', 'Mulberry Cultivation', 'Chawki Rearing' and 'Adult Silkworm Rearing' authored by the experts of SAI

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