

Success Story on A systematic and scientific approach to eri silkworm rearing in Kokrajhar district of Assam.

Rearing of Eri silk worm is almost a prerogative of tribal people of the district and inherited from one generation to other as a tradition. It was believed that Ericulture is a poor's man job and a leisure time activity and is a secondary source of income for clothing and food. The rearing of Eri silk worm through traditional method was reported in decreasing trend by many authors and thus it was also noted that rural youth of the district are found migrated to other state in search of income avenues as eri silk rearing for livelihood strategy is unsure. The contributing factors of decreasing trend in eri silk rearing are due to lack of awareness of scientific method of rearing, availability and knowledge of secondary and tertiary food plants, lack of knowledge on intercropping of agricultural crop with sericulture crops, post cocoon technologies, poor management of infected larvae and mortality and morbidity of eri pupae in different temperature, relative humidity and environmental factors. Hence, scientific intervention of Ericulture over traditional method was found utmost important to save this old age tradition by attracting rural youth towards Ericulture.



Name, Address, Block, Village, Phone No. Adhar No.

Name	Smti Suboni Narzary
Father's/ Mother's/ Husband's Name	Sri Paneshwar Narzary
Address	Pakirguri Forest Village. Block-Kachugoan, Kokrajhar
Phone No.	6002962755
Adhaar No.	

1. Category-agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fishery, Sericulture etc.

Scientific method of eri silkworm rearing in Kokrajhar district.

Eri silkworm rearing was initially done castor leaves and rearing was limited to 2-3 crops annually but feeding with secondary food plant as Kesseru (*Heteropanas frangrans Roxb*), tapioca (*Manihot Esculenta*) and gamari (*Gmelina Arborea*) leaves not only enhance the rearing up to 6-7 cycle annually but also able to get yield from tapioca in the form of tubers.

2. The journey to success:

Suboni Narzary belongs to remote area of Kokrajhar district named Pakirguri forest village. She is an unemployed rural youth was born and brought up in the forest land of tribal district of Kokrajhar. He belongs to a very poor family, experience many hardships in his childhood and somehow complete his education with very limited resources and ultimately able to get his BA degree. Further, since from adolescent she is skilled in silkworm rearing. They usually rear eri pupae primary for silkworm larvae/ pupae and secondary for cocoon production because eri pupae is the food of delicacy among Bodo people of the Kokrajhar-District. But as years passed by the old aged tradition of eri silkworm rearing was in decreasing trends and young youth were found least interested and reluctant to take up eri silkworm rearing professionally. Changing life style, improved socio-economic conditions etc may be some of the influencing factors.

As she is an educated unemployed youth and want to support her family financially and old age tradition, she started eri silkworm rearing with minimum resources. He collected castor leafs from road side areas and jungles/ river side area by riding a bi-cycle and able to rear only 2-3 crops annually

due to shortage of food plants and able to get 6-7 kg cocoon yield yearly. The cocoon was sold at a price of 800/- per kg and pupae at the rate of Rs 400/- per kg and able to get very little earning.

Henceforth, he visited KVK, Kokrajhar to know the scientific technologies of Ericulture and different interventions for higher cocoon yield. He applies the updated technologies and started systematic way of eri food plantation in his under-utilized agricultural land. He planted primary food plant- Castor, secondary and perennial food plant - Kesseru and Tapioca- tertiary food plant in 2 bighas of land area. Intercropping of sericulture with horticulture/ tubers was also incorporated.

At present she is not only able to save his aged old tradition of eri silkworm rearing but also contributes in maintaining agro-forestry in the region. She applies the actual concept of “lab to land” practically and able to get increased yield and qualitative production. He is also able to attract youths especially the rural women tribal folks of the district towards ericulture and motivate them to take up silkworm rearing with scientific intervention with traditional amalgamation. She got a rearing house and vermicompost unit from Department of Sericulture, Kokrajhar. KVK Kokrajhar provide the scientific interventions along with overall input support for rearing, yarn and fabric production through ARYA project. All these contributing factors are responsible to grow her enterprise and able to support her family.

3. Recognition:

1. Best youth club award 2020 Nehru Yuva Kendra, Kokrajhar BTAD under Ministry of youth affairs and sports. Govt. of India.
2. Outstanding Progressive Farmers Provided by KVK. Kokrajhar in the year 2022.
award in the field of ericulture

4. **Future plan:** She want to expand the existing set up and will establish a whole set up of eri silkworm rearing unit, yarn production unit and handloom unit of eri.

5. **Recognition:** Best progressive farmers award for “Best practicing of eri silkworm rearing in Kokrajhar district in 15th August 2021.

6. Photograph:



Eri silkworm rearing

Eri cocoon

7. **Contributor of the story:**
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