SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques have effectively been used in identifying new areas with potential for expanding plantation under all four types of Sericulture viz., Mulberry, Muga, Eri and Tasar in 108 districts (41 districts in NER) spread over to 24 states. The project is funded by Central Silk Board (CSB) and NESAC was entrusted to implement the project in collaboration with State RS Centres and other partner Institutes.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Potential Area Mapping for 108 Districts Spread over 24 States.
- Integration of Suitable Landuse, Soil Condition, and Climatic Parameters.
- 13 Major Non-spatial Modules and 4 Spatial Modules.
- ICT based Web Portal for Data and Knowledge Dissemination.
- Web Portal in 12 Major Local Languages (www.silks.csb.gov.in).
- Weekly Weather Bulleting and Sericulture Advisories.

MAJOR BENEFITS

- Potential Area Map to Help Expansion of Mulberry, Muga, Tasar, and Eri to New Areas.
- Support to Rural Livelihood Generation.
- Data and Information in Local Language to Accelerate Implementation of the Project findings.
- Regular Weather Advisory for Better Planning and Reduce Weather Related Damage.

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<th>No. of district</th>
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<th>Moderately suitable (ha)</th>
<th>Marginally suitable (ha)</th>
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With the need for expanding sericulture in other than north eastern states potential area mapping was done in 16 states for Mulberry sector, 2 each for Muga and Tasar and 3 for Eri sector.
SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The identification of potential areas for sericulture development involves evaluation of following parameters:

- Suitable land use (culturable wastelands, long fallow lands, etc.).
- Soils condition (slope, soil depth, pH, texture, ground water availability).
- Climatic parameters (temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, potential evapo-transpiration (PET) and length of growing period) for the silkworm food plants.

A ICT based web portal titled Sericulture Information Linkages and Knowledge System (SILKS) for all the selected 108 has been developed to disseminate the findings of potential area coupled with useful information for the benefit of all stakeholders especially the farmers.

- SILKS webportal hosted in public domain under the name http://silks.csbs.gov.in.
- 13 major non-spatial modules and 4 spatial modules grouped into three categories, namely Planning Services, Other Services and Natural Resources Management.
- The portal is presently available in 12 languages viz English, Hindi, Telugu, Kanada, Assamese, Bengali, Manipuri, Mizo, Khasi, Garo, Ao Naga and Sumi Naga.
- One module specifically for the Farmers Services in local languages is available.
- Weather bulletin and Sericulture Advisories has been integrated for SILKS portal as a Joint effort with IMD.
- SILKS portal officially inaugurated by Hon’ble Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India on Oct 09, 2013 in Delhi.