

1. Title :- TASAR BANDHU - WAY TO SUCCESS IN TASARCULTURE IN JUNGLE MAHALAREAS



2. **Category** :- Sericulture under Department of Agriculture

3. **Challenge**:- The Western Districts of West Bengal are mostly covered by Laterite soil & Jungles. Population of these area are mainly dominated by various tribal people. They depend on the jungle produce to maintain their livelihood. But it is hard to earn their livelihood only on jungle produce as deforestation is regular phenomenon in this area.

4. **Initiative**:- Sericulture, an Agro based Cottage Industry, plays a key role in ameliorating the economy of Rural Bengal. Out of the 4 (four) commercially exploited varieties of silk, Tasar, a major one has been practised in newly created district of Jhargram. In the Jungle Mahal areas of Jhargram district, Tasar culture is one of the major ways for income generation and maintenance of livelihood of the rural people who mostly belong to Tribal community. It is a commercially attractive economic enterprise providing employment and livelihood to about 2000 rural families of Jhargram district because of its low requirement of fixed capital and higher returns at regular intervals. Tasar culture is also an age old tradition of the Tribal people residing mainly in the blocks of Nayagram, Gopiballavpur-I, Gopiballavpur-II, Jamboni, Binpur-II, Sankrail etc. of Jungle Mahal areas of Jhargram district.

5. **Key Result**:- At present, there are 2(two) Technical Service Centres (T.S.C) in this district to serve these huge number of Tasar families. Despite of acute shortage of staff, normal activities of these units for providing Govt. assistance under various schemes as well as technical guidance among the Tasar rearers have not been affected badly due to engagement of 8 (eight) **Tasar Bandhu** under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (R.K.V.Y.)**.

6. **Impact:-**These Tasar Bandhus are involved in all kinds of activities like collection of requisition of Diseases Free Layings(DFLs) for rearing, distribution of DFLs, supervision and monitoring of Tasar silkworm rearing, maintenance of Tasar host plantation, Extension of Tasar culture in new areas of Jungle Mahal, submission of reports on production statistics etc. They are very sincere and their devotion towards assigned duties are unquestionable.

During 2017-18, 80 acres of land have been brought under Arjun plantation in Jhargram districts. Besides, about 3.25 lakh DFLs have been distributed for rearing and 1.5 Crore cocoons have been produced thus playing an important role in improvement of financial condition vis-a-vis livelihood of poor Tribal Tasar rearers of the remote places of Jhargram district, this involved transaction for a sum of **Rs. 3 Crore only**. Moreover, this successful Tasar rearing has specially improved the **economic as well as social status of the Tribal women of the Jungle Mahal areas** to a large extent. A major part of all these **significant achievements have been possible due to engagement of these 8(eight) Tasar Bandhu under R.K.V.Y. by incurring a nominal expenditure of Rs. 80,000 only** (@ Rs 10,000/Tasar Bandhu/year i.e. Rs 2000 for each T.V./B.V. crop for a total of 5 crops in a year). They are also progressive local Tasar rearers for which it has been easier to transfer the various improved technologies developed by Research Institute, smoothly and more effectively. It is also expected that in near future, the overall development of Tasar culture as well as improvement of livelihood of Tribal people of Jungle Mahal areas of Jhargram district would be increased manifold through engagement more Tasar Bandhu under R.K.V.Y. It will not be out of place to mention that I-Win (Third Party Monitoring Agency for West Bengal) has also recognised **TASAR BANDHU** scheme as very praiseworthy activity.

7. **Additional Information:** - This is an exceptional project not only from economical point of view but also from Social point of view. People of this area specially Tribal folk are becoming financially sound through adoption of Tasar Culture.

8. **Contact Person of the Success Story:** - Dr. Tarun Kumar Patra, Development Officer & I/C, Deputy Director, Sericulture, Midnapur, WB, Mob. No.-94347 23146, Email id. mdseri@gmail.com

