Chapter – 5

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
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5.1 Introduction

Sericulture is best suited to India where manpower and land resources are in surplus. It generates a chain of economic activities providing employment opportunities to the people in rural, urban and semi-urban areas. It not only arrests rural migration but also promotes a series of cottage and small scale industries. 'Silk' has a very good association with the customs and traditions of the people living all over the world. With the improvement in the economic conditions of the people, the demand for silk is also increasing within the country and abroad.

In the previous chapters we have covered a detail study on the role of sericulture industry in India in general and Manipur in particular. The present chapter makes an attempt to provide summary of the entire study and results of the foregoing chapters. In addition to this, a number of suggestions emanating from the findings have also been put forward which can escalate and improve the performance of the sericulture industry in Manipur.
5.2 Summary of findings

The First Chapter ‘Introduction’ contains introduction, history and origin of sericulture, sericulture and economic development, silk production in the world, need of the study, objectives of the study, review of literature, hypotheses, methodology and plan of the study. The summary of the major findings in respect of First Chapter are as follows:

5.2.1 Sericulture is traditionally associated with the socio-economic life of many countries since prehistoric times. Silk is produced by Mulberry silkworm, Bombyx mori L. It was originated from China and remained unaware to other countries for about 3000 years.

5.2.2 Silk has been used as a material for making exquisite textiles and royal dresses since time immemorial. No ritual is complete without silk apparel. So silk clothes are so popular that it has become difficult to meet the increasing demands.

5.2.3 95% of the world's silk production comes from mulberry silkworm, Bombyx mori L., feeding on mulberry leaves. Other silks or non-mulberry silks are: Tasar, Muga and Eri. They are also called ‘wild silks’ because they are produced by wild silkworms belonging to Antheraea and Samia species of the family Saturniidae.
5.2.4 India, being a traditional sericultural country contributes four commercially known varieties of silk called Mulberry, Tasar (both Tropical and Temperate) Eri and Muga to the world of silk fabrics. Mulberry silk accounts for 90% of the total silk production in the country. Thus it has assumed prominent place in the agro industrial activities playing an eminent role in the rural economy of India. India holds the monopoly on producing the Muga silk.

5.2.5 Being one of the major responsibilities of developing silk industry, Central Silk Board is a Statutory Body and functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It was constituted in April, 1949 under an Act of the Parliament (Act No. LXI of 1948). The Board has a composition of 36 members including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Member Secretary, Representatives of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, nominees of the Central and State Governments and representatives from the industry and trade.

To extent the sericulture development programmes in different states, the Central Silk Board had established 4 Regional offices at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Jammu and 5 Regional Development Offices at Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Lucknow and Chennai.
5.2.6 To attract investments and generate employments in the silk sector, Central Silk Board organize entrepreneurship and other related training programmes like Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Bankers Training Programme etc. During the year 2009-10, a total of 20 training programmes were organized covering around 599 participants.

5.2.7 Silk Mark Organisation is a society approved by the Central Silk Board for the development of silk and silk industry in India. It has efficient textile experts for testing silk.

The Silk Mark is a quality guarantee for pure silk and can be used in all silk products like dress materials, garments, sarees, carpets etc. From the findings we get 298 numbers of authorized users. Sale of silk Mark Label is 22.22 lakhs. Number of programmes/events/road shows participated by Silk Mark Organization during the year 2009-2010 were 410.

5.2.8 An important findings of sericulture industry in India is that during the year 2009-10 the sector has been employing 68.17 lakh persons in about 50918 sericulture villages involving 817605 lakh families all over the country. During the year 2009-10 the quantity of mulberry cocoons produced were 131661 MTs as compared to 124838 MTs in the year
2008-2009. Thus, the contribution of sericulture to the nations economic development is unique. The industry has 26631 nos. of filature/cottage basins and 28014 Charka basins in the reeling sector.

5.2.9 Another important finding is that sericulture, with its vast potential for income and employment generation in rural areas, plays an important role in alleviating poverty. The industry provides employment to more than 30 percent to the schedule castes, schedule tribes and other backward sections. With the evolution of new technology and introduction of more productive silkworm races, productivity has increased and sericulture has become a highly remunerative activity. Employment opportunities have increased and the standard of living of the farmers are in a position to maintain a decent living.

5.2.10 Women play a dominant part in silk industry, as the activities are mostly home-based. They have been contributing to all the sectors of sericulture starting from on-farm activities to fabric production, marketing and consumption. 60% of the labour requirement of the sericulture industry is fulfilled by women.
5.2.11 Sericulture provides self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth of rural areas. Silk is consumed by the affluent and the money generated is distributed among sericulture farmers, silk yarn reeler, twisters, weavers and traders. As from the findings, of the total share of income distribution in the sericulture sector, a major portion is captured by the primary producers i.e. farmers (54.6%) who produce cocoons followed by the traders (17.8%), weavers (12.3%), twisters (8.7%) and reeler (6.6%).

5.2.12 The export earnings for sericulture in India has reached Rs. 2892.44 crore during the year 2009-10. Though the silk production has increased, it accounts for only 15.50% of the total world production. And the Indian raw silk does not meet the international standard as it produces inferior quality silk which comes from multivoltine breeds. So, the Indian silk industry needs more attention in producing high grade raw silk to match the international standards by exploiting the potential of bivoltine breeds.

5.2.13 Another important findings is that China and India are the major silk producing countries of the world. China produces 81% of the total raw silk production and India produces 15.50%. During the year 2009 the
total world raw silk production was 126995 MTs, of which India's share was 19690 MTs. World mulberry raw silk was 103627 MTs in the year 2009, of which India's share was 16322 MTs.

The Second Chapter of the study outlines the emergence of sericulture in India, trends in mulberry sericulture, employment, export earnings, present status of sericulture industry in India and its economic importance, progress of sericulture in India under Five Year Plan. The summary of the major findings in respect of Second Chapter are as follows:

5.2.14. The advent of 2nd World War heralded growth of silk industry in India. Silk is an essential item for production of parachute fabric. The British initiated silk industry growth for its own benefit. Mulberry cultivation area increased from 17,628 ha. in 1937-38 to 45,581 ha. in 1945 end. India has cheap manpower and land resource. Taking advantage of this, silk industry promotes rural employment arresting migration.
5.2.15 An important finding showed rapid growth in mulberry cultivation during 1998-2010. Reeling cocoon, raw silk and silk waste production saw simultaneous growth (Table 2.1).

5.2.16 The weaker sections of the society were employed in silk industry proving that sericulture is a labour intensive industry.

5.2.17 Value of silk goods exported is estimated at 25% of total raw silk production. Export value of Rs.1755.55 crore in 1999-2000 rose to Rs.2892.44 crore in 2009-10. (Table 2.3). The share of the export market is around 8%.

5.2.18 To get a bigger foot holes it is suggested that the stake-holders of the Indian silk industry should be made responsible and pro-active agents through proper policy and planning during the Five Year Plan Periods. India can take advantage of its unique position of being the only country producing all varieties of silk.

5.2.19 The end part of second chapter describes the progress of sericulture through various Five Year Plan. It is observed that allocation of funds for sericulture in the Five Year Plans has accelerated drastically while corresponding expenditure percentage is fluctuating from 47% in
the First Five Year Plan to 86% (Table 2.6) in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

The Third Chapter of the study is devoted to the development of sericulture in Manipur, production of raw silk in the state, catalytic development programme in Manipur and silk industry during the plan period. The outcomes of the work done in this chapter are summarized below.

5.2.20 Manipur being industrially a backward state has still to rely on agriculture for generation of employment and income. Among the agro based industries, sericulture is one of the most promising and ideally suited industry for economic upliftment of the people living below poverty lines and in the rural and sub urban areas.

Although Manipur has a long history of sericulture since the time of ‘South Silk Route’ formation, opening silk trading with the Far East and Europe, mulberry sericulture was not commercially exploited till 1960’s. In 1991, with the establishment of Department of Sericulture in Manipur, mulberry plantations were introduced at the farmers’ field and on public lands to increase the production of raw silk and to improve the economic conditions of the people of Manipur.
5.2.21 Nature has bequeath Manipur with healthy climatic condition, human skill, natural resources and manpower for culturing all the four types of silkworm: mulberry, eri, muga and tasar worms. Sericulture industry can be practiced with minimum investment and get profitable return within low gestation period. These factors contribute sericulture as a suitable profession for economically weaker sections of the state, specially empowering the women.

5.2.22 The Catalytic Development Programme was initiated during the Xth Plan (2002-07) since 2003-04 in Manipur by Central Silk Board. A progressive increase in the number of beneficiaries from start of the programme till the end of the Xth Plan was observed as 378 to 619 beneficiaries.

The average ratio of central fund to state share was 9.14:1. Out of the total sanction amount of Rs.228.04 lakhs, the utilized amount was Rs.191.51 lakhs (centre) + 20.943 lakhs (state) which is 212.453 lakhs. The percentage of utilization was 93%. The impact and outcome of the programme are assistance for construction of

i) mulberry and eri rearing houses,

ii) rearing equipments for BV rearers,
iii) supply of start up tools with one month training on rearing and plantation under mulberry, eri and muga sector,

iv) oak tasar plantation and supply of rearing equipments and

v) strengthening of muga seed grainage, oak tasar seed grainage and eri seed grainage with latest grainage equipments.

5.2.23 A new special project for the XIth-plan for proper implementation was introduced in the state. This package wise project benefitted the three sectors of sericulture: seed sector, cocoon sector and post-cocoon sector. The uniqueness of this project was the financial involvement of the beneficiaries in this pattern 80:10:10 (centre: state: beneficiaries).

5.2.24 It is observed that the period between 1st and 4th Plan benefitted only three sectors – mulberry, muga and eri. Oak tasar was left out. The scheduled tribe population was left out till the IVth Plan. In the IVth Plan the Department of Industries, Manipur initiated a sericulture scheme. Muga and mulberry farms were established in different parts of the state.

5.2.25 Fifth Year Plan witnessed a significant improvement for sericulture in Manipur. The Central Silk Board started promotion of oak-tasar to exploit nature grown oak trees.
5.2.26 The Sixth Plan was also the year of oak tasar production. The other three sectors were also not left behind. The Department also started producing its own silkworm eggs despite limited equipment and infrastructure. The department penetrated non-traditional areas specially the hill districts. Cocoon and silk yarn production increased drastically so was the demand of silk due to increase of handloom production of silk.

5.2.27 Studying the data and information described in the third chapter regarding the performance of sericulture in Manipur during the VIIIth Five Year Plan reveal that the proposal submitted were Rs.16.35 crores, approved outlay was Rs.8.80 crores and expenditure incurred was Rs.10.82 crores. A big gap between proposal amount and approved amount was noticed.

Plantation of silkworm food plants of 67,000 hectares to benefit 45,000 families of silkworm rearers was targeted. Achievement was 78,069 hectares benefitting 41,920 families. This signifies that more areas were covered benefitting less families.

5.2.28 The third chapter describes in detail along with data how the Department achieved progress in Mulberry and Eri sectors during VIIIth Plan. The Department was accordingly energized to foray in other non-
traditional pockets particularly in the hill areas to popularize these sectors.

Over production of 983 MTs of silk yarn was noticed against target of 930 MTs. Lack of operational buildings and equipments conjulled the department to divert attention to motivation and awareness programmes in the rural and non-traditional areas. It was noted that the Department has involved NGOs’ and village level workers also. This is significant since involvement and co-operation of them is needed for proper successful implementation of the department’s aims and objectives.

An interesting observation is noted as such. Besides getting fund from the VIIIth Plan, the Department has widened its financial sourcing network. It got Rs.105.59 lakh from the Handloom Development Corporation for quality silk fabric production and marketing. A proposal for 600 silk loom projects was approved by the Development Commissioner for Handlooms amounting Rs.47 lakhs (State share Rs.7.50 lakhs). The Handloom Development Corporation also sponsored a scheme named Silk Yarn Bank. The Department organised two state levels Silk Exhibition utilizing all these resources. Revenue collection by
the Department also increased progressively from year 1992-93 to year 1996-97.

5.2.29 An all out thrust for development of all the sectors-tasar, mulberry, muga and eri was observed during the IXth Plan. Mention is being made of various strategies adopted by the Department for this purpose which are:

1. Plantation of improved varieties of mulberry and oak.

2. Introduction of new silkworm breeds

3. Technological upgradation of food plant maintenance, silkworm rearing, processing and wearing through training the stakeholders and providing facilities.

4. All these steps are aimed at producing export quality silk fabric to earn foreign exchange.

The IXth Plan period has been remembered as the period of implementation of the sericulture project, mainly the Manipur Sericulture Project. The aim of the project was to accelerate sericulture development in Manipur in both traditional and non-traditional areas.
5.2.30 The Xth Plan witnessed new thrust on infrastructure development like construction of administrative and operational buildings and staff quarters. As an effort on self employment through sericulture was intensified, it was observed that 15,000 new families were adopted by covering 40,486 hectares of land.

5.2.31 The Fourth Chapter of the study is the analysis on the well designed empirical information collected from 80 respondents who are running sericulture industries in the population under study. Taking income level derived from sericulture industries and from all sources to be dependent variable, ten factors or variables of interest have been included in the analysis. They are district, type of sericulture, status of sericulture, period/age of sericulture industries, gender, religion, educational level, size of family, age at start of the sericulture industries, and earlier occupation. The test statistics applied here are t-test and F-test -analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the inferences are drawn on the basis of P-value with 0.05 as the cutoff observed level of statistical significance and 0.01 as the highly significant level.

5.2.32 In this interpretative analysis, only four factors viz., district-wise differential (P<0.01), status of sericulture, defined to be the industries run
by individual and association and organization (P<0.05), gender/sex of sericulturists (P<0.01), and educational level of sericulturists (P<0.01) have been detected to be influencing factor on the dynamics annual income of the sericulture entrepreneurs in the population. However, the insignificant impacts of six variables have also been observed in the bi-variate analysis only. It is to say that the insignificant results may perhaps be caused by joint effects of other factors which can not instantaneously be removed or controlled. The joint effects may be detected and controlled in multivariate analysis.

5.2.33 As per findings of the present study, the highest income from sericulture is earned in Imphal East (Rs.70,455±95,143 with 95% CI: 6,536±1,34,373). With a gradually declining trend in Imphal West and Bishnupur, the lowest income from sericulture industries is found to be only Rs.14,100±16,931 with 95% CI: 1,559-29,759 in Ukhrul hill district. The district-wise variations on the income levels from sericulture and also from all sources are highly significant each at 0.01 observed level of significance. It may reject the null hypothesis ($H_0$) that ‘annual income of sericulturists does not differ in the four districts’ so that ‘there is no significant difference in the annual income levels earned from sericulture industries’ is not statistically true. Rejection of this hypothesis
is confirmed at 1% level of significance and also the annual income of sericulturists from all sources is highly significantly varied in the four districts under consideration. Applying Post-Hoc test (Tukey method), each pair wise comparisons consisting of Imphal East is found to be statistically significant (P<0.05) in the sense that except Imphal East, other pair combinations of the other three districts are observed to be insignificant at 5% probability level (P>0.05). Also the similar pattern of variation in the entrepreneurs’ annual income level from all sources is also found according to districts and therefore sericulture industry is most suitably running in Imphal East district among the four districts in Manipur.

5.2.34 The income generated from sericulture is visibly higher relating to the industries run by individual (Rs.30,487 ± 48,027) than that of industries run by Association/ Organization (Rs.18,923 ± 14,244). Also the annual income from all sources is found to be significantly varied with the status of sericulture (P<0.05). It is much higher, Rs.47,872 ± 63,608 relating to sericulture industries run by individual than that of industries run by Association or Organization, Rs.20,685 ± 14,996. It interprets that the income derived from sericulture industries has significant contribution to the family annual income. The
null hypothesis that ‘there is no difference in annual family income from all sources according to different status of sericulture industries working in the family’ is rejected so that annual income from all sources of the family having sericulture industries of any type is solely depends on the status of industries.

5.2.35 In the present analysis, income from sericulture is higher (P<0.01) in the industries run by male entrepreneur (Rs.45,536±71,510) than that of industries run by female entrepreneur (Rs.19,595±414,234). The variation in the family income from sericulture is highly significant (P<0.01) with respect to sex of the sericulturists. Also the significantly higher (P<0.01) income to male farmer is observed to be Rs.64,141±96,725 than that of female counterpart say Rs.29,514±17,490. Thus, the null hypothesis that ‘there is no difference in income levels generated from sericulture industries and that of from all sources according to type of sericulture’ is rejected. We may therefore conclude that family income among the sericulturists under study is significantly influenced by gender of sericulture entrepreneurs in the study population.
5.2.36 The income level due to sericulture industries is significantly varied with educational levels of the sericulturists (P< 0.05). But, income from all sources according to four categories of educational levels is not significantly different (P>0.05). These dissimilar results might have been the outcome of joint effects of other factors under study which can not be controlled in the present analysis. Apart from the statistical significance, family income is directly associated with the income earned from the sericulture industries due to the educational achievement. In this analysis, the null hypothesis that the annual income of the sericulturists can not be influenced by their educational level is rejected (P<0.05). It may be interpreted that success of sericulture industries is significantly related with the educational level of sericulture entrepreneurs in the sense that sericulture industries have more profits as the educational levels are relatively high.

5.2.37 Apart from statistical significance, the annual income is visibly highest in farmer i.e. Rs.27,912 ± 46,390 followed by realer, Rs.24,500 ± 19,788 and the lowest income earned in weaver groups which is Rs.22,540 ± 16,250. The highest income corresponding to farmer is also found to be Rs.42,489 ± 62,572 followed by realer, Rs.31,833 ± 20,692 and lowest one is observed to be Rs.27,650 ± 16,803 to weaver. Hence,
the null hypothesis that 'there is no difference in income levels generated from sericulture industries and from all sources according to type of sericulture' is accepted and therefore we may conclude that the annual income of sericulturists can not be influenced significantly by types of sericulture. In this way, period of sericulture industries, religion, size of family, age at start of the sericulture industries, earlier occupation of the sericulturists etc. can not influence their annual income in Manipur particularly in the four districts under study.

5.3 Suggestions

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy providing food, materials and employment to the largest section (70%) of the population. But it has reached a saturation point where it can not absorb any more labour force due to limited productive land resources. That is where sericulture comes into picture as a model agro based industry. It can absorb surplus population, mitigating migration and promoting handloom and export sector. The following suggestions are made after interactions with stake-holders of sericulture in Manipur as part of the compilation of this study.
5.3.1 Amongst all countries, India has the unique favourable environmental condition for both multi voltile and bivoltine silk worms. All four types of silk: Mulberry, Muga, Eri & Tasar are favourable produces. India is second largest producer of raw silk with market share of 15.7% after China which is having 81.89%. Indian handloom fabric has good global demand. India is very well known for its finished products. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir are the five traditional states accounting for around 90% of total production. It is suggested that Manipur should enter this club by scientifically producing/procuring silkworm races adopted for the Manipur climate. Farmers should get the benefit and other incentives.

5.3.2 Sericulture helps in maintenance of biological diversity by conservation of forest and agricultural eco-system. It does not compete with other farming systems for resources nor involve very sophisticated machinery. Luring new farmers to sericulture cultivation should be a priority state policy so that the forest cover is not destroyed by bad effects of jhum cultivation (cultivation of forest area by burning forest cover).

5.3.3 Bye products of sericulture as useful economic dividends that help alleviate poverty. The Chinese and Japanese have been using silkworm
powder as health rejuvenator. The Koreans also followed suit. From old
texts they gathered information on the medicinal values of silk worm and
bye-products. The later is required for setting up pharmaceutical,
cosmetic and animal feed industries. So far there is no such industry in
Manipur. Motivation and entrepreneurship development programmes for
entrepreneurs to take up such ancillary units are required.

5.3.4 Stem and dry trunks of mulberry tree is also used as fuel. The
excreta of silkworm and left over mulberry leaves are used as fodder for
animals and manure for plants. Awareness should be spread among
farmers for such beneficial bye-products.

5.3.5 Sericulture should be made popular among the new profession of
young and educated people. Earlier it was a cottage industry. Now it is
the preferred industry as compared to other cash crops that yield low
returns. Many vocational self employment schemes for sericulture should
be offered in the institutes under Manipur University. NGOs and Self
Help Groups should be encouraged to take up this new business. Fruitful
research work by different silk boards and institutes, sharing of ideas
among themselves and farmers is recommended.
5.3.6 In Manipur there is no mulberry cultivation in private sector with proper irrigation facilities. It is suggested that proper scientific irrigation methods for water saving like drip irrigation during water scarcity be adopted. Farmers should be trained accordingly to bring best yield in mulberry cultivation of improved and high yielding variety.

5.3.7. It is accepted that Sericulture Department, Govt. of Manipur and Central Silk Board are providing all efforts and supports in the following fields:

1. Increase the number of families practicing sericulture.
2. Supply of Chawki silk worms to the farmers at subsidized rate.
3. Development of mulberry gardens and distribution of high yielding mulberry saplings to the farmers.
5. Capacity building of the farmers.
6. Assistance for construction of rearing sheds.
7. Supply of tools and equipments.
8. Incentives for setting up of reeling units and
9. Marketing support.
There will be a quantum jump in the sericulture activity in the state if an all out effort is made to cover the non-traditional areas in the hill districts where ample unused land is available. Moreover selection of the farmers and beneficiaries should be done to the deserving individuals.

5.3.8 Traditionally in day to day activities Manipuri women have been hailed as the front-runner in all spheres of life. Sericulture industry as a whole requires flexibility in the organization of place and time of work. Women are best suited to take the leading role as they are mostly confined in and around the household. They perform daily household chores yet they are involved in silk worm rearing in flexible times. The need to support the family financially propels them to this industry as a means and source of independent income for themselves. Nearly 60% of labour requirement is provided by women. Moreover sericulture does not require great skill but only delicacy in handling of worms. Women are ideally suitable for this job. In the weaving and reeling sector Manipuri women are already well known for their traditional skills. It is suggested that exclusive women oriented capacity building programmes be organised so that more women folk are attracted to this profitable industry.
5.3.9. Despite having enormous potential, Silk industry in Manipur is facing many problems. They are:

1. Lack of good breed silk worm resulting in poor quality silk. Domestic market even prefers importing superior silk yarn. There is need to improve in the following thrust areas:
   a) Adoption of improved technologies
   b) Disease control measures
   c) Improvement in mulberry gardens to produce good quality leaves.
   d) Proper mountages/trays.
   e) Pricing system based on quality.
   f) Use of young silk worms.

There is need to encourage local specific research on how to improve soil fertility. It will result in the form of a chain reaction in soil productivity, mulberry and non-mulberry plant production, silk worm cocoon production and increase in area under silk plant production. A comparison of Bivoltine and Multivoltine silk is given as:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bivoltine silk</th>
<th>Multivoltine silk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Sturdier and used by power loom industry.</td>
<td>Weak and used for cottage silk industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Production is labour intensive requiring constant supervision</td>
<td>Less supervision and labour input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Only 5% of the silk produced is bivoltine.</td>
<td>Remaining are multivoltine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Yield is two crops per year</td>
<td>Four to six crops per year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now as per the comparison above it is observed that.

In order to compete in the global market bivoltine silk for the power loom industry need to be encouraged. Farmers should be given proper incentive to switch from multivoltine to bivoltine silk production. The selling price of bivoltine silk should be leveraged and raised to encourage the switch. At the same time the handloom sector should not suffer. They must get their sufficient quality of multivoltine silk yarn.

5.3.10 The administrative loop-holes responsible for the slow growth of silk industry in Manipur are:

1. Lack of technology transfer from land to lab through research and development. Though some progress is being observed there is need to accelerate the transfer.
2. Less effort to increase area coverage of silk leaf plants.
3. Fragmented and ad-hoc approach.
4. Lack of involvement of private partners.
5. Lack of proper implementation of schemes.

Some suggestive thrust areas are

a) The silk industry has different stake-holders with different needs. A balance of their needs is to be maintained. Farmers want the import of raw silk to be restricted. They want anti-dumping measures to be taken up so that cheap Chinese raw silk is not allowed to enter the country. Whereas exporters and weavers feel that anti-dumping duty should be withdrawn so that supply of yarn is assured and they are able to export/produce competitive silk products in the global market.

b) Increase in non-mulberry silk production is also required. India being the only non-mulberry producing country has the unique advantage to increase its value added export. However, consistency and increase in its production is very much needed.
c) Quality based pricing should be maintained

d) Horizontal expansion of cultivable area is limited. Vertical expansion through productivity increase by advanced technology and skilled manpower is the mantra of the future growth of silk industry. New sericulture technology reduces production risks and increases yield/unit area.

5.4 Conclusion

The Agreement on Textile and Clothing (ATC) in 1994 has eliminated textiles and clothing quota restrictions from developing countries by 1st January 1995. It means that silk industry is now competitive for share in global market. Literally, Manipur Silk industry cannot sit idle in its own cocoon. It has to breakout and complete globally. Quantum jump in economic gain from growth of export in one hand and inadequate healthcare, education, training and credit facilities in the other hamper the welfare of workers mostly women in the industry. The Manipur Sericulture Project and other projects of the Sericulture Department aim at mitigating such negative aspects.

The North-East and Manipur in this context being located in a remote part of the country with minimum infrastructure have location
specific problems such as non-availability of good yarn as and when required due to various problems like frequent blockades and poor condition of national highways. A sympathetic central Government and a committed state Government is the need of the hour. Moreover, exemplary work culture among the stake-holders in the silk industry in Manipur is very much required. The South East Asian nations should be role models. We are optimistic that with all these hurdles being overcome Manipur Sericulture industry has a bright future in the global market, bringing economic resurgence and growth to the people.