PREFACE

Sericulture is a labour-intensive industry. It plays an important role in generating gainful employment opportunities to the rural folk. It plays a vital role in transferring wealth from richer sections of the society to poorer sections. Silk is consumed mostly by the affluent and the money so spent by them on the purchase of silk is distributed among the sericulturists, reeler's, twistlers, weavers and traders, majority of whom belong to the economically retarded sections of the society, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as adivasis (Tribals).

Sericulture today is a well-established agro-based cottage industry. India occupies second position in the production of silk in the world. Andhra Pradesh hitherto considered to be a no-traditional area, has achieved the distinction of being the second largest mulberry silk producing State, next only to Karnataka. Prakasam District is noted for sericulture and occupies the fifth place in the State in respect of sericulture.

However, cultivation-practice of sericulture industry is not free from problems. There are several production, finance and marketing problems which require immediate attention. Hence, there is a need to study these problems in detail.
In undertaking this study, an attempt has been made to analyse and review empirically, the development of Sericulture industry in Andhra Pradesh with special reference to Prakasam District. The efficacy of Government schemes in the promotion of sericulture industry in Prakasam District has also been reviewed.

The study is confined to the Prakasam District in Andhra Pradesh. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The main source of data, however, is field investigations carried out by the scholar.

The study has brought to light the inadequacies in production, finance and marketing of the produce of sericulturists i.e. reeling cocoons and provided an empirical basis for offering specific suggestions for around development of sericulture industry. It is hoped that this study would supplement the available knowledge on sericulture industry.