PREFACE

The development of rural areas is one of the principal problems engaging the attention of policy makers, planners and administrators of the country. Means, methods and programmes have to be extended to encompass the rural problems and strategies should be adopted to achieve rural development without much capital costs. It is in this respect that the sericulture industry in India is recognized as one of the instruments of economic and social change. Sericulture industry not only provides employment for sericulture labours but also generates agro-based industries i.e., cottage industries and income making possible the utilization of available land resources.

An attempt is made to study sericulture development with the main objective to assess the working of sericulture farmers, labours, cottage industries and to analyse their problems and weaknesses which would help in formulating a policy for sericulture development. For the purpose of this study, the sericulture industry in Anantapur district during the nine years period from 1991-1992 to 1999-2000 have been examined.

The proposed study is divided into five chapters. The design of the study and related issues are discussed in the first chapter. The second chapter concerns itself with appraising the sericulture industry. The third chapter deals with the sericulture industry in
Andhra Pradesh. The fourth chapter deals with the sericulture industry in Anantapur district. Findings and conclusions are dealt in the last chapter.

(M. DARAGAIAH)

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