



Mera Resham Mera Abhiman (MRMA) a sericulture technology transfer campaign in Udhampur district of J&K

Amardev Singh

Scientist-C & Incharge, SSPC,
NSSO, CSB, Udhampur, J&K



Open Access

*Corresponding Author
Amardev Singh *

Article History

Received: 25. 9.2025

Revised: 30. 9.2025

Accepted: 4. 10.2025

This article is published under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

INTRODUCTION

Around 5000 commercial and seed rearers are practicing sericulture in district Udhampur. Through grassroots involvement, the "Mera Resham Mera Abhiman" initiative represents a revolutionary step towards strengthening the sericulture sector in Udhampur district where sericulture is one of the profitable enterprise for rural people. Under the Mera Resham Mera Abhiman (MRMA) CSB-SSPC, NSSO, Central Silk Board Udhampur in collaboration with Sericulture Dev.Department, Udhampur organized awareness programmes, training programmes, field demonstrations and field visit under different productive sericulture areas of Udhampur district. The details of sericulture villages selected for effective implementation of Mera Resham Mera Abhiman campaign for sericulture technology transfer is listed as under;

Name of the Programme	Type of ECP	Sericulture villages selected	No. of famers Covered
Awareness programme on Silkworm Rearing Techniques	Awareness Programme	Village Bassan	51
Awareness programme on Importance of pruning for tree plantations	Awareness Programme	Village Suntha	51
Awareness programme Cocoon harvesting and handling	Awareness Programme	Village Barmeen	50
Awareness programme on Successful conduct of autumn rearing	Awareness Programme	Village- Ramnagar	55
Awareness programme on Host Plant Cultivation Practices & Management	Awareness Programme	Village- Chanunta	50
Total farmer covered under Awareness Programme			307
Training programme on Rearing house disinfection & Hygiene	Training programme	Village –Thill	33
Training programme on Silkworm disease management particularly grasserie and Flacherie	Training programme	Village Crowa	30
Training programme on Mounting of mature silkworms, mounting care and usage of plastic collapsible mountage	Training programme	Village Barta	34
Total farmer covered under training Programme			97
Demonstrations on adoption of shoot rearing method and usage of plastic collapsible mountage	Field demonstration	Village Hartaryan	50
Demonstration on Application of FYM and NPK for tree plantations	Field demonstration	Village – Magaote	50
Total farmer covered under field demonstrations			100
Interaction with Farmers	Field visit	Village-Dalpad	31
Interaction with Farmers	Field visit	Village- Shvinnagar	28
Total farmer interacted during field visit			59

Baseline Survey, SWOT Analysis and preparation of action plan of district Udhampur

A complete baseline survey & SWOT analysis was done to identify challenges and gaps existing and based on the baseline survey an action plan was prepared for conducting awareness programme, training programme and field demonstration etc., under Mera Resham Mera Abhiman (MRMA) in district Udhampur. SWOT analysis was undertaken with the assistance of Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur for effective formulation of action plan for conducting awareness programme, training programme and field demonstration. Strength, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis highlights an overview of sericulture status in district Udhampur and to identifies all the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for effective planning before initiating the programmes.

SWOT Analysis of district Udhampur

Strengths

- ✓ Low cost investment in the initial production process.
- ✓ Comparatively shorter gestation period and higher returns on investment comparison to other agriculture crops under rainfed condition.
- ✓ Climatic suitable for sericulture farming.
- ✓ Governmental assistance, support and incentive in almost all activities of sericulture.
- ✓ Availability of land favorable for mulberry cultivation.
- ✓ Sufficient availability of family labor.
- ✓ Flourishing and profitable form of entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Provided a supplementary source of income to poor communities involved in sericulture.
- ✓ The climate, geography and socio-economic conditions of Udhampur district is highly suitable for mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing.
- ✓ Conditions here are highly favorable for bivoltine silkworm rearing.

Weakness

- ✓ Lack of technology, training and techniques to improve sericulture practices in Udhampur.
- ✓ Productivity and efficiency of cocoon yield in Udhampur is very low at F1 level per 100 Dfls.

- ✓ Farmers in Udhampur are using old methods of silkworm rearing and mulberry cultivation and harvesting. Due to this, farmers having low cocoon productivity.
- ✓ Farmers are also facing problems when they want to sell their dry cocoons crop.
- ✓ Lack of quality based pricing system in the market, frequent price fluctuations while selling dry cocoons crop.
- ✓ Gaps in technology transfer and extension support.
- ✓ Production is unorganized and scattered.
- ✓ Land fragmentation.
- ✓ Insufficient infrastructure for farmers.

Opportunities:

- ✓ Source of employment in rural areas of Udhampur district.
- ✓ Better scope for the increment in production and productivity.
- ✓ Majority of rural people having T.V and radio as a mean of communication. So, awareness among farmers can be created by increasing the programs related to new sericulture techniques through T.V and radio. These programs should be telecasted in regional languages
- ✓ Scope for refinement/up gradation of existing technology.
- ✓ Establishing the Cluster in the mulberry cultivation areas like Ghordi, Ramnagar, Udhampur mulberry circles where mulberry cultivation is most suited.
- ✓ Imperative to strengthen the indigenous seed production on modern scientific lines with the active of CSB-SSPC, Udhampur.
- ✓ More interest of sericulture farmers towards sericulture farming.
- ✓ Low investment and simple technology to initiate sericulture practices.
- ✓ Give more income compare to other agriculture crops

Threats

- ✓ Climate change/threat in near future.
- ✓ Inappropriate rearing sheds for rearing of silkworms.
- ✓ Mortality rate of silkworms is very high in both cocoons crop (spring & autumn).
- ✓ Lack of technology, training and techniques to improve sericulture practices in Udhampur.
- ✓ Lack of expertise.
- ✓ Comparatively cheaper cocoons rate from other sericulture states.

Awareness Programmes under MRMA

In sericulture, particularly in states like Jammu and Kashmir where sericulture is practiced as a subsidiary occupation, technology adoption has been a growing concern for years. Making sericulture sustainable is now so vital that it is included in all sericulture programmes, schemes, etc. However, sericulture farmers in J&K eventually decide individually the practices they implement. This is why farmers play a central role in ensuring a sustainable sericulture system, which results from farmers' knowledge and expectations. Under the Mera Resham Mera Abhiman (MRMA) aims to aware the sericulture farmers about the sericulture technologies and motivate them to adopt sericulture technologies in different aspects for increasing the cocoons yield and also to bridge the gap between the real production and actual potential of cocoons production in the selected sericulture villages.

Under the MRMA, 05 awareness programme was conducted in five different sericulture villages with the active support of Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur to aware the sericulture farmers about the sericulture technologies.

An Awareness Program on "Silkworm Reaning Technique" was conducted at Village-Bassan by CSB-SSPC, Udhampur with the active support of SDD, Udhampur on 28.07.2028. A folder on valuable tips for successful silkworm rearing was distributed to each farmers. The programme was attended by 51 farmers. During the programme, farmers were made aware of the bivoltine silkworm rearing techniques, importance of pre and post disinfection, silkworms disease management and right time of harvesting of cocoons crop and safe preservation till marketing of dry cocoons crop. Dr. Amardev

Singh, Scientist-C & Incharge, SSPC, Udhampur, brief farmers about the quality leaves production, use of bed disinfection at right time and emphasized them to use plastic collapsible mountages rather than locally accessible pants materials for obtaining quality cocoons and thereby fetching better price in dry cocoon market. In addition, Dr. Amardev Singh, Scientist-C, SSPC, Udhampur based on field problems and gap existing he emphasize farmers under the programme to plants improved mulberry varieties like S-146 or S1635 for enhancing their mulberry wealth which in turn intake capacity of dfls, adoption of plastic collapsible mountage for mounting of matured worms and ensure proper sorting out dry cocoons before marketing. Sh. Hans Raj, Mulberry Circle Incharge, Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur-J, Udhampur aware the farmers about the importance of pre and post disinfection in rearing and also advised farmers to pay serious attention in the disinfection operation before and after silkworm rearing. A practical demo was held in between the programme know how to prepare the exact room disinfection solution. Sh. Sanjay Kumar, STA, SSPC, Udhampur gave some valuable tips to farmers about bivoltine silkworm rearing. There was an interactive session with the farmers during the programme. During the interaction with the farmers some farmers shared their experienced that by planting improved mulberry variety their mulberry wealth has increased and also intake capacity of dfls and also advised that more awareness progamme as well as training programme for farmers are to be held in regular basis. While interacting farmers few more farmers highlights their problems regarding silkworm rearing and valuable tips for improving the cocoon quality were given to them.



Awareness Programme at sericulture village-Bassan Under MRMA

An Awareness Programme on “Importance of pruning for tree plantations” at Village- Suntha was conducted with the active support of SDD, Udhampur on 31.07.2025. A total of 51 farmers attended the awareness programme. The awareness programme was mainly focus to aware the farmers about the benefits and techniques of pruning mulberry tree type plantations to attain quality mulberry leaves thereby quality cocoons production at field level. Dr. Amardev Singh, Scientist-C & Incharge, SSPC, Udhampur aware the farmers about the significance of pruning mulberry tree plantations at right time, maintain of tree plantations height, spacing to be followed under mulberry tree plantations and applying of FYM/NPK as per age

of mulberry tree plantations for attaining quality mulberry leaves and also stresses planting of improved mulberry varieties supply by DOS, Udhampur, J&K. A practical demonstration was also given regarding how to prune the tree type mulberry plants. Sh. Rajiv Kumar, Incharge of Mulberry circle, Udhampur, Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur also explained in details about the impact of pruning the mulberry tree for achieving quality mulberry leaves and its nutrient management. Sh. Madan Lal, Sarpanch of Panchayat Village-Suntha who is also sericulture farmer shared his valuable experience on sericulture farming and stresses the farmers to practice sericulture activities on scientific lines for better cocoon productivity.



Awareness Programme at sericulture village-Suntha Under MRMA

An Awareness Programme on "Cocoon harvesting and handling" was successfully conducted at Village-Barmeen by CSB-SSPC, Udhampur with the active support of SDD, Udhampur on 18.08.2025 under MRMA. A total of 50 farmers of hilly belt actively participated despite continuous rain. The awareness

programme mainly focus to aware the farmers about precautionary measures to be taken right from spinning till harvesting of cocoons, drying of cocoons, safe preservation and till marketing of dry cocoons to get better price in dry cocoon market, which is one of the areas where farmers lack suffice knowledge.



Awareness Programme at sericulture village-Barmeen Under MRMA

On 01.09.2025 CSB-SSPC, Udhampur successfully conducted awareness programme at Village-Ramnagar with the active support of Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur under MRMA on “Successful conduct of autumn rearing”. A total of 55 farmers including 52 women farmers both F1 & P1, mulberry circle Incharge & field staff participated. Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist, SSPC, Central Silk Board

Udhampur gave valuable information to farmers right from disinfection, maintenance of temperature and humidity during autumn rearing, hygiene maintenance, use of improved mountages for spinning and harvesting of cocoons crop at right time. Further, he also gave very valuable tips to farmers to make the autumn silkworm crop successful which is the 2nd silkworm rearing carry out by the farmers.



Awareness Programme at sericulture village-Ramnagar Under MRMA

On 08.09.2025 an awareness programme on “Host Plant Cultivation Practices and its management” was conducted at Mulberry Circle Ghordi under the village- Chanunta under MRMA in coordination with Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur. A total of 50 farmers actively participated in awareness programme. Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist-C, CSB-SSPC, Udhampur enlighten the farmers about “Host Plant Cultivation Practices and its management”. During the programme different sort of queries were raised by the farmers regarding host plant cultivations practices and on spot solution

pertaining to their queries were given. In addition, Sh. Mohd Salim, Mulberry circle Incharge, Gordi, SDD, Udhampur also brief the farmers about “Host Plant Cultivation Practices and its management. Under the programme, informative materials (pamphlets) were distributed among farmers in bilingual. While returning a small visit of two farmers plantations site was undertaken and on spot advice was given to them for maintaining the proper shape of newly planted saplings of improved mulberry variety (S-146).





Awareness Programme at sericulture village-Chanunta Under MRMA Training Programmes under MRMA

One essential component for the quick spread of sericulture technologies is farmer training. The existing rate of cocoons production can be improved if the farmers adopt the sericulture technologies and to motivate the farmers regular training programmes focusing more and more on new technologies need to be conducted. In this context, training plays an important role to the farming community in boosting their cocoons production. Training for the farmer proved to be a significant input in accelerating cocoons production. Under the MRMA three sericulture villages were selected and training was imparted in different aspects of sericulture technologies.

On 14.08.2025 SSPC, Udhampur has successfully conducted farmer training

programme under the “Mera Resham Mera Abhiman” in village-Roun in coordination with the Department of Sericulture, Udhampur. Despite, heavy rain 33 farmers actively participated in training programme. The training focused on the ideal rearing house, importance of pre and post disinfection and hygiene maintenance for successful harvest of cocoons crop. The training programme conducted with a visit to newly constructed rearing house under HADP scheme where a practical demonstration know how to measure areas for the preparation of actual quantity of disinfection solution as well as preparation of disinfection solution was given to all participated farmers.



Training Programme at sericulture village-Roun Under MRMA

On 20.08.2025 a training programme was successfully conducted at Village-Crowa under mulberry circle Udhampur-J on “Silkworm disease management particularly Grasserie and Flacherie” under MRMA in coordination with Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur. A total of 30 farmers actively participated under the

training programme. A group discussion was held after completion of training programme and all participated farmers shown full satisfaction and happily expressed their views that more training programme need to be conducted for up gradation of their knowledge and skills.



Training Programme at sericulture village-Crowa Under MRMA

On 23.08.2025 CSB-SSPC, Udhampur successfully conducted training programme at Village-Barta with the active support of Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur under MRMA on “Mounting of mature silkworms, mounting care and usage of plastic collapsible mountages”. A total of 34 sericulture farmers and field staff, SDD, Udhampur participated under the training programme. The training programme primarily focused on identification of matured

silkworms at right time, mounting of matured silkworm, mounting care and usage of plastic collapsible mountage instead of local accessible plants materials for spinning. A practical demonstrations was carried out under the training programme where farmers were showcased know how to use usage plastic collapsible mountages during self-mounting of matured silkworms by Dr.Amardev Singh.



Training Programme at sericulture village-Barta Under MRMA Field demonstrations of sericulture technologies under MRMA

Under field demonstrations sericulture farmers can learn how new silkworm hybrids, mulberry varieties, systematic mulberry plantations, etc., can improve their productivity and output by comparing them to existing practices through in-field demonstrations.

A Field demonstration was carried under MRMA in coordination with Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur at Village-Hartaryan under the Mulberry Circle Ghordi on 02.08.2025. A total of 50 farmers actively participated in

field demonstrations. The field demonstration was mainly focus on adoption of shoot rearing method and usage of plastic collapsible mountage over conventional use of local accessible dry plants materials as mountages for mounting of matured silkworms. Thorough demonstrations on advantages of shoot feeding method over leaf feedings and usage of plastic collapsible mountage for spinning was given to farmers participated.



Field demonstration of sericulture technologies under MRMA at sericulture village-Hartaryan

On 26.08.2025 a field demonstrations was successfully conducted at Village-Magaote under Mera Resham Mera Abhimaan by Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist-C,SSPC, NSSO, CSB, Udhampur on “ Application of FYM and NPK for tree mulberry plantation” in coordination with Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur. A total of 50 farmers benefitted from field demonstrations. The field demonstration mainly focused on use of FYM and NPK for tree

mulberry plantations and planting of improved mulberry varieties by following recommended spacing of tree mulberry plantations at farmers level. In addition, farmers also aware about the benefits of intercropping with tree mulberry plantations for doubling of income. Under the field demonstrations posters were also displayed to effectively communicate the concept of mulberry plantations spacing, intercropping, cultivation of improved mulberry variety.



Field demonstration of sericulture technologies under MRMA at sericulture village-Magaote Field visit at farmers field under MRMA

On 06.09.2025 under Meri Resham Mera Abhiman a National wide campaign a field visit was conducted at Village- Dalpad by Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist,CSB- SSPC, Udhampur along with senior technical assistant, two field staff, Sericulture Dev.Department, Udhampur interacted a total of 31 farmers (P1 & F1) while interacting with individual farmer Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist gave very valuable tips to farmers about tree type mulberry cultivation practices, pest and disease

management, Importance of FYM/ vermicompost application for tree plantations, self-preparation of compost and vermicompost by utilizing waste materials, importance for planting improved mulberry variety like S-146, S-1635 for increasing mulberry wealth. During field visit pamphlets were also distributed to each farmer about the sericulture technologies related to silkworm rearing, disease management and mulberry cultivation practices.



Field visit at farmers field under MRMA at sericulture village-Dalpad

On 09.09.2025 CSB-SSPC, NSSO, CSB, Udhampur along with Sericulture Dev. Department, Udhampur conducted a field visit at village-Shivnagar under Mera Resham Mera Abhimaa . A team comprises of Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist-C, CSB-SSPC, Udhampur along with two senior technical assistants and two staff members of SDD, Udhampur interacted with 28 farmers at village-shivnagar. While interacting with farmers Dr.Amardev Singh, Scientist-C

gave valuable information know how to attain/harvest quality mulberry leaves from tree type plantations by adopting nutrient management approach by applying self-generated FYM/compost/vermicompost. Information on pests and mulberry diseases management were also given to farmers under the field visit. Under the field visit, informative materials (pamphlets) were distributed among farmers in bilingual.



Field visit at farmers field under MRMA at sericulture village-Shivnagar

CONCLUSION

Involving farmers from several sericulture villages in the Udhampur district, the "Mera Resham Mera Abhiman" campaign is a ground-breaking step towards transfer of sericulture technologies. Through the implementation of various extension communication programmes real-time feedback

was obtained regarding the gaps in the farmers' community's adoption of sericulture technologies, research needs, and areas that require improvement in relation to mulberry cultivation practices, disease management, and silkworm rearing technique etc.