At the end of the larval stage, silk larvae develop unique characteristics to indicate that they are ready to start spinning cocoons. These include a colour change from white to a translucent-opaque colour, no feeding, and loss of body mass. This is the stage where they are ready to start spinning cocoons. These include a colour change from white to a translucent-opaque colour, no feeding, and loss of body mass. This is the stage where they are ready to start spinning cocoons. These include a colour change from white to a translucent-opaque colour, no feeding, and loss of body mass. This is the stage where they are ready to start spinning cocoons. These include a colour change from white to a translucent-opaque colour, no feeding, and loss of body mass. This is the stage where they are ready to start spinning cocoons.
Silk larvae farming using farm-based sericulture (FBS) of Bombyx mori can provide income-generating activities, such as sericulture, to supplement their income. Where ecological conditions are favourable, farmers can adopt agriculture concurrently with farm-based sericulture. Mulberry is grown using the vegetative plant parts, direct to the farm or in nursery beds. A minimum one acre of mulberry is recommended for initiating FBS (silk production). The larval sericulture (silkworm) is an important insect for farm-based sericulture (silk production). The larval silkworm moults four times by casting its larval shell, which provides a protective covering for embryonic development. An ideal rearing house should ensure recommended temperature and relative humidity of 26°C and 80%, with a cycle of 12 hours light: 12 hours dark so that 98% of the eggs hatch. Egg incubation

Egg incubation

Purchase silkworm eggs from high yielding bivoltine Bombyx mori hybrids sourced from a reputable silkworm egg production granary, where the eggs are stored at 3°C. Prior to incubation and supply to farmers, eggs are removed from the cold storage and brought to room temperature. These eggs should be transported to the rearing farm during the cool hours of the day, to avoid drying out. Eggs are incubated at 20 – 22°C for 5 days and 25 – 26°C for another 4 – 5 days at a relative humidity of 80%, with a cycle of 12 hours light, 12 hours dark so that 98% of the silkworm eggs hatch. They are placed in a black box or covered with black paper, 24 hours before hatching, to ensure uniform embryonic growth. On the day of hatching, eggs are exposed to light. Egg incubation

Raising Bombyx mori larvae

A rearing house, either of mud or wood, which is at least 25 x 20 x 10 feet, with adequate ventilation, is required for rearing the silkworm. The house should have the capacity to hold 2 to 3 boxes of silkworm larvae. The rearing equipment includes three-tier rearing boxes, bingam (tray boxes) for rearing, measuring sticks, bingam boxes, and baskets for collecting the leaves, chafing a (leather cloth) (4 x 3 x 2 feet), and ant wells to protect the larvae. A high level of hygiene is required inside the house; and a disinfector (3% solution of formalin and lime powder) is sprinkled on the floor before initiating rearing. In the first year, if the farm is favourable, one cycle of silkworm rearing is possible. As one gains experience, 4 to 5 rearing cycles per year are achievable. Egg incubation

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Young age silkworm rearing is the period until the third instar. When the larvae hatch, they are brushed with a fine feather onto a rearing tray, and fed on chopped young tender mulberry leaves with a high moisture content. The trays are covered with polythene film to retain moisture, and the rearing house should be kept cool. Young age rearing

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