



### **34. Low Cost Rearing Hut Technology for Silkworm rearing**

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#### **Description of Technology**

Technology addresses the problem of insufficient rearing space available with the farmers by way of fabricating low cost rearing huts from locally available affordable material. The size of the hut is 15ft x 12ft x 8ft having three tiers internally. Externally it is fitted with a door of size 3ft x 6ft made of wood shutter with traditional latches. For more equitable distribution of heat within the hut, they are made more long than wide. The floor of the hut is smoothly plastered with mud and straw paste (kachcha floor). Roof is made of medium sized logs of bamboo/willow/poplar trees covered with locally available paddy grass/typha grass etc so that the temperature could be easily maintained at required level. For proper air circulation, the huts are covered with gunny cloth over which another cover of poly sheet is kept so that the temperature is maintained easily and could be easily rolled and lifted to lower down the temperature as and when required. Since it is not possible for the poor rearers to install thermostatically controlled air-heating or air-cooling devices, they are demonstrated the easy way to maintain temperature and humidity inside the huts by burning *sigerres* (fire pots) and by hanging wet gunny cloth on the doors respectively. The hut provides space for rearing 50 dfls of silkworm seed with adequate arrangements for maintaining proper rearing conditions with a capacity to produce 50 Kgs of cocoons per



#### **Impact**

The technology has addressed the problem of inadequate rearing space available with the silkworm rearers of Kashmir valley. Low cost rearing huts were designed and fabricated near the farmers residential houses. With this technology at their door steps the farmers are able to conduct rearing hygienically resulting in their socio-economic upliftment.

#### **Commercial Applicability**

An average cocoon yield of 50 Kgs/ounce of silkworm seed was harvested from these huts as against the 26 Kgs of cocoons harvested from the same quantum of silkworm seed reared inside the dwelling house. The cocoons harvested from the low cost rearing huts were sold @ 850/Kg which resulted in the income augmentation of silkworm rearers to a considerable extent.