

35. Development of new mountages for proper cocooning

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Description of Technology

The rotary mountage is made up of pieces of cardboard which are assembled in a checker board pattern. Generally, a piece of such frame has 13 rows, consisting of 12 sections, each totalling 156 sections. The standard size of the frame made of card board paper is 55cm long, 40 cm wide and 3 cm deep. This frame can be folded when not in use. Ten such card board frames are attached to a separate wooden frame made of thin pieces of square wood having a cross-section size of about 1×2 cm. Size of the wooden frame is about 120×58×44cm, to which 10 card board frames are attached with an interval of 8 cms. At both the ends, the longer and short axis are fixed. Although the rotary mountage has a capacity of mounting 1560 worms for seriposition but only about 75-80% of the space available is used for seri-position.As the number of worms is more, they need some space for manoeuvring before they settle for seri-position in the rectangular hole provided in the mountage. After mounting nearly 1200 worms in a single rotary mountage, these are hung up with wire holding both ends, the frame can be turned around on two axes. Harvesting from these frames is done by using a wooden harvester which was also made locally by using wood.

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Impact

The main advantage of this mount-age is that minimum number of double, urinated and stained cocoon are formed. Due to ample aeration, the cocoons get dried uniformly on all sides, due to which reliability of cocoons also gets improved which fetches good returns to the farmer for his/her produce.

Commercial Applicability

All the above mount-ages were evaluated and an excellent cocooning percentage (93.27 to 95.56%) was achieved which resulted in minimising the cocoon crop loss suffered on account of faulty mounting materials which ultimately helped the farmers realize the full monetary benefits of their efforts during the course of silkworm rearing.