

## SERICULTURE: MEANING

- ❑ Sericulture is the silk producing agro-industry
- ❑ India is the second largest silk producing country in the world after china.
- Sericulture or silk farming is the rearing of silkworm for the production of silk
- Silk is known as queen of textile and biosteel because of its strength

## TYPES OF SILK

<u>SILK TYPE</u>	<u>SILKWORM</u>	<u>HOST PLANT</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
<b>Mulberry silk</b>	<i>Bombyx mori</i>	<i>Morus alba</i> <i>M. Indica</i> <i>M. Serrata</i> <i>M. Lattifolia</i>	<b>Europe</b> <b>China</b> <b>USA</b>
<b>Tropical tasar silk</b>	<i>Antheraea mylitta</i>	<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> (asan or yen) <i>T. Arjuna</i> (arjun) <i>Shorea robusta</i> (sal)	<b>Tropical forest zone ranging from Bihar Jharkhand to Karnataka</b>
<b>Temperate tasar silk</b>	<i>A. proylei</i> <i>A. roylei</i>	<i>Quercus serrata</i> (oak)	<b>Sub Himalayan region and n-eastern India</b>
<b>Muga silk</b>	<i>A. Assama</i>	<i>Machilus bombycina</i> (som) <i>Litsaea polyantha</i> (soalu)	<b>Brahmaputra valley</b>
<b>Eri or errandi silk</b>	<i>Philosamia ricini</i>	<i>Castor</i> , <i>Ricinus communis</i> (kesseru)	<b>Assam and eastern parts of India</b>

Order: Lepidoptera

**Mulberry silk moth**



**Tasar silk moth**



**Muga silk moth**



**Eri silk moth**

## AGRICULTURAL DIVISION

- This includes the cultivation of host plants
- Larval stage of silk moth feed on these plants
- Different plants required different conditions for their growth. Thus this division is actually the crucial step
- This is the beginning step for the sericulture

## CULTIVATION OF MULBERRY (MORICULTURE)

- Mulberry silkworm feeds on mulberry plants of genus *Morus*
- *M. alba* , *M. indica* , *M. serrata* , *M. latifolia*
- Alternate plants: sage, orange, lettuce, peepal
- Climatic conditions: temperate to tropical regions, 15-37°C, rainfall range 600-2500mm, altitude 300-900m above sea level
- Regions: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil nadu
- Mulberry is deep rooted perennial, grows well in loamy soil or red sandy loamy (murram)
- Seasons: plantation during early spring and late autumn with stem cuttings and root grafting.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL DIVISION

- This includes the rearing of silk moth.
- This is the most typical and time consuming process
- This required the complete knowledge of the life cycle of the interested silk moth, along with its morphology and anatomy.