

SERICULTURE STATUS, PROBLEMS, ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN ROMANIA

By

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- **In Romania there are very favorable climatic conditions for the sericulture development. The first mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing occurred in our country in the fourteenth century, first in Transylvania (1348 A.D.) and then in Banat. Basically, sericulture began to be spread in a larger scale over the Romanian lands in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the early twentieth century the first small factory for obtaining and selecting silkworm eggs was organized. After World War 1st, Romania largely organized and developed the sericulture by setting up new sericultural regions, as in Lugoj.**

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- **The city of Lugoj organized and natural silk processing factory, which still exists today as "Filseta Trading Company SA" as a result of sericulture extension in this region of the country. Romania is one of the founding members of the International Sericultural Commission in 1959. Production activity of biological material was held just within the company SERICAROM SA., equipped with equipment and plant material. In recent years it has been declining due to many reasons, one of them was the change of several company's directors who have led the company badly.**

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Currently huge efforts are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture and the present director for socio-economic rebalancing of this company. Although Romania has the resources and manpower that would be able to produce more than 5000 tons of fresh cocoons annually in recent years production has decreased, in terms of both silk production and mulberry plantations. A lot of reasons caused the fall of cocoon production: economic instability characteristic of the transition period to a market economy, low purchase prices of cocoons, cocoons imported at prices lower than those prevailing in the country etc..

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Romania has great development potential in sericulture, but must take measures to restore the field. Currently measures are necessary for the development of the private sector by attracting private farmers in sericultural activity. We have three possible ways to enhance the production of silk in Romania:

- 1. Traditional individual silkworm rearing;**
- 2. Centralized method with modern technology, using improved varieties of silkworm eggs and mulberry;**
- 3. Mixed methods of mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing in less favored areas, where climatic conditions allow, it is a well known fact that mulberry can acclimate to some unfriendly conditions.**

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- **Current social and economic situation of farmers in Romania and legislation, that European Commission cut the subsidy for the Romanian sericulturists made this branch of agriculture in a big decline in the recent years. Sericulture launch in Romania is possible by reorganizing the distribution of silkworm eggs, cocoons collected by a private company or by a professional association of silkworm breeders.**
- **The current sericultural activities in Romania are:**
- **- In Stefan cel Mare area there are several hectares cultivated with mulberry and having potential for silkworm rearing at a bigger scale;**

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- **The private company NICULESCU SRL, Valcea county, dealing with all the sericulture value chain from mulberry through silkworm rearing to production of woven silk handcrafts.**
- **SC SILKEST SRL village Bihor, Romanian Company formed an association in Italy, producing silk threads, founded in 2007, has over 60 employees and an annual turnover of 700,000 euros, which has a capacity of 25,000 kg / month processed silk. The entire production of the company is exported to Italy and sometimes in Austria**

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We could recommend:

Revitalization of sericulture activities in Romania by the superior biological resources and sericultural products available at the SC Sericarom S.A. Bucharest, even though located in a difficult economic situation, but currently managing national sericultural genetic resources.

- Supporting and developing the international relations of economic cooperation and scientific professionals in the sericulture with sericultural countries in Europe and Asia through development programs with grants.

Promotion of sericulture as a traditional activity in rural areas for artisanal crafts with high cultural and economic value, as a part of the national socio-cultural heritage, the beneficial impact on income of the residents of rural areas including the young generation.

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THANK YOU
very much for your attention!

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