**Success story**

**SHRI LILA BHUYAN – TRADITIONAL REARER AND MOTIVATOR TO YOUNGSTERS FOR MUGA INDUSTRY AT TUPIA, DISTRICT SONITPUR, ASSAM**

Shri Lila Bhuyan who is about 51 years old resident of Tupia village, District Sonitpur, Assam is today a role model farmer and motivator for youngsters in muga industry (Fig. 1). He has completed metric with science subject in the year 1981, which is really helpful to take up this type of initiatives.

He is traditional muga rearer and actively involved in muga rearing last 10 years. He utilizes Tupia State Farm for muga rearing every year for three crops viz., *Jethua*-Commercial Crop (April – May), *Bhodia*-Seed Crop (August – September) and *Kotia*-Commercial Crop (October – November) (Fig. 2 - 3).

He has shown that muga culture is a very profitable profession and motivated many young person to take up muga culture in his village and nearby villages of Tupia. Today, many youngsters of his village and nearby villages of Tupia are actively involved in the muga industry due to his initiatives. He rightly fits in a group, taking initiatives with all sincerity for development of individual and the group. He, himself is actively involved in pre cocoon (muga rearing, graiange). During demonstration programme, the farmers expressed their happiness about the technologies developed by CMERTI, CSB, Lahdoigarh. The muga cocoon bamboo mountage, nylon net for covering tree to protect silkworm from predators, disinfectants, biological control agents for controlling uzifly and pre brushing care technologies were transferred to muga farmers during rearing time at Tupia State Farm, Tupia, Sonitpur, Assam, which was found more effective to the farmers (Fig. 2 - 7).

Shri Bhuyan has immense faith in latest technologies developed for muga rearing and grainages by Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute, Central Silk Board. He is also popularizing these technologies among muga farmers and farmers have the urge to acquire more new technologies on muga pre-cocoon sector to increase the productivity.
Empowerment to youngster comes along with contributing their share to the family’s resources and also getting their right in decision making. Muga culture activities largely taken up by the youngsters are not only employing their leisure time for meaningful monetary gains but also support their family and improve their socioeconomic status (Fig. 8). Many muga culturists with enterprising aptitude have achieved success and become role models in their family and society.

At present, muga culture is main source of income to his family and other youngsters. Now, as muga culture is well established in his village and nearby villages.

Shri Lila Bhuyan’s success lies in efficient financial management of three crops. Now his annual income through muga culture is about Rupees 20000 to 35000 / year / crop and is leading a peaceful life. He is also doing agriculture crops for his livelihood and income. He is actively involved in muga culture, because this is the only source, in which he gets direct income after sale of muga cocoons to Sualkochi, Assam. He has done wonderful work for this success and become role model “Muga Culturist” worthwhile in Sonitpur District, Assam.

Table 1. Year wise data of dfl brushed and harvested cocoons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DFL brushed (Jethua, Bhodia, Kotia crops)</th>
<th>Harvested Quality cocoons</th>
<th>Cocoon Disposed (Sualkochi) and earned money (Rupees)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>55000</td>
<td>44000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>82000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013*</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>45000</td>
<td>36000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Only for two crops
Fig. 1. Shri Lila Bhuyan

Fig. 2. Tupia state farm, Tupia, Sonitpur, Assam
Fig. 3. Fifth Instar larvae during rearing at Tupia Farm

Fig. 2. Disinfectants demonstration among muga farmers for muga silkworm
Fig. 3. Traditional muga cocoon mountage developed by branches of som plantations

Fig. 4. Bamboo made cocoon mountage demonstration among muga farmers for muga silkworm
Fig. 5. Demonstration of nylon net for covering som plantation to protect mugs silkworms from predators

Fig. 6. Demonstration of disinfectants for som plantations before rearing
Fig. 7. Demonstration of biological control agents (N. thymus and local hyperparasitoids) for controlling the uzifly in muga silkworm

Fig. 8. Group photo during demonstration programme with young muga farmers, DOS staff at Tupia State Farm, Tupia, Sonitpur District, Assam along with CMERTI, CSB Scientists