

MINUTES OF THE 85th MEETING OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT CSB-MESSO GUWAHATI ON 4th OCTOBER, 2024

The 85th meeting of Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was held on 04.10.2024 at the Conference Hall of Muga Eri Silkworm Seed Organization, Central Silk Board, Khanapara under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kartik Neog, Director, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh. The list of the members/ participants who were present in the meeting is appended at **Annexure-I**.

Dr. Manjunath R N, Scientist-C (R&S) and Convener, opened the meeting by welcoming the LAC members and providing a brief overview of the committee's terms, along with a recap of key decisions from the previous session. Following this, Chairman Dr. Kartik Neog extended a warm welcome to all participants and outlined the primary objective of the meeting, establishing floor prices for Muga and Eri silk commodities and invited all the members/participants to share their perspectives on price fixation and offer suggestions for improving the market prospects of these silk products.

Thereafter, the agenda wise discussion was held and decisions made during the meeting are indicated as below.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (84th LAC) HELD ON 23.11.2023 AT CSB-MESSO Guwahati

The Chairman informed that the minutes of the last meeting of LAC held on 23rd November, 2023 at CSB-MESSO were circulated to all the previous members of LAC. Since there were no comments raised/received from any member, the minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2: FIXATION OF FLOOR PRICE OF KOTIA MUGA REELING COCOON (2024 CROP)

The committee was informed that Muga cocoon prices have remained unchanged for the past two years, and it is essential to reassess and revise them this year, taking into account the current market conditions and the cost of cocoon production. In light of this, the Chairman requested input from the beneficiaries and DoS officials regarding their opinions and the current market prices being used in cocoon transactions, to better understand the scope for price adjustments.

After thorough discussions, the committee agreed upon the following criteria for setting the floor prices for Muga cocoons of the Kotia commercial crop for the year 2024:

Grade A Reeling Cocoons

Single shell weight of "A" grade Kotia cocoon	0.50 g
Unit quantity of cocoon	1000 nos.
Cocoon loss (handling loss, driage) (10 %)	100 nos.
Shell weight of 900 nos. cocoon (0.50 x 900)	450 g
Raw silk recovery (50%) (450 x 40%)	225 g
Silk waste Production (50%)(450 x 50%)	225 g
Market price of Muga Raw silk yarn	Rs. 26,500/-
Cost of 225 g yarn (Rs.26500/- kg)	Rs. 5962/-
Cost of 225 g waste (Rs.600/- kg)	Rs. 135/-
Conversion cost of 225 g yarn (Rs.3600/- kg)	Rs. 810/-
Profit margin @20% (Rs.5400/- + Rs.135/-) x 20%	Rs. 1219/-
Cost of 1000 nos. cocoon (Rs.5962/-+ Rs.135/-) – (Rs.810/-+ Rs.1219/-)	Rs. 4068/-

Grade B Reeling Cocoons

Single shell weight of "B" grade Katia cocoon	0.45 gm
Unit quantity of cocoon	1000 nos.
Cocoon loss (handling loss, driage) (10 %)	100 nos.
Shell weight of 900 nos. cocoon (0.45 x 900)	405 gm
Raw silk recovery (45%) (405 x 45%)	182.25 gm
Silk waste Production (55%)(405 x 55%)	222.75 gm
Market price of Muga Raw silk yarn	Rs. 26,500/-
Cost of 182.25 gm yarn (Rs.26,500/- kg)	Rs. 4836/-
Cost of 225.75 gm waste (Rs.600/- kg)	Rs. 136/-
Conversion cost of 182.25 gm yarn (Rs.3600/- kg)	Rs. 656/-
Profit margin @20% (Rs.4374/- + Rs.136/-) x 20%	Rs. 994/-
Cost of 1000 nos. cocoon (Rs.4836/-+ Rs.136/-) – (Rs.656/-+ Rs.994/-)	Rs. 3322/-

Grade C Reeling Cocoons

Single shell weight of "C" grade Katia cocoons	0.30 gm
Unit quantity of cocoon	1000 nos.
Cocoon loss (handling loss, driage) (10 %)	100 nos.
Shell weight of 900 nos. cocoon (0.30 x 900)	270 gm
Raw silk recovery (45%) (270 x 45%)	121.5 gm
Silk waste Production (55%)(270 x 55%)	148.5 gm
Market price of Muga Raw silk yarn	Rs. 26,500/-
Cost of 121.5 gm yarn (Rs.26,500/- kg)	Rs. 3219/-
Cost of 148.5 gm waste (Rs.600/- kg)	Rs. 89/-
Conversion cost of 121.5 gm yarn (Rs.3600/- kg)	Rs. 437/-
Profit margin @20% (Rs.3219/- + Rs.89/-) x 20%	Rs. 662/-
Cost of 1000 nos. cocoon (Rs.3219/-+ Rs.89/-) – (Rs.437/-+ Rs.662/-)	Rs. 2209/-

Based on the discussions, calculations and suggestions from the members and beneficiaries, the Committee unanimously recommended the following floor prices of Kotia Muga reeling cocoons for the year 2024:

- “A” - Grade Muga reeling cocoons : Rs. 4000/- per 1000 nos.
 “B” - Grade Muga reeling cocoons : Rs. 3300/- per 1000 nos.
 “C” - Grade Muga reeling cocoons : Rs. 2200/- per 1000 nos.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3: FIXATION OF FLOOR PRICE FOR ERI & MUGA CUT/PIERCED COCOONS

During a detailed discussion on the availability of Eri cocoons and its prevailing market price, the Committee recommended the floor prices of Eri cocoons as follows:

Eri cut/pierced cocoons:

Grade – A = Rs.1000/- per Kg. (Clean & best quality with shell weight \geq 0.5g)

Grade – B = Rs.850/- per Kg. (Stained cocoons)

Grade - C = Rs.750/- per Kg. (Blade cut/ Grainage cocoons)

Gradeless = Rs. 600/- per kg (Soiled/more than 03 month stored cocoons)

After a brief discussion on the price fixation of Muga CPC, the Committee unanimously decided and fixed the price for Muga CPC kg for easy liquidation of stock of Muga as follows.

Fresh Muga cut/pierced cocoon: Rs.900/- per kg.

Muga cut/pierced cocoon (Soiled/more than 03 month stored) = Rs. 600/- per kg

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: FIXATION OF FLOOR PRICE OF HOST PLANT SEEDS / SEEDLINGS / SAPLINGS

During a detailed discussion on the availability of Host plant seeds / seedlings / saplings and the cost of production involved, the Committee recommended to keep the floor prices of Host plants/seeds/seedlings/sapling unchanged and the price will follow as:

Seedlings of Som, Soalu, Kesseru, Borpat & other perennial host plants:

Rate of 8-9 month old Seedlings with polytube = Rs. 10.00/- per seedling

Rate of Seedlings without polytube = Rs. 05.00/- per seedling

Saplings of above host plants raised through vegetative propagation techniques:

Rate of Saplings = Rs. 15.00/- per sapling

Seeds of Muga & Eri Host plants:

- **Castor(NBR) = Rs.200 /- per Kg.**
- **Castor mixedseeds = Rs. 150/- per Kg**
- **Kesseru = Rs. 200/- per Kg.**
- **Borpat = Rs. 1000/- per kg**
- **Som = Rs. 100/- per kg**
- **Soalu = Rs. 120/- per kg**
- **Other host plants = Rs. 100/- per kg (secondary & tertiary host plants)**

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: ANY OTHER POINTS

1. To streamline operations and ensure effective beneficiary management, the committee recommended the creation of a comprehensive, district-wise database of all farmers and beneficiaries involved in Muga and Eri culture across the North-Eastern region. The task of compiling and maintaining this database was entrusted to the Scientist-D and Head of the Extension Division, CMERTI Lahdoigarh in coordination with the State Department of Sericulture, the Regional Office, CSB Guwahati, and the associated beneficiaries. The committee set a target deadline of December 2024 for the completion of this task.
2. It was recognized that there must be a clear linkage between seed production and cocoon production, supported by accurate and verified data from seed sources. To ensure traceability and transparency, the committee recommended the development of a suitable digital application in collaboration with the DoS and the Central Silk Board (CSB). This app would be designed to track all beneficiaries involved in the Muga and Eri silk production chain, from soil preparation to silk production which would enable real-time monitoring and provide a transparent system for all stakeholders, ensuring that data on seed sources, production practices, and beneficiary participation are accurately captured. The platform would also contribute to enhancing transparency in transactions and improving market access for farmers, ultimately benefiting the overall silk sector in the region. CMERTI Lahdoigarh in coordination with State Department of Sericulture to act upon identifying suitable provisions and collection of necessary information for the development of digital app.
3. The committee suggested to initiate the formation of a similar advisory committee to focus on the fixation of prices for Mulberry cocoons and Mulberry silk commodities in the North-

Eastern region to benefit the Mulberry silk farmers of the region and bring them to parity with Muga and Eri silk in the market. The coordination of this committee and its proceedings would be managed by CSB-CSRTI Behrampore, in collaboration with the Department of Sericulture, Government of Assam. The committee will be tasked with reviewing market conditions and fixing fair prices for Mulberry silk products.

4. The committee emphasized the importance of creating widespread awareness regarding the fixed floor prices for Muga and Eri cocoons. It was decided that these prices would be publicized through various mediums, including print media, news channels, social media platforms, and outreach programs conducted in silk-producing regions. This would help ensure that farmers and other stakeholders are well-informed about the prices and can secure fair compensation for their produce.
5. The committee agreed to convene the next LAC meeting in January 2025. By this time, the actual production data of cocoons in Kotia 2024, the prices at which transactions occurred, the status of the beneficiary database, and the progress on app development strategies would be reviewed to ensure effective implementation of the suggestions for the benefit of all stakeholders in the sector. The exact date, time, and venue of the next meeting will be determined in consultation with the Chairperson of LAC and communicated to all members accordingly.

The Chairperson acknowledged all the members of the committee for their participation and valuable suggestions in the meeting. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Manjunath R N, Scientist-C.


Dr. Kartik Neog
Director, CSB-CMERTI Lahdoigarh
& Chairman, LAC

Annexure I

**List of Participants of 85th Local advisory Committee (LAC) meeting, held on 4th October, 2024
at CSB-MESSO Guwahati**

#	Name, Designation and Address
1.	Dr. Kartik Neog, Director, CMER&TI, CSB, Lahdoigarh - <u>Chairperson</u>
2.	Smt. Kajori Rajkhowa, ACS, Director of Sericulture, Govt. of Assam , <u>Member</u>
3.	Dr. N K Bhatia, Director, CSB-MESSO Guwahati - <u>Member</u>
4.	Shri Ataur Rahman, Joint Director, Sericulture, Assam
5.	Director of Handloom & Textiles, Govt. of Assam, Guwahati – <u>Member</u> <u>REPRESENTATIVE:</u> Shri Rita Devi, Chief Textile Officer, H&T, Guwahati, Assam
6.	Shri Nagesh, Assistant Secretary (Tech.), RO, CSB, Guwahati - <u>Member</u>
7.	Dr. Rajiv Munshi, Scientist-D, RSTRS, CSB, Guwahati - <u>Member</u>
8.	Dr. D.Mech, Scientist-D & Head, SEEM division, CMER&TI – <u>Member</u>
9.	Dr. Aftab A Shabnam, Scientist-D & Head, Host Plant Division CMER&TI – <u>Member</u>
10.	Dr. Vijay N., Scientist-C, Statistical Section, CMER&TI – <u>Member</u>
11.	Smt. Bibi Bangthai, Morigaon, Assam, Reeler Representative – <u>Member</u>
12.	Sri Bhabendra Rabha, Assam, Rearer Representative – <u>Member</u>
13.	Dr. Manjunath R.N., Scientist-C(R&S), CMER&TI - <u>Member Convener</u>
	<u>Invitee:</u>
14.	Shri. B N Choudhury, Scientist-D & I/c PMCE-NER, MESSO Guwahati
15.	Dr. B N Sarkar, Scientist-D, CSB-MESSO Guwahati
16.	Dr. Mahananda Chutia, Scientist-D, CSB-MESSO Guwahati
17.	Dr. Hridya, Scientist-C, CSB-MESSO Guwahati
18.	Shri Naba Raj, Rudrasagar Silk Mill, Guwahati, Assam