ENHANCING INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS (IGPs) IN A SERICULTURE R&D MANAGEMENT SET-UP: THE DMMMSU-SRDI EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses how the income generating projects were enhanced in a Sericulture R&D Management set-up as experienced by the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University - Sericulture Research and Development Institute (DMMMSU-SRDI). The SRDI, is mandated to conduct research and extend technologies through education and training. The State Universities and Colleges (SUC) Normative Financing Scheme resulted in reduction of R&D budgets, thus, compelling us to look for strategies in enhancing Income Generating Project (IGP) in support of R&D and to meet criterion of policy makers in budget evaluation - returns from research. The strategies are: IGP Unit creation, income sources identification, research prioritization, processes and equipment to achieve efficiency in the production system, stronger R&E linkages, and deposition of policies in R&D for monitoring and evaluation. In five years (2005 to 2010), SRDI accumulated P 8,970,829.00 income from R&D based products and services i.e., mulberry (Morus alba) cuttings, saplings, leaves, silkworm (Bombyx mori Linn.) eggs, silkworm larvae, cocoons, novelty items, raw silk and silk fabrics and cocoon-processing services. The hand-woven, suksuk designed, 100% silk fabric contributed to 46% of the income amounting to P 4,713,824.00, indicating a market niche. A practical solution to sustain research activities can be attained by developing strategies, even in an atmosphere where academic excellence is of prime consideration.

Key words: Cocoon, hand-woven suksuk designed fabric, mulberry, raw silk, sericulture, silkworm.