



SILK PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONS – CONSTRAINTS & THE WAY FORWARD

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ABSTRACT

Brazil is world's second largest exporter of raw silk that provides direct employment to one man year per hectare of mulberry plantation. During 2011, 10000 persons could get employment under sericulture industry. In Latin America, though several government initiatives were launched aimed at developing sericulture as an economic alternative for small farms, the results were not at the expected level. The major constraints faced were the high investment required in the silk production chain and the existence of different barriers for the entry of new entrepreneurs. In this context, this paper intends to provide an account of the silk production status and the strategies formulated in various Latin American countries, viz., Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela, that proposes to develop a cooperative network based silk industry to resolve many of the existing obstacles. The proposed network aims at providing coordination and guidance to produce and trade high quality cocoons, to overcome the constraints that so far have prevented the growth of sericulture sector in Latin American regions.

Key words: Cooperation network, Latin America, silk.