

Lac production growth analysis for the state of Odisha

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ABSTRACT : Recent change of climate pattern in respect of scanty and untimely rain created uncertainty in agriculture production particularly paddy under rainfed condition. Lac production is one of the effective options for supporting livelihood in sub-forest and forest areas as witnessed in many other states. Once upon a time Odisha was also a major producer of lac in view of vast forest cover, plenty of host trees available, suitable climate and life style of these dwellers matches with the cultivation operation. Though the state contributes only 2.5 % of the country production but its importance in terms of better preservation of lac insect, in view of suitable climate could not be ruled out. During last five years (2005-06 to 2009-10), the state registered a lowest negative growth rate (-1.1 %) in comparison to other lac producing states *i.e.* Jharkhand (-4.0 %), Chhattisgarh (-5.5 %), Madhya Pradesh (-1.5 %), West Bengal (-5.5 %), Maharashtra (-15.1 %) and country as a whole (-4.7 % per annum). These figures reflect better performance of the state during last five years and suitable climate for this venture. The data showed that *Nabrangpur* district contributes highest in the state total lac production (36.2 %) followed by *Mayurbhanj* (18.7 %), *Baleshwar* (12.8 %) and *Koraput* (11.1 %). The contribution of *Keonjhar*, *Sundargarh* and other minor lac producing districts is around 21 % together. District-wise trend analysis during above period indicated that *Mayurbhanj* and *Baleshwar* are the two districts registered a positive growth of 3.6 % and 6.6 % per annum respectively. There is decline in *Nabrangpur* (-4.3 %) and *Koraput* (-0.9 %). The *Keonjhar*, *Sundargarh* and other areas together also registered a negative growth (-4.4 % per annum). The crop-wise production data indicated that it is the negative trend (-5.0 %) of *rangeeni* lac which causes overall decline in lac production, as the corresponding figure for *kusmi* lac was positive and it was 1.7 % per annum. Though *rangeeni* crop of rainy season witness a positive trend (growth rate 1.2 %) but summer crop recorded a major decline (-10.7 % per annum). *Rangeeni* lac production witnesses a positive growth only in *Baleshwar* district (24.3 %). However, *kusmi* lac production witness positive growth in *Koraput* (9.4 %), *Mayurbhanj* (12.1 %), *Keonjhar*, *Sundargarh* and other districts together (5.2 %). For sustained production and assured livelihood, the state may identify a few areas where summer temperature does not exceed beyond 42°C and there is intermittent rain during summer season. Such areas may be marked for establishment of broodlac farm to produce the same on large scale and fill up the gap between demand and supply of broodlac (lac seed material). This will help to initiate lac production in other potential areas of the state. Besides, there is need for free movement of this commodity within and outside state. This will help in easy and ensured marketing of produce and subsequently issue of lac processing is taken up along with value addition.

Key Words: Lac, production, growth, Odisha.