

## Quality Cocoon Production



Quality cocoons are characterized by uniform size, shape, shell thickness, compactness, fine surface grains, high reelability, filament length, shell percentage and fewer defective cocoons.

- To obtain quality cocoons, use appropriate mountages
- Transfer mature silkworm larvae onto mountages at the right time
- Quality cocoons, fetch higher returns at the market



## Plastic Collapsible Mountages



At present, most of the farmers use plastic collapsible mountages for self mounting.

- In this method the mountages are spread on the rearing bed at the time of spinning
- They are convenient to handle, disinfect, occupy less space for storing and do not require additional space for mounting
- In these mountages, formation of defective cocoons is less
- Reduces drudgery and cost of manpower

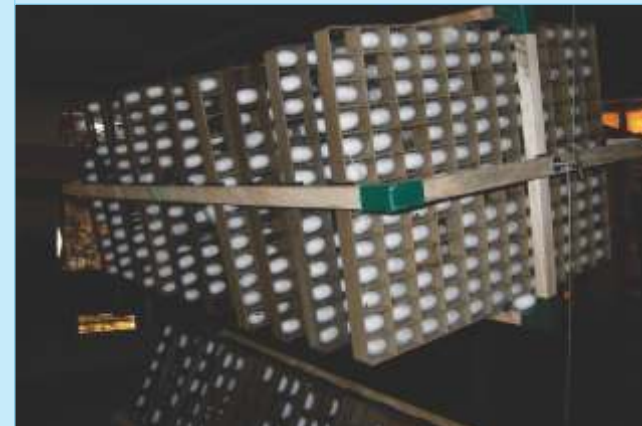


## Rotary Mountages



Spinning larvae are collected by spreading nylon nets over the rearing bed after final feeding. The mature larvae are collected after 2 hours and mounted on the rotary mountages

- Rotary mountages are the best mountages available to produce quality cocoons of uniform size and shape.
- These mountages are made of good quality cardboard grills fixed on wooden frames
- Each set contains 10 cardboard grills having 1560 cells assembled on wooden frames



- After mounting of silkworms, the mountages are hanged on horizontal bars in 3-4 tiers
- Since the spinning larvae exhibit negative geotropic behaviour, they climb and move up. Because of the weight displacement, the mountages rotate. Hence the name rotary mountage
- Both the cardboard grills and wooden frames are collapsible and hence easy to store
- 100 sets of rotary mountages are required for rearing 250 dfls
- Fewer defective cocoons and improved reelability
- Easy to harvest, disinfect and store
- The cocoons harvested from rotary mountages are of superior quality and fetch higher price (Rs. 40 – 50 more) in the market

### Harvesting

- Harvesting of cocoons must be done on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> day after spinning. However, seed cocoons should be harvested on 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> day
- Remove the card board mountage from the Rotary frame, remove flimsy cocoons and dead larvae
- Place the card board mountage on a frame and harvest the cocoons with the help of pushers
- Cocoons from plastic mountages can be harvested also by using cocoon harvesting machine



### Transportation of Cocoons

- Sorted cocoons should be packed loosely in well-aerated bags
- Transportation should be done during the cooler hours of the day
- Immediately after reaching the cocoon market, open the bags and spread the cocoons on racks provided in the market



### Cocoon Quality Testing

- Get the cocoon lot tested by the Cocoon Testing Centre established by CSTRI-Bengaluru in the cocoon market to know the quality.

Text:

S. Purushotham, D. S. Somaprakash  
Rajashekar, K and V. Sivaprasad

*For further details Contact:*

DIRECTOR

**Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute**

(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)

Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles  
Govt. of India, Srirampura, Mysuru - 570 008  
Tel: 0821-2362757, 2362406; Fax: 0821-2362845  
Web: www.csrtimys.res.in; Email: csrtimys.csb@nic.in

## MOUNTING & HARVESTING TECHNIQUE for quality cocoon production



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Govt. of India, Srirampura  
Mysuru - 570 008