

【 생 리 】

### 3-3-1. Silkworm Growth and Silk Yield on Selected Supplemented /Un-supplemented Mulberry Varieties

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Sericulture has been on developing foot hills till today in Pakistan. It is for the past few years that this industry has received recognition through greater research on the nutritional aspects. Various experiments i.e., nutritional supplementation and searching alternate food plants have been on way with varying degree of success. The present approach includes the very much neglected aspect of trying mulberry varieties and working out their impact on the silkworm growth/development and silk yield. In Pakistan three varieties of mulberry are commonly found, these were selected for the present studies and the already established mineral dose 0.2%N + 0.1%P + 0.3%K + 0.1%Ca + 0.15%Mg + 0.15%Mn. was supplemented to them through dipping method. Amongst the so designed nine treatments those in which the silkworm larvae were fed on *Morus nigra* leaves in any form/combination yielded best results, as the larvae in these treatments consumed more food and converted maximum of it into body matter. Thus it improved silkworm growth which is a primary parameter for increasing the over all production and resulted in better cocoon size which weighed heavier as compared to rest of the test treatments. The results so obtained are far better than the achievements of previous workers who have attempted silkworm rearing on *M.alba* leaves. Thus it can be suggested that nutritional package together with *M. nigra* leaves can help to increase the silk yield and thus yield the low incomeed farmers in Pakistan generate more profit.