

# **Employment and Income generation through Lac cultivation**

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## **Background Information**

Lac is a resinous secretion from a scale insect called lac insect (*Lacifer lacca*) as a protective covering that inhabits on Ber (*Ziziphus marutiana*), Palas (*Butea monosperma*) and Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*). Forest occupies about 67% of the total geographical area of the district. Availability in plenty of natural Lac host plant and favourable climatic conditions in the district are the main reason for Lac farming. Lac cultivation is one of the important secondary sources of income for villagers, with the objective of providing additional source of income to the tribal villagers. The district administration Dantewada has initiated extending financial support for cultivation of Lac.

## **KVK Intervention**

The forest of Dantewada district is full of Kusum trees naturally. The most of the population of the district belongs to small and marginal farmers and their socio-economic condition is very poor. Keeping in view all these situations a project (IAP) was implemented on Lac cultivation and the total budget was Rs. 10.47 Lakhs. Under this, various types of training i.e. Master trainers, one week farmers training, on farm trainings and training on management of brood Lac have been conducted. The project was sponsored by the district administration, Dantewada and its implementation was done by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dantewada. With this attempt Lac cultivation adopting scientific methods in the district was started.

## **Impact**

In this scheme 24 villages having selected for Lac cultivation, in which 10 villages (100 Kusum trees) were selected for the inoculation of brood Lac, previously. Brood Lac obtained from 100 trees is used for the inoculation of 24 villages (959 Kusum trees) in the current year (2014-15). At present Lac cultivation is being underway in the 24 villages of Dantewada district. Details are shown below in the table-1.

**Table-1: Details of selected village and host plant for Kusumi Lac**

Name of Scheme	Selected Blocks	No. of villages	No. of Beneficiaries	No. of Host plants
IAP	Geedam	07	70	302
	Dantewada	09	90	410
	Katekalyan	05	50	144
	Kuwakonda	03	30	103
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>959</b>

As Lac cultivation has very high potential for generating employment opportunity for both men and women, a survey work study conducted on Kusumi Lac host trees. The details are given in the Table-2 below.

**Table-2: Employment generation from Lac cultivation on Kusum tree (unit-40 trees)**

S.N.	Operation	Man days		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Initial Pruning	40	-	40
2.	Bunding, selection and inoculation of brood Lac	20	15	35
3.	<i>Phunki</i> removal and collection	07	03	10
4.	Harvesting, collection and selection of brood Lac	40	40	80
5.	Scraping of <i>Phunki</i>	-	12	12
6.	Scraping of Lac from rejected brood Lac sticks	-	15	15
7.	Spray of fungicides and insecticides	40	-	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>147</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>232</b>

**Table-3: Details of cost of cultivation and income generation from Kusumi Lac  
(unit 40 trees)**

S.N.	I Non-Recurring Expenditure ( Input material)	Estimates	
		Nos.	Cost (Rs.)
1.	Secateurs @ Rs. 300	05	1500
2.	Dauli @ Rs. 150	05	750
3.	Scraping knife @ Rs. 100	04	400
4.	Rocker Sprayer @ Rs. 6500	01	6500
5.	Bucket (GI) 15 lit.	03	510
6.	Synthetic netting Bags @ Rs. 3	1500	4500
7.	Balance (Monopan + Spring) @ Rs. 1000	02	2000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>16160</b>
	<b>II Recurring Expenditure</b>		
1.	Cost of 240 Kg Brood Lac @ Rs. 500 per Kg	240	120000
2.	Cost of plastic Sutli (3 Kg.) @ Rs. 100	03	300
3.	Bamboo Basket @ Rs. 100	10	1000
4.	Insecticides (2.5 lit) and fungicides @ Rs. 400 per tree	40	16000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>137300</b>
	<b>III Expenditure Per Year</b>		
1.	Labour Charges (230 man days) @ Rs. 150 per day	230	34500
2.	Cost of Input Materials		137300
3.	Depreciation on implements (5%)		808
4.	Interest on total investment (10% per annum)		15246
	<b>Total</b>		<b>187954</b>
	<b>IV Income per year</b>		
1.	Brood Lac yield (40 Kg/tree= 1600 Kg @ Rs. 500 per Kg)	1600	800000
2.	Phunki scraped (40% of brood lac input = 96 Kg @ Rs. 600) per Kg	96	57600
3.	Sale of stricklac obtained from rejected brood Lac (5 Kg/tree= 200 Kg) @ Rs. 600 per Kg	200	120000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>977600</b>
	<b>V Profit per Year</b>		
			<b>789646</b>

