MUGA HEAL-*TERMINALIA CHEBULA* BASED BIOFORMULATION AS AN ANTI-FLACHERIE AGENT AND A SILK FIBER ENHANCER

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Muga silkworms, Antheraea assamensis are reared outdoor only and hence the worms are exposed to the adverse climatic conditions, pests and predators. In silkworms, the disease which affects large population of silkworms usually during the hot and humid summer climatic conditions, results in decrease in their silk producing capacity. Muga sericulture farmers face setback in production of good quality cocoons due to unfavorable hot humid climatic conditions and diseases which accounts for 20-70% mortality of silkworms during summer. Control measures are not feasible as muga silkworm rearing is practised outdoors and the use of chemical formulations for controlling the disease is detrimental to the silkworms' health and also not economical. Thus the use of bio-formulation " Muga heal" prepared from Terminalia chebula fruits is the only alternative. Hence, the technology was standardized, selected and recommended to enhance the health of the larvae and production of quality silk fiber. The preparation of the bioformulation is simple and can easily be adopted by sericulture farmers. The bioformulation can be applied in all seasons in muga sericulture to boost the silk production. The technology is suitable for the healthy growth of larvae and improves cocooning of muga silkworm, Antheraea assamensis with uniform shape, size, improves quality of silk having more reeling filament length and unbreakable length