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Journal of Environmental Biology

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Message from the Associate Editor

Silk is a natural insect fiber, which comes from silkworm cocoons, the protective chamber spun by silkworm during its life cycle. India is the only country that produces all varieties of silk, mulberry and vanya silk (wild silk). The later includes. tropical and temperate tasar, eri and muga silk. Vanya silk cultivation is an eco-friendly and agro-forest-based cottage industry, which provides substantial and gainful employment in rural forest areas. Presently India is the second largest producer of silk in the world. During the year 2021-2022, the annual production of total raw silks was 34903 MT with share of mulberry (25818 MT), eri (7364 MT), tasar (1466 MT) and muga (255 MT).

I feel proud to be part of an inspiring journey called "National Symposium on **Vanya Sericulture: Opportunities Galore**". Central Tasar Research and Training Institute (CTRTI), is the premier organization under the umbrella of the Central Silk Board, and it caters Research and Development, besides Training in tasar sector. In its long journey of 59 years, CSB-CTRTI has grown from a humble beginning to a certain peak in the growth of tasar production. Over the years CTRTI has provided the R&D, training, and technological support to DoS, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and farmers associated with tasar culture.

Through the Special Issue of "*Journal of Environmental Biology*" we have tried to showcase our journey of memorable sessions of the National Symposium. I congratulate all the authors, reviewers, and editorial group for their sincere effort to bring out the Special Issue, and also hope for more milestones to be achieved in the years to come.

I congratulate the Director, scientists, research scholars, and staff for their strong sense of commitment, service, and responsibility that has transmuted this Institute into a leader at national level.

Best Wishes

Dr. Karmabeer Jena

Scientist-D, Central Tasar Research and Training Institute, Ranchi, India
Associate Editor - Special Issue, Journal of Environmental Biology, Lucknow, India

Dr. Karmabeer Jena received M.Sc. (Zoology, Sp-Biochemistry) degree from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, M.Phil. (Life Science, Sp-Physiology and Biochemistry) degree from Sambalpur University, Sambalpur, and has obtained a Ph.D (Zoology) degree from Utkal University. During his doctoral tenure, he worked on oxidative stress and antioxidant defence system of bivalve. He studied the impact of pollutants on oxidative stress and antioxidant defence system in bivalve, which can be used as an ideal biomarker of pollution. His biomarker research was recognized by the National Environmental Science Academy, New Delhi and was awarded Junior Scientist of the Year 2007. He then moved to National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan as a post-doctoral fellow. In 2010, Dr. K. Jena joined as a Scientist under Central Silk Board at Central Tasar Research and Training Institute (CTRTI), Ranchi, and currently Heading to the Silkworm Rearing Management and Seed Technology section. His lab is currently working on enhancement of fecundity in tasar silkworm to increase production and productivity in tasar sector. In addition to this, his main research focus is on transformation of silk waste to wealth (*i.e.*, by-product utilization) in tasar sector. He has published over 35 papers in various National and International journals. His major research focus on isolation and molecular characterization of sericin and chitosan from tasar waste, which has a great pharmaceutical and cosmeceutical applications.

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