Today, Indian sericulture is on the threshold of a development characterized by a paradigm shift in its perception as an avocation adopted by the stakeholders traditionally for regular and assured returns and hence, promoted by the policy makers as a tool to alleviate poverty and unemployment largely in the rural areas, to an enterprise practiced independently or integrated intrinsically with backward or forward activities, to assure the practitioners of higher returns, holistically.

Practice of sericulture, be it mulberry or vanya culture in different agro-climatic zones of the country, has been hitherto varying, exemplified by its being round the year or a subsidiary activity. However, it has been applauded as one of the most appropriate labour-intensive household activities, combining both farm and off-farm sectors.

But now, the table has taken a turn and sericulture looks forward to a revolution in the perspective – from a crop activity to a multi-disciplinary whole-farm enterprise through management of resources available at the level of small and marginal farmers who still make the larger chunk. Integration of various farm enterprises besides recycling seri-residues and by-products within the biophysical and socio-economic environ of the farm itself, more so in view of gradual yet perceptible shrinkage of land acreage, presents it as an economic model, vindicated by utilization of seri-wastes and resources with better conversion competence.

The need to actively explore new modes of production and management is quite germane, given the recent change in approach and its adoption with the scale of investment by the stakeholders and the latest technologies made available to assure them of its economic feasibility. Its overall improved income efficiency with a host of by-products as add-ons reassures the entrepreneurs on one hand and its growth with the re-investment out of the comfortable cushion in related and allied activities on the other.

Much of success of the new programmes depends upon the ability of stakeholders to act as growth agents, as well as promotion of newer concepts of integration. Besides, the scope and potentiality of micro-enterprises arising out of various nodes of sericulture is, of late, creating and nurturing an aptitude for business amongst the stakeholders both as individuals and producer groups involved in both the sectors, mulberry and vanya culture.

This transformation may find a reflex at the policy level and the recent developments need to be seen in the light of initiatives to help promote sericulture as an enterprise, and thus, calls for a further higher degree of strategic planning.