Introduction to Sericulture

Cycle of a Silk moth

The mature silk moth lays eggs on a special paper which is then covered with tissue paper then kept in incubation chamber for about 20 days then they hatch.
After the 20 days they hatch into black larvae which is then covered with fresh mulberry leaves for food for a period of 6 weeks to grow into adult larvae. They are later transferred to mountage .

Production of Silk

After they are put in the montage each larvae then produces a single continuous silken thread and wraps this thread around itself to form a cocoon which it completes in three days.

The larvae then changes into a pupa and then into an adult silk moth which breaks the thread of the cocoon to come out. To prevent this silk farmers put the 10 days old cocoon in hot water to kill them and as well to loosen the threads and they are rounded in yarns which are woven into clothes.