

5th BACSA International conference "Sericulture for multi products - new trends for development"

SERIPRODEV

11 - 15 April 2011

Bucharest, Romania

Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association (BACSA)

activities for revival and development of sericulture in Europe and Central Asia

By

Assoc. Prof. Dr P. Tzenov, President

BLACK, CASPIAN SEAS AND CENTRAL ASIA SILK ASSOCIATION, BACSA



The Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association (BACSA) was initiated at the “International Workshop on Revival and Promotion of Sericultural Industries and Small Enterprise Development in the Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Region”, organized by the AGST, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) in collaboration with the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan from 11 to 15 April 2005 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Strengthening of BACSA as an institution

By the financial and technical help of the FAO the proceedings of the first regional workshop, held in Tashkent were prepared, printed out and distributed to over 50 persons from more than 25 countries.

International Workshop on Revival and Promotion of Sericultural Industries and Small Enterprise Development in the Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Region, Tashkent, Uzbekistan 11 - 15 April 2005

Supported by the FAO Regular Programme PE214A4 and the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan

P R O C E E D I N G S



**Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia
Silk Association (BACSA)**



**Association “Uzbek Ipagi”
Uzbek Sericulture Research Institute
Tashkent
2005**

Strengthening of BACSA as an institution

A special logo of the association was developed



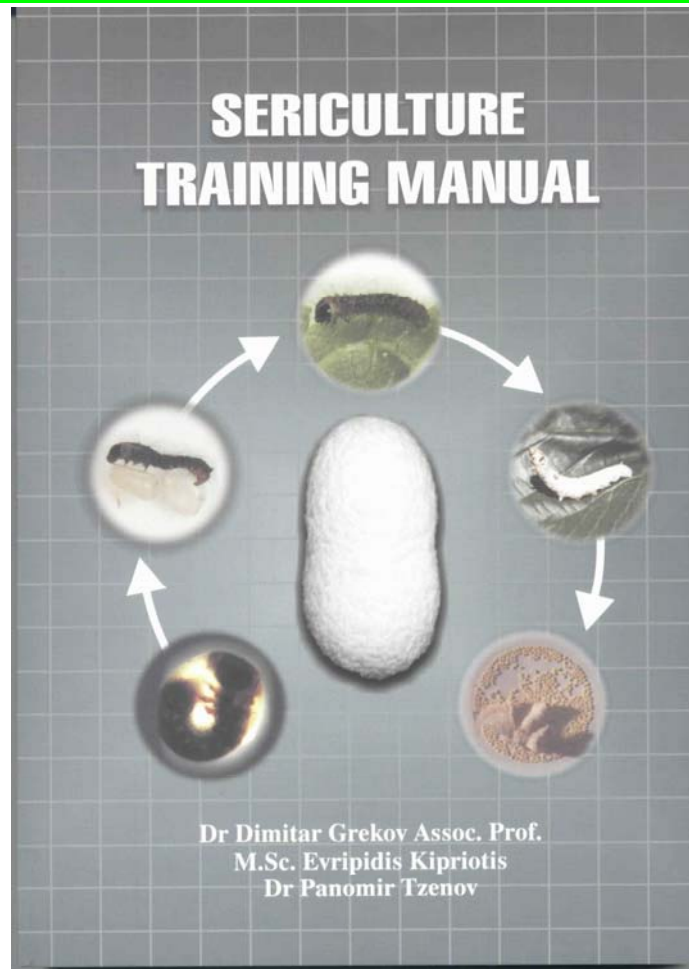
A BACSA membership form was prepared and sent to a number of institutes/persons involved in sericulture development in different countries, later on it was uploaded at the BACSA web site.

Strengthening of BACSA as an institution

In May 2005 a brief information about the workshop, held in Tashkent (purposes, activities and results) was provided to the International Sericultural Commission (ISC), Lyon, France and uploaded at the ISC' web site.



A text book in English entitled “Sericulture training manual”, having a special emphasis on the European and Central Asian sericultural industries specificities was compiled, printed at expense of Greek government and distributed to over 20 countries along with the Tashkent workshop proceedings.



Strengthening of BACSA as an institution

The official registration of BACSA as a legal entity took place in April 2006. BACSA was registered as a legal entity with statutory office in Vratza, Bulgaria



BACSA web site functioning

The web site (www.bacsa-silk.org) was created in May 2006 and since that time it has been well maintained, regularly updated and all the important news and useful information are uploaded on to it. According to many BACSA members and other people engaged in sericultural industry development the web site is really very informative and useful, indeed.

BLACK, CASPIAN SEAS AND CENTRAL ASIA SILK ASSOCIATION

Who are we

The fifth BACSA international conference SERIPRODEV 2011 will be held in Bucharest, Romania from 11 to 15 April 2011

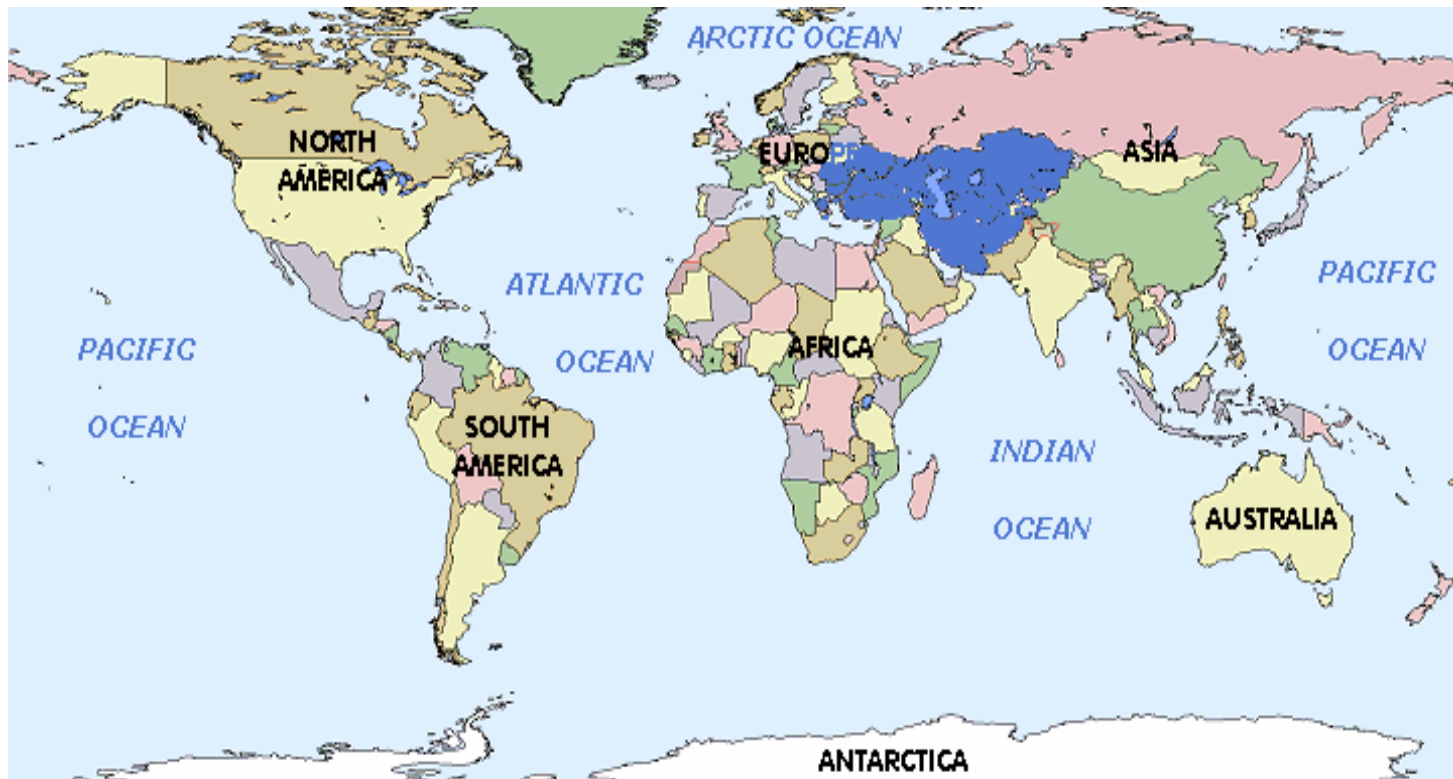
The Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Silk Association (BACSA) was established after the "International Workshop on Revival and Promotion of Sericultural Industries and Small Enterprise Development in the Black, Caspian Seas and Central Asia Region", organized by FAO in cooperation with the Government of Uzbekistan and held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 11 to 15 April 2005 in order to promote sericulture production in the region countries. The association's main tasks are to:

- * generate sericulture projects from external resources, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
- * sensitize respective governments and prospective donors;
- * promote local and regional joint efforts which allow the cooperation between the countries of the Black, Caspian seas region and Central Asia to develop concrete actions that fortify the sustainable development of the sericulture in the region;
- * promote making agreements for international scientific-technical cooperation and business relations between the countries involved;
- * promote market studies, training, and dispersion of sericultural germplasm, and silkworm eggs.

For the operation of the association there are, chosen democratically by the members a President, two Vice-presidents, national coordinators for each member country, members of an Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee are directly the people in charge of coordination of all the raised activities for their country, within the regional context. The Executive Committee is the bridge between the country, the national coordinator and the other countries of the association, to execute the actions defined in the region. The Committee gathers at least once a year and has the following functions:

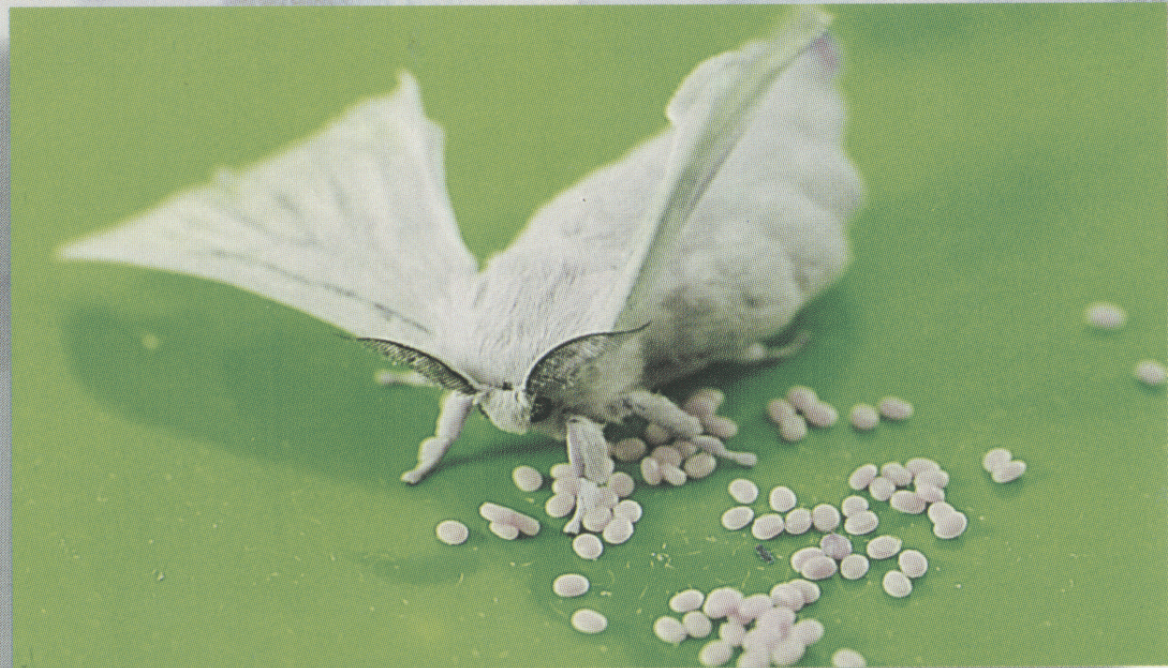
- * To evaluate the work made by each national coordinator in activities of coordination in her/his country with respect to the BACASA.
- * To recommend the names of the people in the association to receive training abroad.
- * To evaluate and to watch the handling of the "Rotary Funds" and "Research Funds", that will be probably created and to give the recommendations on orientation and better use of these resources.
- * To present/display the research proposals that require financing on the part of the "Research Fund" and to approve the necessary resources for this aim.
- * To give recommendations and suggestions on all publications and written material that takes place within the frame of the BACASA.
- * To advise to the association's President on the advances and progresses that must take place in the development of the activities and give recommendations her/him on the modifications and corrections that are due to make for the final success of the projects.

When established in 2005, BACSA included 9 countries - Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Later on gradually BACSA attracted for membership 6 new countries from the region – Albania, Armenia, Iran, Poland, Romania and Switzerland so that currently the association includes 15 countries and also has 64 personal members and 4 institutional members.



- **Organizing international meetings.**

Five international conferences, workshops and BACSA executive committee meetings have been organized and held from 2005 to 2011.



From 6 to 10 March 2006, at Bursa, Turkey BACSA in collaboration with FAO and the Kozabirlic sericultural cooperative, Bursa, Turkey as a hosting institution organized the second BACSA executive meeting along with an “International Workshop on Silk Handicrafts Cottage Industries and Silk Enterprises Development in Africa, Europe, Central Asia and the Near East” where 62 delegates from 22 countries took part at the meeting.



The 3rd BACSA executive meeting was held from 18 to 20 September 2007 at Vratza, Bulgaria together with the international conference “Sericulture Challenges in the 21st Century” (Serichal 2007), organized by BACSA, FAO and the Sericulture Experiment Station in Vratza, Bulgaria as a hosting institution. 41 delegates from 14 countries took part at this meeting.



The 4th BACSA meeting was held on 5th November 2008 at Athens, Greece during the 21st Congress of the International Sericultural Commission



The first Balkan workshop on “Possibilities for Using Silkworm and Mulberry for Non-Textile Purposes” was held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from 23 – 26 September 2008.

The Agricultural university of Plovdiv, Bulgaria was hosting the meeting in collaboration with the Sericulture Experiment Station, Vratza, the Bioengineering, Biotechnology and Environment Protection Institute – BIOING S. A, Bucharest, Romania and the BACSA.



- Development of regional sericulture projects and looking for donors.

- Project proposals, submitted to FAO:

The regional project proposal: “Improvement of Income-Generation Options Based on Revival of Sericultural Industries and Promotion of Small Silk Enterprise Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”. This project proposal was submitted officially to the FAO through the governments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Then the FAO several times returned it back to BACSA with their recommendations for necessary revision. In spite of the several revisions, and re-submissions (the last one was in 2008) the project proposal had finally been cancelled for financing by the FAO.



However after 2008 we have continued our efforts in seeking for the FAO support to some of BACSA member countries rather than to the whole region. As results of these efforts two FAO TCP facility projects in Albania and Georgia were approved and financed.

Those are TCP/ALB 3101
“Revival and
Development of
Sericulture in Albania”,
implemented in 2008 –
2009 and TCP/GEO/3201
“Sericulture sector study
in Georgia”, implemented
in 2009 – 2010. Both two
projects had a financing of
about 40,000 US\$/project
and aimed mostly based
on the real situation of the
sericulture sector in each
country to prepare bigger
sericulture development
projects, ready for donor
search.



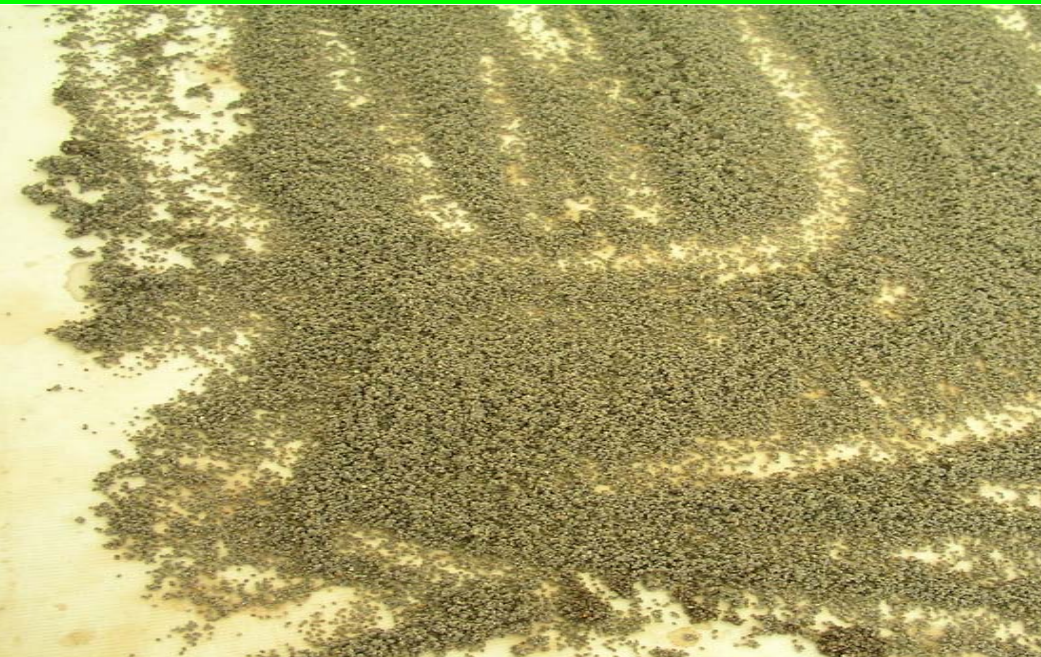
**The regional project “Comparative studies of silkworm hybrids performance for sericultural enterprise development in Black, Caspian seas and Central Asia region”
This project was implemented in 2006 and 2007, partly supported by the FAO.**



Based on the project conclusions we recommended to the BACSA member countries research institutions to direct their efforts towards improvement the silk productivity of the hybrids, by the same time preserving their comparatively high survivability and cocoon yield. As results recently in Bulgaria, Romania and Azerbaijan several new silkworm hybrids, manifesting silk productivity, comparable with those of the Japanese hybrids were created.



In the end of 2008 two proposals were submitted to FAO, seeking for support to the regional sericulture germplasm maintenance, evaluation, exchange and utilization. Those were “**REGIONAL SERICULTURE GERMPLASM RESOURCES NETWORK FOR AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EUROPE**” and Regional workshop on “**Utilization of mulberry and silkworm genetic resources for sericultural enterprises development in Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Europe**”. Both two proposals haven't received enough FAO interest for possible support.



Project proposals, submitted to the European commission:

We submitted 3 project proposals to the EC, but unfortunately no any of them was approved.

To FP 7 "Capacities" Programme: "Support for unlocking and developing the research potential of silkworm breeding and innovative management techniques in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania, targeting to the small silk enterprise development"

To "South East Europe Programme": "Sericulture and silk products in South East Europe - stepping from the tradition to innovation and strengthening the economic profile of respective regions"

To FP 7 "Cooperation" Programme: "EXPLOITATION OF THE HEAVY METAL MOVEMENT AND REMOVAL PATHWAYS AND MECHANISMS IN THE MULBERRY - SILKWORM CHAIN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MODEL APPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER PRACTICAL USE IN BIO-REMEDICATION OF CONTAMINATED SOILS. SOILBIOREMEDIATION"

- Strengthening the relationships and cooperation in sericulture between the BACSA member countries and other countries as well.
- Bilateral agreements for cooperation.



Selling and buying sericultural products:
BACSA makes all the efforts to establish connections between the producers, sellers and buyers of different sericultural products such as mulberry saplings, silkworm eggs, dry cocoons, raw silk, silk yarn, fabrics and garment.



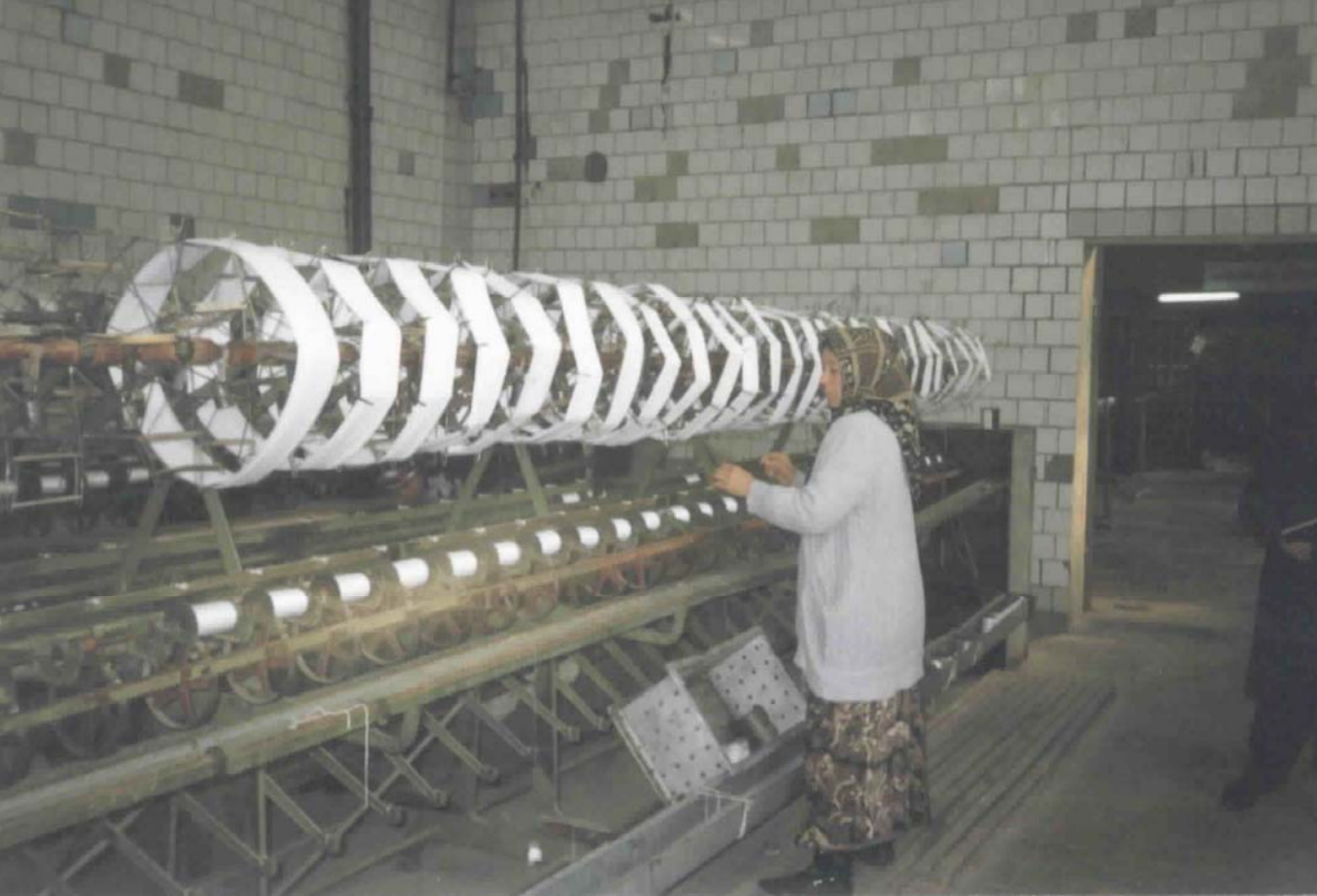
We perform these activities through regular updating of the sub-page “sell/buy information” on the BACSA web site as well as responding in time to all the enquiries from possible sellers and buyers, getting the people together and giving chance to exhibit their sericultural products by organizing international workshops, conferences etc.



We could make the following suggestions and recommendations for future BACSA activities:

- Organizing BACSA international conferences and Executive meetings once per each 2 – 3 years in different member countries from the region;





- Regular informing the national governments about the BACSA executive meetings results, decisions and follow ups;
- Responding to different enquiries, concerning the sericultural industries in the region;

- Maintaining, regular updates and all the important news and useful information uploading on the BACSA web site;
- Attracting more European and Central Asian countries as BACSA members;





- **Regular review of status of the BACSA Executive committee members, for their individual contribution and communication efficiency;**
- **Supporting the sericultural institutions and specialists in the BACSA member countries by providing, as required, letters of support, personal recommendations, reviews of scientific articles/monographs and doctoral dissertations, etc.;**

- Improving public relations of BACSA and popularizing BACSA activities in the world through participation in international conferences and meetings;
- Continued development of regional sericulture projects and seeking for donors;



- Promotion of making bi – or multilateral agreements for cooperation, giving a special emphasis on exploring the opportunities for financing from the national governments;
- Establishing connections between the producers/consumer groups, sellers and buyers of various sericultural products through regular updates of the BACSA web site, responding in time to all the enquiries from possible sellers and buyers, organizing international workshops, conferences, exhibitions etc.



The Executive Committee would appreciate any useful ideas and suggestions for augmentation of the cause of BACSA and escalation of its activities.



