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**Abstract:** Lac, resinous exudation from the bodies of females of a species of scale insect *Kerria lacca*, from which shellac is prepared. India is the chief source of shellac. Lac has several applications in pharmaceuticals, confectionery, food coatings, electrical, lac dye, lac wax etc. India, which is the highest producer of lac, contributes around 55% of the total world requirement. The country exports around 80-90% of its production. Jharkhand alone contribute 59% of national lac production. This paper attempts mainly to focus importance of lac-cultivation in the livelihood of tribal people in rain-fed area of Jamtara district in Jharkhand. The study was undertaken in five villages of Jamtara Block, namely Dahartola, Charedih, Rupaidih, Sinjotola, Saurimundu. Number of families involved in lac growing, their income from rangeeni broodlac, production of rangeeni and kusumi broodlac, income after and before NAIP project, expenditure involved and employment generated from lac cultivation and the migration status were determined by sampling technique by randomly choosing 45 farmers. The number of families involved in lac growing activities increased with time. Among the major host trees (kusum, palas and ber), palas was found to be pioneer, major and the most preferable host plant. The study shows the final results after adopting Lac cultivation it has provided them a good income (approximately ten thousand from each of the village), rangeeni is a predominant crop which constitutes about 98% of total lac, the average income coming before lac cultivation was nil and income coming after adopting lac cultivation is approximately ten thousand to fourteen thousand per family, the expenditure involved in lac cultivation which provided them profit of approximately thirty thousand, Lac cultivation is providing them approximately 227 days of employment, and shows slight variation in migration status which is not very significant.

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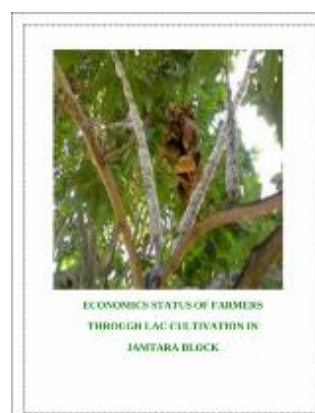
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