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POOL INFORMATION Researchers develop portal with extensive compilation of all silk related databases

IIT-G's silk search engine to unravel treasure trove of information

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI: Want to know any information related to silk from micro level to macro level? You are just a click away from everything concerning silk-related web resources.

In a shot in the arm to the silk industry of Northeast, a team of researchers from Bioengineering Research Laboratory, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has developed a portal which will provide extensive compilation of all available silk databases. Named 'SeriPort', it is a built-in search engine to enable quick and accurate data mining and also seeks to protect indigenous knowledge on the subject.

Speaking to EC, Utpal Bora, head of the research team and professor at the Department of

Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT-G, said, "There are lots of databases vis-à-vis sericulture which have not been streamlined and are scattered all over. It involves information about silkworms, host plants, pests, pathogens, silk products, etc."

"The portal will be a kind of search engine and a one-stop destination to get any information on the silk industry. Researchers can also get information about seribiobiodiversity," he added.

Dipika Singh, one of the developers, said, "It is not complete yet. The information will be updated from time to time."

Currently, there are about 70 databases appended in the portal. As of now, it has 22 silkworm databases, 23 host plant databases, one pest and pathogen database and 24 combined databases.



The database has over 3,800 hits and pool information from countries across the globe including top silk-producer China and leader in sericulture research, Japan