

## Original Research Article

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## Time Series Forecasting of Price Volatility of Bivoltine Cocoons: An Application of GARCH Process and Artificial Neural Network

G.R. Halagundegowda\*, B.M. Kantharaju and P. Kumaresan

Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Karnataka, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

Accurate forecasting of prices of bivoltine mulberry cocoons is essential for planning and policy purposes. A study had been taken up to develop an appropriate model for forecasting the daily prices of bivoltine reeling mulberry cocoons by using the data collected for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2019 from Government Cocoon Market (GCM), Ramanagaram, Karnataka. Generalized Auto Regressive Conditional Heteroscedastic (GARCH) and Artificial Neural Network (ANN) models were used to analyze the past behavior of time series data in order to make inferences about its future behavior for prices of bivoltine cocoons. A suitable model of GARCH process was identified based on the results of Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). GARCH (3, 2) model exhibited lesser AIC and Schwarz criterion compared to other process. The estimates of GARCH (3, 2) model showed that the coefficients of mean and variance equation were statistically significant at both 1% and 5% level of significance. A multilayered perceptron neural network was fitted, which had an input layer with 15 input nodes, Single hidden layer with 10 hidden node and an output layer with one output node. The forecasting performance was assessed for both the models by using Mean Square Error (MSE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) and found that the fitted GARCH (3, 2) model was found to be better than ANN model.

#### Keywords

AIC, ANN, AR, BIC, Bivoltine Mulberry Cocoons, GARCH

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### Introduction

Sericulture is an agro based cottage industry, which plays an eminent role in the rural economy of India. India is the second largest producer of raw silk in the world with the annual production of 35,468 MT during 2018-19 and among the four different types of silk, mulberry silk is predominant and accounts for 71.46 % of the total natural silk produced in

India. About 25,344 MT of mulberry raw silk was produced during 2018-19, in which the cross breed (multivoltine) silk production amounted to 18,357 MT and the rest was bivoltine silk with 6987 MT. Karnataka is the largest silk producer in the country with the annual production of 9,525 MT of cross breed silk and 2,067 MT of bivoltine silk totaling to 11,592 MT of mulberry silk in 2018-19. India is traditionally a multivoltine silk producer. As

bivoltine silk is qualitatively better than multivoltine silk, thrust is given by the Government to promote bivoltine silk production in the country. The bivoltine silk production has been growing remarkably well in the last few years.

However, as the bivoltine silkworm rearing is less hardy and more susceptible to diseases and fluctuations in temperature and humidity compared to cross breed silkworms, the production risk associated with bivoltine cocoon production by the farmers is more compared to cross breed cocoon production.

Price volatility affects both producers and consumers, for producers, price volatility increases production and investment risks, especially when the production cycle is long. For consumers, volatile prices make it difficult to make consumption decisions, especially when their income or budget is limited. Volatile prices can also reduce the accuracy of producers and consumers price forecasts and thereby causing welfare losses. Price volatilities may have negative impacts on economic growth and poverty, which are most damaging to economy of poor countries. Furthermore, higher and more unpredictable volatility may lead to an economic crisis.

Modeling price volatility helps to understand causes, patterns, and impacts, making it possible to mitigate the aforementioned risks and negative effects. Fitting an appropriate price discrete time volatility model can help producers and traders make proper production and investments decisions under conditions of price uncertainty. Producers need to know whether specific product prices are likely to decline in the future, while traders want to know the expected price volatility along the life of a contract. Governments as well as policy makers need better fitting models to manage the economy in volatile times, especially when the economy is affected by

financial crisis or major depression. Such models also help them understand how markets behave during crashes.

As the prices of cocoon keep on changing from time to time, it creates risks to producers, reelers, twistors, processors, weavers and other parties involved different activities across the value chain. Thus, it is important to develop a reliable model to forecast the cocoon prices more accurately. In this context, this paper applies the most popular and widely used price volatility forecasting models namely ARCH and other GARCH mixtures and machine learning models like ANN for forecasting of price volatility of bivoltine cocoons.

## **Materials and Methods**

Modeling of price volatility is central concept to understanding about price fluctuations. It is also necessary to develop powerful methods of forecasting future price trends. The daily price data of biovoltine reeling mulberry cocoons were collected for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2019 for Ramanagaram cocoon market of Karnataka. The data was divided into two sets viz Training and Testing. 80% (2754 observations) were used for training and 20 % (693 observations) for testing the forecasting performance of model. The statistical software's namely R (v.3.3), Eviews-8 and SPSS (Expert Modeler) were used for modeling and forecasting.

## **GARCH model**

Generalized Auto Regressive Conditional Heteroscedastic (GARCH) model is an important time series model; as it enables modeling of volatility clustering. Volatility clustering occurs because periods of high volatility in time series are interspersed with periods of low volatility. Bollerslev (1986) extended the Engle's (1982) original work by

developing a technique that allows the conditional variance to be dependent on previous own lags like an ARMA process. It involve two equations like mean equation and Variance equation as follows.

**Mean equation**

Auto regressive AR (p) series are used in mean equation model. The mean equation of a series (AR (p)), specified by using Partial Autocorrelation Functions (PACF), Autocorrelation Functions (ACF), Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). This equation is important because if this is not correctly specified, the variance estimate will not be good either.

AR (1) process

$$Y_t = \theta_0 + \theta_1 Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\varepsilon_t = \sigma_t \varepsilon_t^2$$

Here we assume that  $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0,1)$  and  $\varepsilon_t/\phi_{t-1} \sim N(0, \sigma_t^2)$

Where

$\phi_{t-1}$  is available information up to t-1 period

$\varepsilon_t$  is disturbance term

$\sigma_t$  is unconditionally standard normal variable

**Variance equation**

In case of variance equation, conditional variance is a linear function of square of error term and also a linear function of its own lags. The GARCH (1, 1) process is the most popular specification model in case of GARCH. It is in the form as below:

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta_1 \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

The generalization of this model is GARCH (p, q) process

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_i \varepsilon_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j \sigma_{t-j}^2$$

A sufficient condition for the conditional variance to be positive is

$$\alpha_0 > 0, \alpha_i \geq 0 \text{ } i=1,2,\dots,q; \beta_j \geq 0 \text{ } j = 1,2,\dots,p;$$

This generalized ARCH (p, q) model called GARCH (p, q) allows for both autoregressive and moving average components in the heteroscedastic variance. If we set p=0 and q=1, it is clear that the first order ARCH (1) model is simply a GARCH (0, 1) model. If all  $\gamma_j$  equal zero, the GARCH (p, q) model is equivalent to an ARCH (q) model. In case of ARCH and GARCH models, maximum likelihood functions estimation (Fan and Yao, 2003) are commonly used. The most popular statistics used are Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)

**Artificial Neural Network (ANN)**

Artificial neural networks can be defined as information processing tools, which mimic or copy the learning methodology of the biological neural networks. It derives its origin from human nervous system, which consists of massively parallel large interconnection of large number of neurons that activate different perceptual and recognition task in small amount of time.

ANNs imitate the learning process of the human brain and can process problems involving non-linear and complex data even if the data are imprecise and noisy. Thus they are ideally suited for the modeling of agricultural data which are known to be complex and often non-linear. A very

important feature of these networks is their adaptive nature, where “learning by example” replaces “programming” in solving problems. This feature makes such computational models very appealing in application domains where one has little or incomplete understanding of the problem to be solved but where training data is readily available.

### Basics of artificial neural networks

A neuron is a real function of the input vector  $(y_1, \dots, y_k)$ . The output is obtained as  $f(x_j) = f(\alpha_j + \sum_{i=1}^k w_{ij} y_j)$ , where  $f$  is a function, typically the sigmoid (logistic or tangent hyperbolic) function. A graphical presentation of neuron is given in Figure 1. Mathematically a multi-layer perception network is a function consisting of compositions of weighted sums of the functions corresponding to the neurons.

## Results and Discussion

### GARCH model

An AR-GARCH model was endeavored using the Eviews-8 statistical package. The model was built by using daily price data of bivoltine cocoon from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Training Set: 80 % of the sample) and the forecasting accuracy of the model tested by considering the remaining data on cocoon price from 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 (Testing Set: 20% of the sample) for forecasting out-of-sample set.

It can be observed from Figure 2 that the residuals of prices of bivoltine cocoon behaved high extent of fluctuations across the time period, which means irregular pattern of variation throughout the study period. This shows uncertainty of price called price volatility (periods of high swings in the price series followed with periods of low swings). In such situations, stochastic volatility models such as ARCH, GARCH etc., are normally

used (Darekar *et al.*, 2017). The price volatility of current study is plotted in Figure 3. The ARCH/GARCH effect was confirmed through Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test. The Table 1 depicts significance of Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test at 1 per cent level of significance. So, overall there is ARCH/GARCH effect for this series. The significance of the test indicates that the errors fluctuate across the sample and confirms the heteroscedasticity. Volatility predictive models are essentially constructed for the data suffers from heteroscedasticity (Iqbal *et al.*, 2010).

### Specifying a mean equation

In this study, both AIC and Schwarz criteria were employed to select an appropriate mean model for the sample of the data available. Table 2 displays the summaries of the AIC and Schwarz criteria of different AR models. AR (3) model exhibited lesser AIC and Schwarz criterion. Therefore, AR (3) model was selected as the best model among several AR models.

### Specifying a volatility model

Again, both AIC and Schwarz criteria were employed to select an appropriate GARCH model for the sample of the data available. The summaries of the AIC and Schwarz criteria of different GARCH models are shown in Table 3. GARCH (3, 2) model exhibited lesser AIC and Schwarz criteria compared to other series of GARCH models. Hence, GARCH (3, 2) model was selected as the best model among various GARCH models (Hansen *et al.*, 2012).

### Simultaneous estimation of the mean and volatility equations

The parameters of mean equation and variance equation of the prices of bivoltine cocoon

were simultaneously estimated by considering GARCH models for conditional variance. The estimated parameters of both the mean and volatility equations are shown in Table 4. The estimates of GARCH (3, 2) model show that the coefficients of mean and variance equation are statistically significant at both 1% and 5% level of significance. Further,  $\alpha_1$  and  $\beta_1$  are greater than zero. So this model is satisfying sufficient condition for the conditional variance as per the assumptions of the model (Guillermo 2018).

$$\sigma^2_t = 3.803 + 0.963\varepsilon^2_{t-1} + 0.967\sigma^2_{t-2} + 0.964\varepsilon^2_{t-1} + 0.967\sigma^2_{t-2}$$

Figure 4 explains the one-step ahead standard deviation for each observation in the sample.

Comparing this graph with that of the daily price, it is evident that the increase in the conditional standard deviation is associated with a clustering of large observations (Khalifa *et al.*, 2011).

So, overall it can be concluded that the AR (3)-GRARCH (3, 2) model is the best among different GRARCH models for forecasting of the prices of bivoltine cocoon in Ramanagaram cocoon market. Yegnanew Alem Shiferaw (2012) reported similar results that GARCH (1, 1) models are the most appropriate fitted models to evaluate the volatility of the log-returns of prices of cereal crops.

**Table.1** Heteroskedasticity Test for price of bivoltine cocoon

Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test	
Obs*R-squared	Prob. Chi-Square(1)
25.88936	0.0000

**Table.2** Autoregressive model selection for the prices of bivoltine cocoon using AIC and BIC

	Akaike info criterion	Schwarz criterion
AR(1)	11.162	11.196
AR(2)	10.032	10.208
AR(3)	7.673	7.435
AR(4)	8.187	8.264
AR(5)	9.399	9.592

**Table.3** GARCH model selection for the prices of bivoltine cocoon using AIC and BIC

Models	Akaike Info. Criterion	Schwarz criterion
GARCH(1,0)	12.56	12.65
GARCH(1,1)	11.94	11.81
GARCH(1,2)	11.65	11.32
GARCH(2,1)	10.87	10.96
GARCH(2,2)	8.32	8.25
GARCH(2,3)	9.86	9.75
GARCH(3,1)	8.16	8.13
GARCH(3,2)	7.25	7.34
GARCH(3,3)	10.69	10.72

**Table.4** Maximum Likelihood Estimates of GARCH (3, 2) of prices of bivoltine cocoon

Model Equations	Coefficient	Std. Error	Z-Statistics	Prob.
<b>Mean Equation</b>				
$\theta_0$	2.318	0.972	2.385	<b>0.013</b>
$\theta_1$	0.951	0.51	1.864	<b>0.000</b>
$\theta_2$	-0.894	0.23	-3.886	<b>0.000</b>
$\theta_3$	0.752	0.34	2.215	<b>0.021</b>
<b>Variance Equation</b>				
$\alpha_0$	3.803	0.215	17.708	<b>0.000</b>
$\alpha_1$	0.963	0.050	19.384	<b>0.000</b>
$\alpha_2$	0.967	0.052	18.736	<b>0.000</b>
$\alpha_3$	0.964	0.060	15.945	<b>0.000</b>
$\beta_1$	1.004	0.073	13.736	<b>0.000</b>
$\beta_2$	1.022	0.019	54.154	<b>0.000</b>
<b>R-squared</b>	<b>0.89</b>			
<b>Akaike info criterion</b>	<b>7.25</b>			
<b>Schwarz criterion</b>	<b>7.34</b>			
<b>Durbin-Watson stat</b>	<b>1.67</b>			

**Table.5** Network Information for prices of bivoltine cocoon

Input layer	Covariates No. of units Rescaling methods of covariates	Lag1,lag2,lag3...Lag15 15 Standardized
<b>Hidden Layers</b>	No. of hidden layers No. of units in hidden layers Activation Function	1 10 Hyperbolic tangent
<b>Output Layer</b>	Dependent variables Number of units Rescaling methods for scale dependents Activation function Error function	1 1 Standardized Identity Sum of squares

**Table.6** Comparison of forecasting accuracy of GARCH and ANN models

Statistics	GARCH	ANN
<b>MSE</b>	69.254	80.496
<b>RMSE</b>	7.238	9.621
<b>MAPE</b>	5.682	6.758

Table.7 Observed and predicted prices of bivoltine cocoon

Month	Observed price (Rs/kg)	Predicted price (Rs/kg)	
		GARCH	ANN
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2019	393	391	395
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep 2019	402	400	404
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep 2019	392	390	396
4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	393	395	395
5 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	391	394	390
6 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	415	413	418
7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	407	406	409
8 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	406	403	408
9 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	405	405	409
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	390	389	392
11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	390	389	393
12 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	389	388	392
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	391	390	395
14 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	410	409	415
15 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019	420	418	422

Fig.1 Single neuron

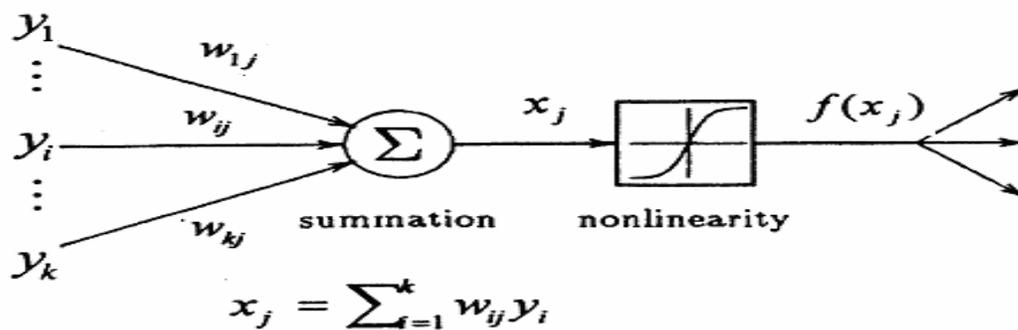
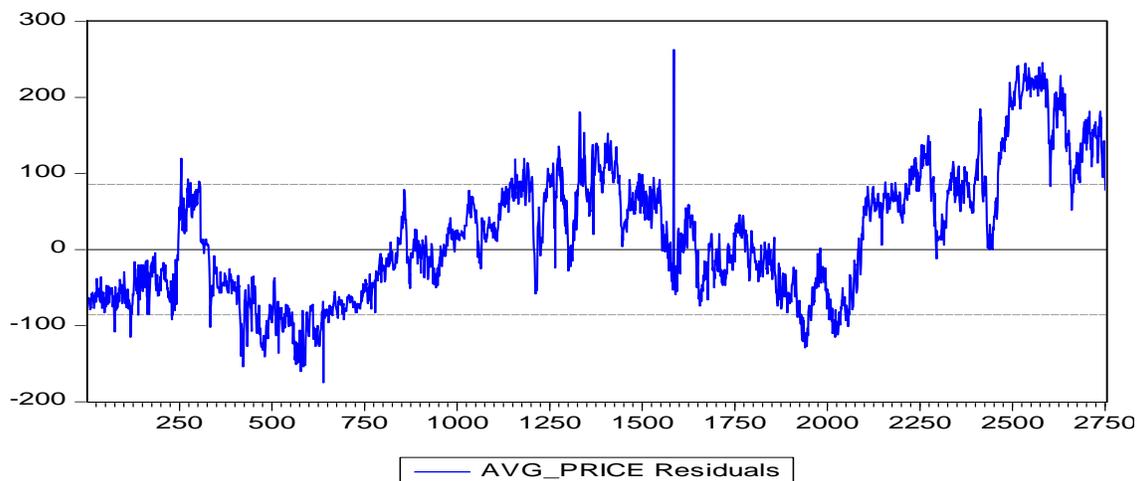
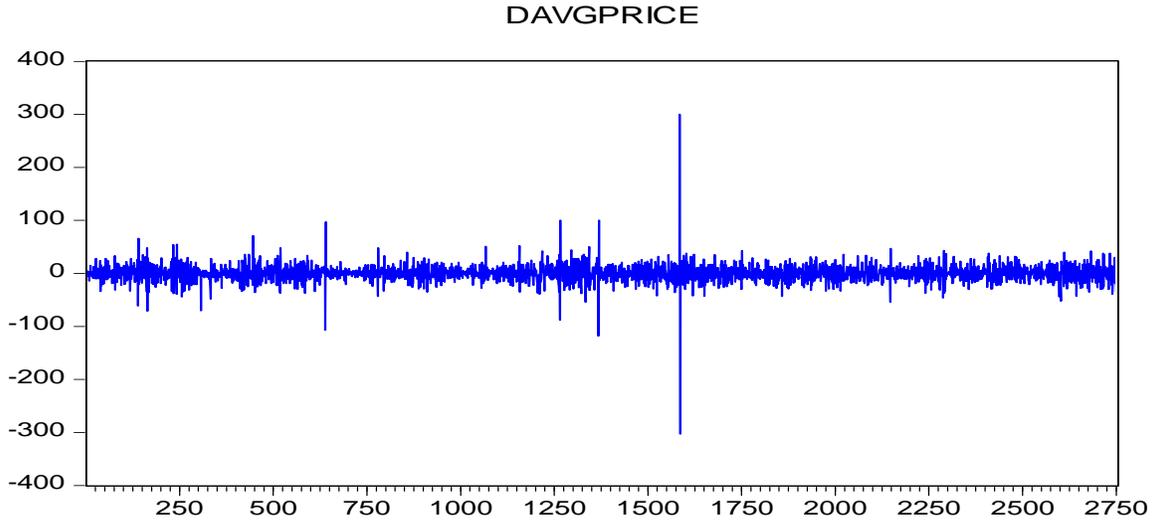


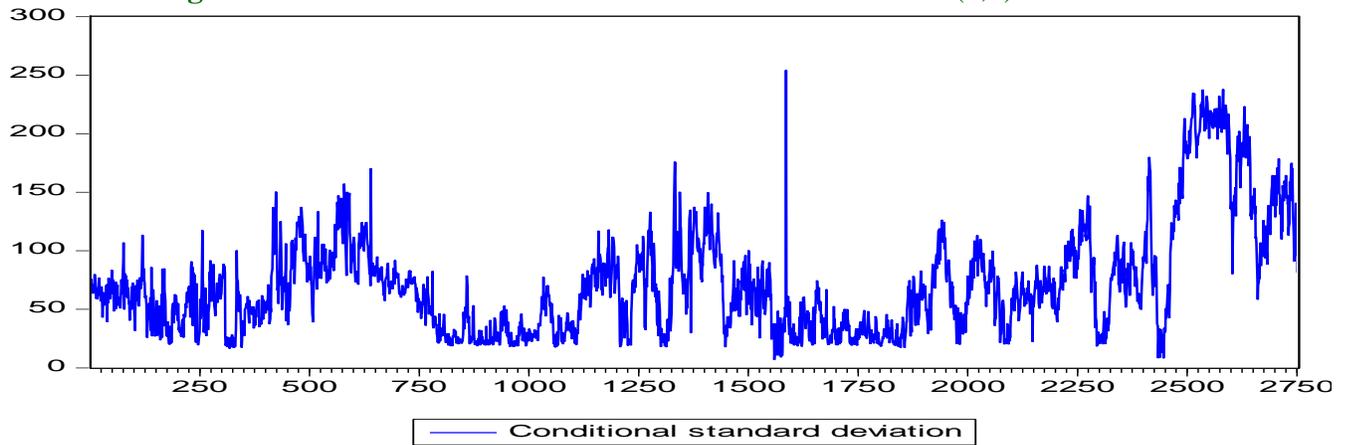
Fig.2 Residual plot of AR (3) process of prices of bivoltine cocoon



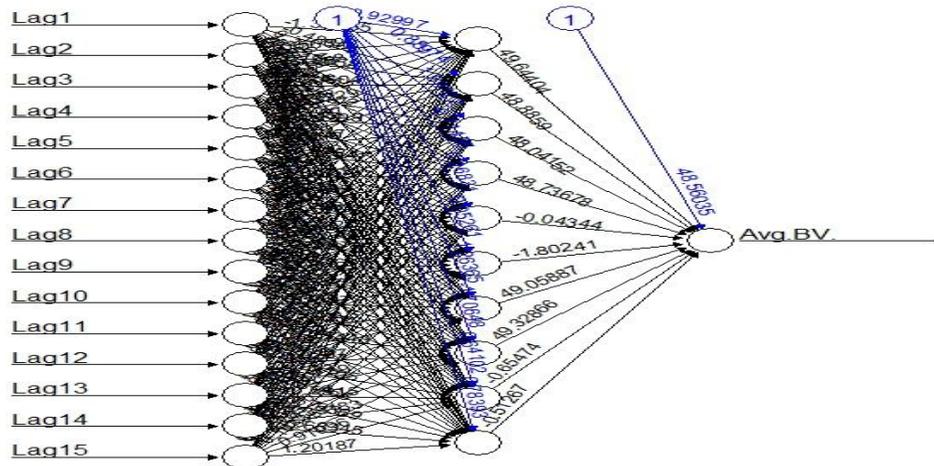
**Fig.3** Volatility in prices of bivoltine cocoon



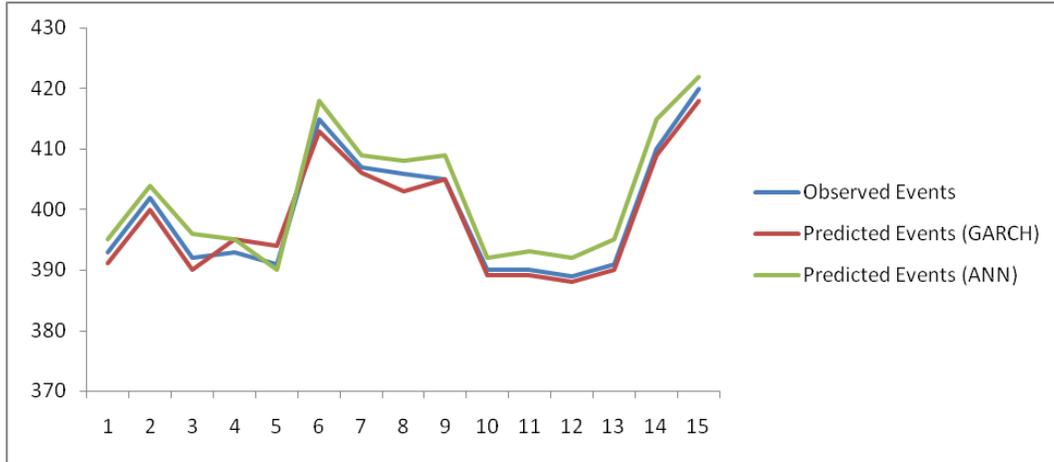
**Fig.4** Estimated conditional standard deviation from GARCH (3,2) model



**Fig.5** The architecture of the network fitted to time series of prices of bivoltine cocoon



**Fig.6** Trivariate plot of observed and predicted prices for GARCH and ANN models



### Neural network model

A feed forward neural network was fitted to the data with the help of R (v.3.3), where values of the time series by using 15 lags were taken as input vectors for forecasting. The data were divided into two sets viz., Training and Testing. As in the previous case, 80% (2754 observations) were used for training and 20% (693 observations) for testing the forecasting performance of the model.

A multilayered perceptron neural network was fitted to the data. The number of hidden nodes varied from 1 to 200. Thus, different numbers of neural network models were tried before arriving at the final structure of the model. Out of all neural network structures, a network model with 15 input nodes and 10 hidden nodes performed better than other competing models in respect of out-of sample prediction.

The information about the detailed neural network architecture is shown in Table 5. Here 15 input variables were used as covariates in analysis and the standardized rescaling method was used for adjusting the covariates. Scale dependent variables and covariates were rescaled by default to improve network training. All rescaling was performed based on

the training data, even if a testing sample was defined. The network had an input layer with 15 input nodes (the number of units in the input layer was the number of covariates used in the model) One hidden layer with 10 hidden nodes and an output layer with 1 output node (Naveena *et al.*, 2017).

In the hidden layer, there were numerous units and the activation function used was the hyperbolic tangent whereas in output vectors, identity function was used to provide the forecasted events. The architecture of the network was specified as 15-10-1 evolved from averaging of 25 iterated networks with 171 weights, which has been shown in the Figure 5.

Table 6 depicts the comparative study between volatility models (AR (3)-GARCH (3, 2)) and machine learning model (ANN), which was carried out by using MSE, RMSE and MAPE statistic for assessing the forecasting accuracy of the models.

The MSE, RMSE and MAPE statistic are statistics computed by errors (Paul *et al.*, 2009). It can be inferred from the table that MSE (69.254), RMSE (7.238) and MAPE (5.682) of AR (3)-GARCH (3, 2) model is less

than MSE (80.496), RMSE (9.621) and MAPE (6.758) of ANN model. This clearly indicates an overall the superiority of AR (3)-GARCH (3, 2) over ANN Model for forecasting of prices of bivoltine cocoon.

Table 7 provides the observed daily prices and predicted daily prices from both the models for the period of 15 days (1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019). The predicted price events followed random pattern across the order of sample price values (Yegnanew 2012).

The statistics like MSE, RMSE and MAPE statistics provide the numerical measures of accuracy of forecasting of any model, whereas biplot between observed and predicted events will provide the graphical way of assessing the prediction accuracy of any model. Figure 6 depicts the trend and patterns of observed and predicted price events for both the models. The predicted prices by GARCH model mimic more and adhere to the observed prices than that of ANN. This indicates the superiority of AR (3)-GARCH (3, 2) than in ANN Model for forecasting of prices of bivoltine cocoon (Karali *et al.*, 2013).

This paper has compared the ANN and GARCH models in terms of both modeling and forecasting using daily price data of bivoltine cocoons. The GARCH model has provided a better forecast accuracy in terms of conventional MSE, RMSE and MAPE values as compared to the ANN model. The study has suggested an appropriate model for projection of bivoltine cocoon prices that can take into the consideration of adjustments of supply and demand in the future. The classical linear time series models are not always adequate for agriculture time series data, because that have both linear and non-linear structures. Therefore, it is better to try with volatility models and machine learning models which can be an effective way to improve forecasting

performance. Based on the results obtained in this work, one can say that volatility models and ANN can increase forecasting accuracy. In further studies, one can improve the forecasting accuracy by using some other machine learning techniques such as Artificial Intelligence like Support Vector Machine, Decision Tree etc. This approach can be further evaluated by using other agricultural data real time data sets of different autoregressive and moving average orders so that practical validity of the model can be well known.

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