

Mushroom Cultivation: A Potential Venture for Agro Entrepreneurs

Mushroom provides the natural source of different nutrients for good health. The decreasing trend of arable land and increasing food demand leads to production of more nutritious food... In this context, production of mushroom and single cell protein is gaining momentum as one of the fastest growing industries. However, mushroom cultivation is unique as it is the most efficient and economically viable enterprise for the conversion of waste materials into high quality protein food. It requires little space or land and hence it is of great importance for landless and marginal land holders. Mushroom cultivation can provide additional income to Tribal ladies who wish to take up this activity especially in their lean season.. In this context KVK Rourkela facilitated a tribal Lady Emerensia Tete of Lathikata Block to opt for mushroom production in a commercial scale. KVK provided her the mushroom spawn and all the technical guidance for easy set up of mushroom unit.

The cost of raising one bed of paddy straw mushroom comes to Rs. 75/- with a production of one kilogram mushroom within a crop cycle of 21 days. The net return is Rs. 80/- per bed assuming the market price of Rs. 180-200 /- per kilogram. Likewise, the cost of raising one bag of oyster mushroom is Rs. 40-50/- per bag, assuming the market price of Rs. 80/- per kilogram. 100 of paddy straw mushroom per month during summer and rainy season and 225 bags of oyster mushroom within a period of 1.5 months during winter season gives an estimated income of Rs. 8000-9000/- per month. Moreover, mushroom being a women friendly crop as it uses agricultural wastes and by-products provides very good opportunity to farmwomen for income generation. Getting impressed with the easy and low cost production techniques and very good return due to its market demand, educated youths and entrepreneurs are turning towards mushroom cultivating as a potential venture for livelihood.





