

## Women Power- Mushroom' s Future

**Name- Mrs. Padma Bhagat**  
**Village- Balijodi, PO- Sonaparvat**  
**Block- Lathikata**  
**District- Sundargarh**  
**Mobile- 9078028306**

One inspiring example of women empowerment is Mrs. Padma Bhagat of village Balijodi in Lathikata block of Sundargarh district. She had a humble beginning in mushroom cultivation with initial guidance from KVK and then she was enrolled in CBSAE Dev. Project funded by OMBADC training programme and regular hand holding support of KVK could create a leap in her economic independence and supplementary family income. She started with paddy straw mushroom then diversified with oyster mushroom and within one year she was able to prepare 200 beds annually in paddy straw mushroom and 700 bags annually in oyster mushroom. Her annual production of paddy straw mushroom is 220 kg earning net profit of Rs.44000/- and annual production of oyster mushroom is 1450 kg earning net profit of Rs. 1 Lakh, combining both returns she could earn a net profit of Rs.1,44,000/- per year.

This has substantially increased her standard of living by which she could afford good education, food, social spending and future savings. She could become an icon in the eyes of ladies in her community. Her motivation and advice to others has motivated the local ladies to grow mushroom since their village is near Rourkela steel city which has huge demand for fresh mushroom and marketing is never a point of worry for the producers. She says start small but use scientific knowledge experts such as from recognised institutions, take proper training and exposure, maintain hygiene and quality, develop strong market connections for hassle free sale and immediate cash sale.

Her key message is- Mushroom is a long investment, high return agri-buisness within shortest possible time can transform the livelihood security and self employment especially rural women

