

Increasing income through Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

H Rabha, P Bora, P Deka* and D Borah

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Udalguri, Lalpool, Assam 784 525

Mushroom is the mobile medicine supplement in the era of modern social health-conscious society. This very property has made the mushroom commercial proposition for cultivation. Mushrooms can grow naturally, in room controlled temperature, and in the waste materials. Mushroom is an excellent source of proteins, vitamins, carbohydrates, fibers, minerals, folic acid, and a good source of iron for anemic patients. It can be taken by the diabetic and heart patients as it has low calorific value. It is described as one of the best options to convert agro-wastes into quality proteins and also fetches a good price in the market.

Key words: Assam, Calorific value, KVK, Mushroom, Spawn



FLD on Oyster mushroom



Shri Boro selling his produce at 4th Bhairabkunda Tourism Festival, Udalguri, Assam

COMMERCIAL mushroom cultivation in Assam has started recently. Its popularity is increasing day by day and it has become a business which is export-oriented. Today, mushroom cultivation has been taken up commercially in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, etc. during winter months, while earlier it was confined to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and other hilly areas. The health-conscious generation is very much interested to include mushrooms in their diet. As it is protein enriched, the vegetarians prefer to eat mushrooms instead of meat and chicken.

Mushroom cultivation has gained recent traction in Assam owing to its low input cost. Entrepreneurs of the State have developed the innovatively grown and packed mushroom sacks as their source of income. The favourable climatic conditions have provided ample opportunities for the youth to take mushroom farming as a business for better sustainability.

Mushroom cultivator, Shri Chakan

Boro, Balisiha village, Udalguri district, Assam is a living example who has achieved tremendous success in mushroom farming.

Technology, implementation and support

Shri Boro, a 44 year old farmer residing at Balisiha village, Udalguri learned that mushroom cultivation is more economical, feasible and an important enterprise for landless farmer like him. Looking into the market potential, he started Oyster mushroom cultivation in 2012 as a very small scale business. The returns were considerably good and quick compared to other enterprises. In 2014, he attended a vocational training programme conducted by SBI, RSETI in collaboration with KVK Udalguri. Later he attended demonstration of Oyster Mushroom conducted KVK Udalguri in five different locations of the district. He increased the size of operation to large scale production after he was trained for spawn production in 2017. The KVK also motivated him

to participate in district level exhibitions.

Uptake, benefit and spread

Mr. Boro runs a mushroom farm and markets his entire produce through the business he and his wife established, called 'Chakradhar Mushroom Industry', which is registered under DIC, Udalguri. They sell both the fresh and dried mushroom locally in the village and nearby towns. He also became supplier of mushroom spawn.

He is very confident in this mushroom farming and enjoys his business. He took initiative to make a full-fledged mushroom spawn production unit along with his mushroom farm. He is also encouraged by KVK, Udalguri for value addition of mushrooms. He has applied for FPO which is under process. Mr. Boro earns ₹ 12,000/month with a B:C ratio of 2.81.

Corresponding author e-mail:
pallavideka1986@gmail.com