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Studies on the adoption of mushroom production as women empowerment for lively hood and income generation under tribal of district Purnea, Bihar

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Abstract

The study explores the adoption of Mushroom production as strategy for women empowerment, focusing on the impact on livelihood & income generation. Mushroom with their rapid growth cycle and high market value present a viable agricultural enterprise for women in rural and undeserved communities. Present research investigates various dimension on this adaptation including socio-economic benefits, skill development and change in gender dynamics within household. By analyzing case studies and imperial data from multiple respondent, the study reveals the mushroom farming enhance the women's economics, dependence, provides flexible employment opportunities and faster entrepreneurial skills. Furthermore it highlights the role of supportive policies and training programmes in facilitating successful adoption and sustaining growth. The finding underscore mushroom production is a promising intervention for improving women livelihood and promoting gender equality in agricultural development.

Keywords: Mushroom production, lively hood, women empowerment

Introduction

Mushroom cultivation is a women friendly profession. Mushroom growing is an agricultural activity in which women can utilize their spare time and play a vital role without sacrificing household responsibilities. Promotion of mushroom cultivation could relieve pressure on land income generation as well as and nutritional security and can uplift the status of women through earning additional income and in household decision making as far as concerned. Mushroom is a good source of vitamin B, C & D including niacin, riboflorin, thiamine, folate and various minerals including Potassium phosphorous, calcium, magnesium, iron and copper, Mushroom provide high quality fats, low in carbohydrates and cholesterol, which is ideal for reducing body weight. (Qumio *et al.* 1990) ^[4]. Mushrooms are very rich source of protein and hence could be more effective in decreasing protein deficiency as well as malnutrition problem and income in rural and poor women.

The cultivation of edible Mushroom not only helps in recycling in agro waste but also feeling up the nutritional gap prevalent among large population of India. In addition, spent substrates can only be used for Biomass production (Bisaria *et al.*, 1990) ^[2], for the fertilizer in agricultural fields and can also upgrade the and used as animal feed (Zadrazil *et al.*, 1992) ^[5].

Mushroom cultivation can be large source of income through development programme for farmers if they are made aware it cultivation process and it's importance. The oyster mushrooms are cheaper available in farmer's yard and easily cultivated in various climatic condition as a fast maturity crop.

The wide difference in women in women's nutrition among the countries that have similar income levels indicate that something other than income effects on tribal women's nutrition. So, it is extremely importance to recognize the role of women in developing section. Women have the potential to change their own economic status along with changing the status of the powerful impact on productivity and agriculture lead growth.

Therefore, there is urgent need to make women's economically independent and thus empower women for social appraisal.

Mushroom growing is one of the agricultural activity which can play a vital role without sacrificing their household responsibilities. Mushroom cultivation is simple, low cost and suitable technique for rural areas (Bhatia A 2000) [1]. Mushroom cultivation will improve the social-economic condition of farmers' families and solve employment problems of both illiterate and literate tribal women

The mushroom production as an income generation with the objectives impact of training and demonstration on mushroom production as a women empowerment

Materials and Methods

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy of tribal development is a concept intended in tribal areas and tribal population in an integrated way. The aim is to minimize the gap between the Livelihood of tribal people and general communities.

ICAR Tribal Sub-Plan project entitled carried out “ensuring sustainable livelihood security of tribal in Bareta block Kasba.

Training programme on mushroom production was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jalalgarh and at the village level Bareta. The tribal women participated in the training. In order to access the knowledge of the trainees both pre and post evaluation of questionnaire was framed. The pre evaluation before training was totally nil but post evaluation after training was effective. The trainees gained vast knowledge about mushroom production. 25 respondents were selected for mushroom production. The 10 questions related to mushroom production were prepared on.

The knowledge of trainees, related to mushroom production after training has improved. Change in perception level was calculated from the different scores obtained in pre and post evaluation.

| S. No. | Topics | Pre evaluation | Post evaluation | Change in perception level |
|--------|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | To adopt mushroom production as an enterprise | 5 | 45 | 160 |
| 2. | Type of mushroom | 0 | 28 | 112 |
| 3. | Nutritive value of mushroom | 0 | 34 | 136 |
| 4. | Value addition product of mushroom | 0 | 12 | 48 |
| 5. | Harvesting and storage method | 0 | 57 | 228 |
| 6. | Profitability in mushroom production | 10 | 36 | 104 |
| 7. | Establishment of Mushroom production unit | 0 | 85 | 340 |
| 8. | Mushroom spawn production | 0 | 54 | 216 |
| 9. | To establish linkage with KVK | 0 | 92 | 368 |
| 10. | Awareness of tools, schemes and subsidies | 0 | 95 | 380 |

Change in percentage – After training – Before training x 100

Total respondent

Result and Discussion

After successful completion of training to the tribal women at KVK Jalalgarh, Purnea, 25 FLDs were demonstrated to their houses. The result in the table indicated that before the training there was no production of mushroom in the village- Bareta, but after the training they improved their perception to start this venture. Consequently, the result showed in the table that the cost of cultivation for one bag of mushroom was Rs. 40/- and average yield was recorded 03 kg per bag resulted in to net return of Rs. 410/- per bag and the B: C ratio of 11.25 when compared with no skill gained before training.



Production of Mushroom



Demonstration of Mushroom

| Training | Yield (Kg/bag) | Cost of Cultivation (Rs.) per bag | Gross Return (Rs.) per bag | Net Return (Rs.) per bag | B: C Ratio |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Before Training | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| After Training | 3.0 | 40.0 | 450.0 | 410.0 | 11.25 |

The impact of this small venture further motivated several nearby house hold owners to cultivate mushroom as their part job.

Conclusion

From this review we conducted that mushroom production contributes the highest share of production. Training and demonstration are a part of KVK extension system. Krishi Vigyan Kendra plays an important role for the encouraging tribal community.

Mushroom production is most important tool for convincing the farmers about its utility. Due to low expenditure requirement and high income, mushroom production can be adopted by small marginal and even landless women farmer. Mushroom production is a simple and quick income generating enterprise from they can earn additional income.

The respondent has showed their keen interest regarding the mushroom production because the KVK has provided the linkage between farmers and scientists which helped in transfer of technology and overall development of weaker section.

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