Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry
Available online at www.phytojournal.com

E-ISSN: 2278-4136
P-ISSN: 2349-8234
www.phytojournal.com
JPP 2020; 9(3): 1450-1452
Received: 14-03-2020
Accepted: 18-04-2020

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Impact of oyster mushroom training programme on farm women of Bastar

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Abstract
Mushroom cultivation plays a significant role to eradicate malnutrition, alleviate poverty and generate employment opportunity for farm women in rural area. Vocational Training programmes are conducted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra with a goal that the trainee become an entrepreneur based and acquired knowledge and skill. Entrepreneurship development is the only possible way to empower women. KVK, Bastar organized the training on oyster mushroom production for farm women of village-Kumrahwand, Dharmaur, Badechakawa of Bastar District. The study revealed that exposure to training increased the knowledge of farm women regarding techniques of mushroom cultivation. Some trainees adopted mushroom cultivation as self-employment and set up their own business. To assess the social acceptability a structured interview schedule was prepared and survey was carried out in 100 randomly selected farm women from village- Kumrahwand and Dharmaur and Badechakwa village. The study revealed that the mushroom production training has created a favorable attitude among the trainees and also enhanced the economic level of beneficiaries who adopted it as a source of livelihood. Economic viability of the mushroom production as the mushroom yield ranged from 60-80 kg/100 kg wheat straw and total income from 100 kg wheat straw ranged from 6000-8000 with net profit of 5300-7000 in three months.

Keywords: Mushroom production, training, oyster mushroom, farm women

Introduction
Cultivated mushrooms have now become popular all over the world. Mushroom cultivation can directly improve livelihoods through women empowerment, income generation and nutritional security. Mushroom is a popular food due to their special flavor, nutritive value and medicinal properties. Mushroom contains a good source of vitamin B, C and D, including niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, and foliate, and various minerals including potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron and copper. They provide high quality fats and low in carbohydrates and cholesterol, which is ideal for reducing body weight (Qumio *et al*., 1990) [4]. Mushroom cultivation can help reduce vulnerability to poverty and strengthens livelihoods through the generation of a fast yielding and nutritious source of food and a reliable source of income (Rachna *et al*., 2013) [5]. It is an indoor crop, grown independent without sunlight and do not require fertile land and can be grown on small scale as it does not include any significant capital investment (Chadda and Sharma, 1995) [2]. Mushroom cultivation will improve the socio-economic condition of farmers, families and solve employment problems of both literate and illiterate of rural areas and semi-urban, especially women. 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 their household responsibilities. Promotion of mushroom cultivation could relieve pressure on land, increase food and nutritional security and uplift the status of women through earning additional income and in household decision making as far as concerned (Manju *et al*., 2012) [3]. Mushroom substrate can be prepared from any clean agricultural waste material, and mushrooms can be produced in temporary clean shelters.

Entrepreneurship development among farm women could prove a suitable approach for economic empowerment. This is the only possible way to empower women by skill and capacity building; the rural women can adopt agriculture based business on individual or group level and raise themselves economically and socially. 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 in which women can play a vital role without sacrificing their household responsibilities. Mushroom cultivation is simple, low cost, and suitable technique for rural areas. It is labour intensive and can provide employment in both the semi-urban and rural areas.

(Bhatia, A 2000) [1] Mushroom cultivation will improve the socioeconomic condition of farmer's families and solve employment problems of both illiterate and literate women. In the above context, an attempt has been made by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bastar to introduce the mushroom production as an income generation activity. Keeping following objective in consideration:

To assess the social acceptability of mushroom production.

Materials and Method

Training programmes on mushroom production are conducted both at Krishi Vigyan Kendra and at the village level. Women of village Kumharawand, Dharmaur and Badechakwa were participated in the training. Further to assess the social acceptability a structured interview schedule was prepared and survey was carried out among 100 randomly selected women from the village Kumrahwand, Dharmaur and Badechakawa. A complete list of 100 respondents was prepared who have under gone through training and demonstration on mushroom production technique from the village with in the year 2019-2020. In order to assess the knowledge gained by the trainees and effectiveness of training, apre-test before training and post evaluation after training was conducted to know the level of knowledge of participants. To test the knowledge of trainees, a set of 10 questions related to mushroom production, nutritive value, value added products prepared from mushroom, its picking and storage method etc. were prepared and the suggestions from the trainees were also recorded for further improvement in the next training programme. Change in perception level was calculated from the difference of scores obtained in pre and post knowledge

$$\text{Change of Knowledge} = \frac{\text{After training} - \text{Before training}}{\text{Total Respondent}} \text{ X } 100 \text{ Total respondents}$$

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Change in perception level of respondents for mushroom production N=100

S.no	Particulars	Pre-test Knowledge before training (%)	Post-test Knowledge after training (%)	Change in perception level (%)
1.	Knowledge of species of mushroom and identification of edible mushroom	9.00	95.00	86.00
2.	Nutritive and medicinal value of mushroom	6.00	83.00	77.00
3.	Materials and techniques used for different types of mushroom production	3.00	96.00	93.00
4.	Methods of compost making	1.25	64.00	62.75
5.	Pest and disease infestation in mushroom	6.00	53.00	47.00
6.	Profitability in mushroom cultivation	28.00	100.00	72
7.	Harvesting and storage process	10.00	89.00	79
8.	Mushroom spawn production	0.00	32.00	32.00
9.	Awareness of loans, schemes and subsides provided by public or private institutions for establishment of mushroom production unit	15.00	92.00	77.00
10	Value added products of mushroom	32.00	97.00	65.00

Table 1: indicates that farm women develop a favourable attitude towards mushroom production after training. In pretest before training, the knowledge of respondents about mushroom spawn production was zero and 1.25 per cent regarding methods of compost making to 15.00 percent in case of awareness of loans, schemes and subsides provided by public or private institutions for establishment of mushroom production unit where as Post training score of various practices ranged from 64.00 per cent in case of mushroom spawn production to 100 per cent in case of profitability in mushroom cultivation. It was thus noticed that pre-training knowledge score was not much satisfactory for all the aspects of training programme. However, the knowledge score gained by respondents after training was more satisfactory in all aspects. The reason behind the satisfactory change in perception level might be due to well educational background, keen interest of participants and methods followed for technology transfer to the trainees

Fig 1: Assessment of knowledge about mushroom cultivation by conducting

Conclusion

Socio-economic status of the members of farm women can be improved by different entrepreneurship development programmes like trainings. The majority of women were in young age group, it is a good sign for generating self employment for rural women. The need is to select the trainees on basis of their resources and interest. Due to low expenditure requirement and high income, mushroom production can be adopted by small marginal and even landless women farmers

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