

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Oyster mushroom cultivation: Sole source of income for marginal and landless farmers

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ABSTRACT

More than 50 varieties of mushrooms are consumed in India but only three, namely, button mushroom (*Agaricus biosporus*), oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp.) and paddy straw mushroom (*Volvariella* spp.) are commercially cultivated. Among these, oyster mushroom is very easy to cultivate at low cost. Training on oyster mushroom cultivation started in 2009-10 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra with 19 male and 11 female trainees and in 2012-13, 114 male and 76 female trainees participated in training and started cultivation. Impact of training was found very positive resulting more than 1800 landless and marginal farmers family adopted oyster mushroom cultivation as income source and also got self-employment. Wheat + sugarcane produced 0.934 kg mushroom in 1 kg base and was maximum than other bases used, whereas soybean base produced minimum (0.363 kg) so far Wheat + sugarcane gave more profit followed by wheat, straw and soybean.

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