

A Case Study :

CONSTRAINTS IN ADOPTION OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGY

T. PATTNAIK AND S. MISHRA

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ABSTRACT

The role of women in agriculture has, however changed dramatically in developed countries after the advent of science and technology. Due to the modernization in agriculture, women have now opportunities to adopt subsidiary occupation to add to household income. Mushroom cultivation being a space confined technology offers good opportunity for rural women.

The present study was carried out in Kendrapara District of Orissa. The sample consisted of 120 rural women adopted mushroom cultivation technology. The constraints as expressed by rural women are mushroom is highly perishable, lack of marketing facility, infected spawn, non-possession of technical knowledge, low risk bearing capacity, lack of technical guidance, lack of flow of information, non-availability of spawn in time, non-availability of quality straw, lack of Govt. subsidy and lack of transport facility which are to be taken care to bring women to the main stream of development. The suggestions of rural women to overcome the constraints in mushroom cultivation include availability of loan facility and subsidy, post-harvest storage facility, availability of quality spawn, marketing facility, supply of information at right times, technical guidance through skill training and reduced cost of mushroom spawn. The most important considerations are market net working, intensive training programme for mushroom cultivation and its value addition, formation of self help group may improve investment in mushroom cultivation and real empowerment of rural women.

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Rural women play multiple crucial roles in all spheres of development activities. They are not only involved in every stage of food production but also shoulder the responsibility of processing, storage and marketing. Studies reveal that 44 percent of world's food is produced by women (Samanta 1994; Swaminathan, 1990). Despite their substantial contribution in the field of agriculture, women continue to be marginalized, undervalued and

unrecognized. The concept of invisible hand (Singh & Vitanen, 1987) explains the point better as all the efforts of women go in the name of their male counterparts.

The role of women in agriculture has, however changed dramatically in developed countries after the advent of science and technology in farming practices. Historically, it is believed that it was the women who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and Sciences of farming (Swaminathan, 1990), while men were out hunting in search of food. Women started gathering

