



Technological gap in adoption of improved mushroom cultivation practices in Haryana

J.N.BHATIA, DEVENDER CHAHAL AND R.S.CHAUHAN

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

J.N. BHATIA

Krishi Vigyan Kendra,
C.C.S., H.A.U.,
AMBALA
(HARYANA) INDIA
Email: bhatia1960
@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

Technological gap is the gap between the level of recommendation and extent of their adoption. Accordingly, the study was conducted to know the technological gap of the mushroom growers about mushroom cultivation which is grown indoor and provides employment to the unemployed youth and small farmers to raise their social status and to earn extra income other than the filed crops. The study was conducted in Ambala, Panchkula and Yamunanagar districts of Haryana state. It was inferred from the study that the farmers had overall 32.38 per cent technological gap in adoption of improved mushroom cultivation practices. Among different categories, it was found that 32 per cent of the respondents had low level of technological gap (less than 25 per cent) and about half of the respondent (46 per cent) having medium level of technological gap (between 25-30 per cent) where as about one fifth (27 per cent) of the respondents had high level of technological gap (above 30 per cent). The maximum gap was found in case of compost making (59 per cent) followed by management practices (42.25 per cent) and casing preparation (38.07 per cent) as compared to other mushroom cultivation practices.

Bhatia, J.N., Chahal, Devender and Chauhan, R.S. (2011). Technological gap in adoption of improved mushroom cultivation practices in Haryana. *Agric.Update*, 6(3&4): 206-209.

INTRODUCTION

Mushrooms which are also known as fleshy fungi, attracted the attention of man since ancient times. These are ideal tools for converting agricultural wastes into protein rich non-conventional food items. Its cultivation became more important in countries like India where density of population is more as compared to the available cultivated areas because mushroom requires very less areas and there is abundant availability of agro-waste materials which can be utilized for its cultivation. Mushrooms are rich in food value and are highly recommended for people with dietary deficiencies. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has recommended mushrooms as a supplementary food items to the growing population of the developing countries which depend primarily on cereal diets. Mushroom protein has been universally accepted to be superior to vegetable proteins and as found as animal proteins and are therefore recognized as non conventional source of protein which can bridge the protein quality gap in the Indian diet. Mushroom production is important not only

from nutritional and medicinal point of view but for exports and recycling of agro-wastes. Its culture does not require pressure on already over burdened cultivated areas as it is cultivated indoors and in additional small floor area, the vertical space can also be utilized judiciously as stated by Chadha and Sharma(1995) and Pathak *et al.*(1998).

As far as mushroom production is concerned, Haryana is the leading mushroom growing state of India and the white button mushroom is presently being cultivated by seasonal growers under natural conditions by following low cost technology (Table 1). In Haryana state, majority of the mushroom growers produce only white button mushroom (95 per cent) and very few oyster mushroom (5 per cent) of the total mushroom production in the state (Chadha and Sharma, 1995). The productivity of mushroom in Haryana can further be accelerated if the farmers adopt improved recommended mushroom practices. Pasteurized compost is absolutely essential for successful mushroom growing but unfortunately use of unpasteurized compost is widely prevalent with our small growers who

Key words :

Technological gap,
Adoption,
Mushroom
cultivation

Received:

Jul., 2011;

Revised:

Sep., 2011;

Accepted :

Oct., 2011