



Research Article

Transfer of mushroom farming technology as one of the livelihoods generating activity identified in rural Haryana

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SUMMARY : Though the production of edible mushroom has been increased by several folds in the state of Haryana during the last three decade, it is yet to attend prime position in the national scenario either in production or in number of farms. However, huge publicity through media and efforts made by Govt., Non Govt. organizations, Univ., Dept. of Horticulture and Haryana Agro's have created much interest among the farmers to a significant extent in the mushroom farming technology and its acceptance as a means of livelihood generation. Training is considered as a potent tool to equip a person enabling one to deliver the goods in a better way. Krishi Vigyan Kendra's established in Ambala district are playing a significant role in economic empowerment particularly of small farmers and landless laborers by organizing skill oriented training and establishment of small enterprises which in turn would improve the quality of life of rural families. Among them mushroom farming has been indentified as a ideal profitable enterprise since per unit productivity of mushroom is several folds high than any other crop. Besides generating income, it also supplements the daily diet which is generally protein deficient in rural areas, among the various factors influencing mushroom production. The climate factors also play a significant role in economic farming. The other factors besides availability of technical know now, regular contact with the farmers as well as socio-economic status of the farmers have been found to have positive influence on acceptance of the new technology. The study also aimed at analyzing the constraints, problems, remedies and influence of other factors in adopting the technology by the farmers.

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Transfer of
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Training,
Mushroom, Income
generation

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The necessity of transfer of research findings to the farmers was felt and emphasized on several occasions. Several extension programmes and approaches have been initiated by the ICAR, New Delhi. The overall objective of these programmes were to help farming community in adopting the superior research findings so that the gap between what is achieved on research stations and at farmers farms could be brought at zero level or minimized. Krishi Vigyan Kendra's established in Ambala district of Haryana are playing a significant role in economic empowerment of landless labourers and unemployed youth of the district by organizing skill oriented trainings and establishment of small

enterprises which in turn would improve the quality of life of rural families. Though these centres are arranging various vocations and short training courses for the youth and small farmers and farm women of the district but mushroom farming has been identified as a most profitable enterprise since per unit productivity of mushroom is several folds high than any other crop. The enterprise also gives self-employment opportunity to the rural folks as well (Madan, 1997).

Besides their nutritional value, the way they are cultivated today is equally important. Their indoor cultivation utilizing the vertical space is one singular advantage in view of the increasing pressure on agriculture land due to fast expanding civilization and population growth. Secondly they can be cultivated on a wide variety of cheap and

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