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Growth and yield of oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus* spp.) on organically amended agro wastes

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ABSTRACT

The present experiment was conducted to identify the best organic amendment on the growth and yield of five species of oyster mushrooms *viz.,Pleurotus florida, P. sajor-caju, P. eous, P. tuber-regium* and *Hypsizygus ulmarius* by using organic amendments like rice bran, dry azolla, *Neem* cake, vermiwash and dry biogas slurry at three different concentrations. The effect of organic amendments on the number of days for sporophore formation, number and weight of sporophores varied according to the mushroom species. Results revealed that except dry biogas slurry, all organic amendments had superior effect in reducing number of days for sporophore formation, increasing the number of sporophores and yield. Effect of organic amendments on the yield of oyster mushrooms showed that all organic amendments except dry biogas slurry performed well with more number and weight of sporophores. The number of days for sporophore formation varied between 16.5 to 20.8 days in *P. eous*, 19.5 to 39 days in *P. tuber-regium* and 17.5 to 36.8 days in *H. ulmarius*. In *P. florida* and *P. eous* highest yield of 350.3g and 379g, respectively obtained from paddy straw amended with 1 per cent *Neem* cake. *P. sajor-caju* gave the maximum yield of 405.3g in 5 per cent rice bran. The maximum yield of 134.8g was recorded in *P. tuber-regium* when treated with 4 per cent rice bran whereas paddy straw amended with 6 per cent dry azolla gave highest yield of 218.3g in *H. ulmarius*.

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