

A Few Steps Towards the Development of Small Entrepreneur of Mushroom Cultivation Amongst the Tribal Youths

During the recent years an attempt was made to develop small entrepreneur of mushroom cultivation amongst the tribal youths and to popularize its cultivation technology amongst the tribal community. In order to achieve the targets the following activities were conducted:

Conduction of training programme & monitoring of cultivation: Four (4) training programmes one each at Lembucherra, Damdamia, Birchandramanu and Bati Fatikcherra were conducted during the years. In all, 159 trainees were participated in the training programme and they were given 1008 packets of spawn (Table-1, Fig. 1). Subsequently, there cultivation was monitored to make them well trained in mushroom cultivation

Table 1. Performances of trainings at different venues

Venue	Date	Trainees participated (No)	Spawn packets distributed (no)
ICAR, Lembucherra	18.4.2012	61	310
ASHA, Damdamia	19.7.2012	39	195
KVK, Birchandramanu	19.9.2012	30	300
Bati Fatikcherra	29.1.2013	29	203



Fig. 1. Training programmes under TSP project. A. Training programme at ASHA, Damdamia; B. Training programme at Bati Fatikcherra; C. Tribal youths mushroom practicing cultivation in training; D. Distribution of spawn and cultivating materials including hangers

Distribution of spawn, cultivating materials and preparation of low cost mushroom shed : Apart from training mushroom spawn, PP bags, hangers and chemicals were distributed during different dates to the tribal beneficiaries and their cultivation was monitored (Table 2, Fig 2). A few mushroom sheds were also prepared or modified the existing structure in making suitability for mushroom cultivation.

Table-2. Spawn, cultivating materials distribution and low cost mushroom shed preparation

Particular	No. of tribal beneficiaries	No. distributed or prepared
Mushroom spawn	212	1479
Hangers prepared	7	34
Mushroom shed	8	8



Fig. 2(A & B). Tribal youths showing production under TSP project

Spawn selling and revenue generation: Apart from adopted farmers, several interested youths came to know the technical know-how and to purchase spawn. The spawn which prepared in the centre were sold partially to generate revenue. In all, 480 spawn packets were sold and revenue generated amounting Rs.3840/-.