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### Impact of skill development training on mushroom production for self-employment among rural women in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh

**Shikha Markam, Ravindra Tigga, Abhay Kumar and Dharampal Kerketta**

#### Abstract

The present study was conducted to ascertain the impact of skill development training on mushroom production for self-employment for the establishment of mushroom units and adoption rate of the mushroom production technology among the trainees who acquired trainings from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Surguja under Mukhyamantri Kaushal Vikash Yozna during 2014-15 to 2016-17. The numbers of mushroom unit established were also increased progressively from 7 to 43. The adoption rates were increased from 13.46 per cent to 40.95 per cent. On the basis of assessment it can be concluded that skill development training is essential to popularize the mushroom production and self-employment among the rural women.

**Keywords:** Skill development, training, mushroom production, employment

#### 1. Introduction

The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are functioning in various districts of our country having the objectives: (i) to solve the problem of unemployment in the rural areas of their respective district by providing skill development training and advisory services. (ii) To strengthen the allied enterprises other than crop production in the area as a subsidiary business. (iii) To increase the production and productivity of main crops in the area and other enterprises. (iv) To educate the farming community and making them economically and socially sound. (v) To disseminate new, proven and economically and viable technologies in the area. (vi) To get feedback to know the problems of the farming community in the area and increase the production level by using improve technology.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Surguja conducted various need based, short and long term skill development training courses in agriculture and allied enterprises for the farmers, rural women and rural youths with emphasis on learning by doing to generate higher farm production and self-employment. The skill development training imparted to the farmers, rural women and unemployed youths to increase the income and make them dependent by developing entrepreneur in future. Mushroom is a good enterprise for skill development.

By Food and Agriculture Organization, Mushroom has been recognized as food item which is highly rich source of protein and other nutrient of diet in developing country like India, where people are dependent on cereal diets. The significant feature of Mushroom is that, this nutritious and tasteful food is cultivated entirely from waste products like paddy and wheat straw and converts a wide spectrum of agricultural waste into substrate on which the growth of mushroom is supported.

Typically Mushroom is a fungus which grows naturally during rainy season. This naturally growing mushroom starts available from first offset of monsoon and continues up to rainy season. This product is collected by rural people and using it as self-consumption and selling it to local market. Naturally growing mushroom is available for a limited period during the specific season. With the advent of scientific techniques, the availability of mushroom can be made throughout the year. Mushroom is rich sources of proteins, minerals, contain less fat, less carbohydrates and rich in fibers and have high vitamin B12 and folic acid which are uncommon in vegetables. High availability of lysine and tryptophan and other amino acids

usually absent in cereals make them ideal for food for patients suffering from hypertension, high blood pressure, diabetes, constipation, obesity and heart (Carel *et al.*, 2013).

Surguja being a paddy and wheat growing area, raw material i.e. paddy and wheat straw which is used for artificial growing of mushroom is available in ample. The available paddy and wheat straw can be properly utilized to grow mushroom in a minimum time, labour, space and it can be provide employment in the rural areas.

In the present study, an attempt has been made to find out the impact of skill development training on mushroom production for self-employment with the objective to motivate the establishment of mushroom units in District and its adoption rate (%). Moreover, the feedback was taken about source of information regarding skill based training programme at village level.

**Materials and Methods**

The study was conducted at various villages of Surguja district where development training was organized. The skill development training on mushroom production for self-employment was conducted for 15 days at the different villages and KVK Campus. The rural women and unemployed youths were participated during the training. The trainings were imparted on skill development covering all the topics related to mushroom regarding Introduction to mushroom, Health and Medicinal benefits of the mushroom,

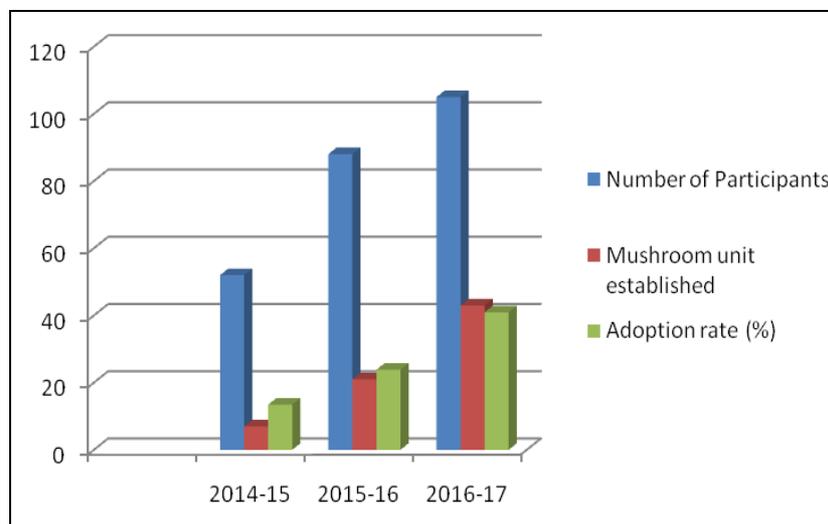
Production technology of mushroom, Processing of mushroom, Diseases, a biotic disorder and pest attack of mushroom and their management. More emphasis would be done on the practical aspects of production of the edible mushroom *Pleurotus* species (Oyster Mushroom). Apart from the skill training, 1day training programme was also conducted at frequent intervals to upgrade their skills, to overcome their shortcomings and motivate them. More frequent visits were also conducted to the mushroom unit established. The trainees were interacted personally for the feedback. The feedbacks were taken from the rural women after a month of training regarding mushroom unit established at home scale and whether the farm women will continue the enterprises of mushroom production for the next successive years or not. A Total of 245 rural women were imparted in the mushroom training.

**Results**

The data presented in the Table-1 and Graph -1 revealed that the total numbers of 09 trainings were conducted during the year 2015-2017 and in which 245 trainees were participated. It was observed that more number of mushroom units were established progressively and average adoption rate among the trainees were increased. The initially 07 units were established having the adoption rate of 13.46 per cent in 2015 and later on increased up to 43 units having the adoption rate of 40.95 per cent.

**Table 1:** Number of training conducted and mushroom unit established in district during 2014-15 to 2016-17

Year	Number of trainings	Number of Participants	Mushroom unit established	Adoption rate (%)
2014-15	2	52	07	13.46
2015-16	3	88	21	23.86
2016-17	4	105	43	40.95



**Graph 1:** Adoption rate (%) of the mushroom trainees in mushroom production of Surguja District

The data depicted in Table 2 reveals that the mass media i.e. Newspaper played the significant role (48%) in facilitating the information regarding imparting of skill development training

followed by intimation by Telephonic conversation from KVK (17%) and Notice board played the least role (6%) Table 2 as per the feedback from the mushroom trainees.

**Table 2:** Source of information regarding skill development training at village

S. No.	Sources	Percentage
1	Mass media i.e. Newspaper	48
2	Telephonic conversation on the basis of record of Register of Farmer's visit to KVK	17
3	Through KMS	14
4	Through Farmers Friends, Neighbors, relatives etc.	11
5	Through Notice board displayed in KVK	06



**Photos of Skill development training and Mushroom units at villages**

### **Impact of Mushroom Production**

The mushroom production enterprises had a significant impact on mushroom grower to raise the income of the farming community, creating additional employment opportunities, mushroom production were transforming rural women into home scale entrepreneurs with diversifying towards mushroom spawn production, mushroom processing and mushroom trade, improving farming health and education and supporting local economy. Capital utilizing locally available material by growing this mushroom, production could be done round the year with regular income. The need of market reforms and regulation were required as there were the problems in direct marketing as the increasing number of farmers were marketing their mushrooms directly to the exporters and during the peak production periods prices were low and there the need of processing and more emphasizes were done on the value added product of the mushroom.

### **Conclusion**

The Mushroom production enterprises are having a great impact on the rural women but having the limitations of marketing problems of this high value perishable commodity. Rural women remain at the receiving end and able to get the lower price of their produce so women have to put the joint or self-help group's efforts. Joint effort work as power of scale bigger the scale, lesser the cost with more emphasis on quality consciousness and tried to expand the production beyond the oyster mushroom.

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