

Boosting rural economy through mushroom production by household women

Malpur is a Tola of Morsand village under Pusa block of Samastipur. Major population in Malpur is schedule caste landless labourers. They have insufficient employment opportunities, poor skills and migration of rural youth are among major issues to be addressed in the area. A team of scientists of NAIP Project visited this village several times they could meet only female members of this village. On enquiry it was informed that being landless all the male adults go to neighbouring village for labour work. The team discussed the issue and somehow could convince the women of the tola to form a group of about 20 household women for mushroom production. The group was given training initially for oyster mushroom production at their door step. Mrs. Anita Devi was elected leader of the group with the consent of all members. When the first flash of oyster was produced they were exposed for it's cooking and preparation of *pakaura*. Gradually they started selling it within and nearby villages at the rate of Rs. 70/kg. In second step Anita Devi alongwith her group is giving consultancy for mushroom production. Now the women FIG of mushroom production is producing button mushroom. To day Mrs. Anita Devi's name is known in village, block and KVK due to her consultancy on mushroom production.

Bahadurpur is another village of Morsand, Pusa (Dist. Samastipur) where farmers usually keep themselves busy in agriculture activities only. The team contacted the women to form FIG for mushroom production and a similar FIG of 20 women were formed of which Mrs. Sudha Devi was elected as leader. This group was also trained for mushroom production at their doorstep. The group has not only started mushroom production but each member of the group has also disseminated his knowledge to atleast 5 persons for mushroom production. They are earning Rs. 700-1000 every month individually by selling mushroom.

In line with the above mentioned two villeges, villages Thahra was also taken up for similar activity. A group of 20 women was formed in leadership of Gita Devi. The group was trained in mushroom production by off campus training. By now Gita Devi is well known as a mushroom trainer is local area. She trained more than 30 other women who are likely to start their production.



Spawning of beds by women



Testing of compost



Compost ready for spawning



Mushroom ready for harvesting



Plucking of Button Mushroom



Harvested Button Mushroom



Cleaning of Button Mushroom



Harvested Button Mushroom



Beneficiaries with oyster mushroom produced at their home