



IMPACT OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RURAL WOMEN OF KATIHAR DISTRICT OF BIHAR

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ABSTRACT

Mushroom cultivation is very relevant to developing nation as this may help in alleviating of protien energy malnutrition (PEM) and also improve economic standard of the people. The study based on primary data was conducted in twenty five women mushroom grower of Katihar district of BIHAR were selected to study the impact of mushroom cultivation on their socio-economic conditions and the constraints faced by them .The Study revealed that 60 percent of women mushroom grower had improved their occupation followed by improvement in standard of living (52%) better saving (48%).knowledge and attitude (44%) and social status (24%). As perceived by the farm women, they faced the maximum constraints in value added item and minimum in lack of awareness in mushroom cultivation. Eighty four percent (84%) of the respondent stated that untimely supply of quality spawn and high cost of cultivation were the major constraint for successful mushroom entrepreneurship.

Key words : *Mushroom cultivation, socio-economic conditions of rural women.*

Female play multi-dimensional role in production in agriculture chain from seed selection to post harvesting. Their work as producer is neither reflected in the Statistics nor recognized by the society. National Agricultural Extension system worldwide including India has under gone major change during past 2 or 3 decades. The long neglected women powering the field of agriculture and allied enterprise drew attention of socio brain banks. It was observed that contribution of farm women in all activities in the system was appreciably higher than that of male counterparts. This fact gives women empowerment strategy. Mushroom cultivation is a women friendly profession as it is the one agricultural activities in which women can vital role without sacrificing their household responsibilities. Mushroom growing has been appreciated as a technically feasible and profitable venture and widely accepted by the researchers as a goal venture for higher income employment and rural development .There is an urgent need to impart technical knowledge how to women in order to adopt mushroom production as an income generating activity for enhancing their income. keeping in view the above facts the present study was conducted to find out the impact of mushroom cultivation by the rural women of Katihar, BIHAR, with respect to change their socio-economic conditions and constraints faced by them in mushroom growing.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in district Katihar, twenty five farm women mushroom growers were selected as respondents from different village.

The variables viz., age, education caste family, size and mode of cultivation were taken under the socio-economic profile of women mushroom growers. The data were collected by using pre-structural interview schedule through concurrent evaluation and open ended questionnaire and were subjected to statistical analysis.

Many studies have been made on socio-economic variables influencing the adoption decision. The socio economic factors impacting the adoption decision. The socio economic factors impacting the adoption of mushroom cultivation enterprise were not consistent with one another. Age has no significant relationship in addition of mushroom cultivation.

RESULTS

The suggestion made by the respondents to improve the mushroom enterprise are tabulated in table-4. Majority of the respondents suggested that quality spawn may be supplied in time input should be available on low price, training programme may be conducted in mushroom cultivation and management

Table-1 : Socio-economic profile of women mushroom grower (n=25).

Personal Attribute	Frequency	Percentage
AGE (in Years)		
Young (upto 25)	10	40
Middle Age (26-45)	12	48
Old Age (46 and above)	3	12
EDUCATION		
Illiterate	14	56
Middle	8	32
High	2	8
Secondary	1	4
CASTE		
SC/ST	13	52
OBC	7	28
GENERAL	5	20
FAMILY SIZE		
Small	10	40
Medium	11	44
Large	4	16

Table-2 : Impact of mushroom on the socio-economic condition of rural women (n=25).

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Improvement in occupation	15	60	I
Improvement in standard of living	13	52	II
Better saving	12	48	III
Improvement in knowledge and attitude	11	44	IV
Better Food Clothing and shelter	10	40	IV
Creation of employment	9	36	V
Improvement in social status	6	24	VI

Table-3 : Constraints perceived by rural women in Mushroom cultivation (n=25)

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Value added item	16	64	I
Non- availability of quality spawn	15	60	I
Lack of storage and preservation facilities	15	60	II
Exploitation of middle man	11	44	III
Fluctuation in marketing rate	9	36	IV
Bargening in price	8	32	V
Lack of awareness about training programme on mushroom cultivation	7	28	VI

Table-4 : Suggestion given by respondents in improving mushroom cultivation.

Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Quality spawn may be supplied in time	21	84	I
Input should be available in low price	18	72	II
Management practices be improved	14	56	III
Training programme may be conducted in mushroom cultivation and their should be regular field visit	13	52	IV
Demonstration may be laid on mushroom growing technologies	12	48	V
Practical manual on mushroom growing may be provided	12	48	V
Storage preservation and value added aspect be given due importance	11	44	VI

practice in be improved for making the enterprise more remunerative.

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