

Mushroom Production for Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in District Rama Bai Nagar, Kanpur

N. Awasthi¹, A. Sahu² and R.P. Sahu³

¹ Scientist, KVK, Daleep Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

² Scientist, KVK, Rama Bhai Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

³ Scientist, KVK, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Women are almost fifty percent of the population and are being discriminated at all front. Entrepreneurship development is the only possible way to empower women. K.V.K, Daleep Nagar organized the training on mushroom production and Front line demonstration was given to farm women in the block metha of district Ramabai Nagar. To assess the social acceptability a structured interview schedule was prepared and survey was carried out in 100 randomly selected farm women from Rudapur, Aurangabad of block metha. Economic viability of the mushroom production as the mushroom yield ranged from 60-80 kg/100 kg wheat straw and total income from 100 kg wheat straw ranged from ₹ 6000-8000 with net profit of ₹ 5300-7000 in three months. Sixty one percent farm women socially accepted the mushroom production as an income generation activity.

Keywords: Mushroom, women empowerment

Rural farm women are invisible in statistics while women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. Their roles range from managers to landless labourer. The total agricultural labourers are 106.77 million out of which 46.31 % are female worker (Pradhan and Sadangi 2008) but are less likely to secure favourable outcomes for themselves in household decision making process (Amartya Sen 2007). UNDP Report indicates that while 67% of the world's work is done by women, only 10 % of global income is earning by women and a mere 1% of global property is owned by women (Singh and Kumar 2007). Entrepreneurship development among women could prove a suitable approach for economic empowerment. This is the only possible way to empower women by skill and capacity building, the rural women can adopt agriculture based business on individual or group level and raise their which make them economically and socially empowered. Seed production, bee-keeping, dairy, cultivation of fruits, flower and exotic vegetables, mushroom production can increase the income of farmer upto 70-80%. Therefore, there is a urgent need to make women's economically independent and thus empower women for social appraisal.

In the above context, an attempt has been made by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Rama bai Nagar (Daleep Nagar) to introduce the mushroom production as an income generation activity. keeping following objective in consideration:

1. To assess the economic viability of mushroom production.
2. To assess the social acceptability of mushroom production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Daleep Nagar organized the training on mushroom production and front line. Demonstration was given to farm women in the block metha of district Rama bai Nagar. For front line demonstration on mushroom spawn. Treated wheat straw in polythene bags was given to farm women. To assess the social acceptability a structured interview schedule was prepared and survey was carried out among 100 randomly selected farm women from Rudapur, Aurangabad of block metha

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The KVK intervention on mushroom production through training and demonstration during 2009-2014 is given in table 1 showed that total 220 farm women were trained for mushroom production and 200 front line demonstration were conducted during 2009-2014. One technical bulletin and one extension folder was also prepared to create awareness about consumption and production of mushroom.

The data in Table 2 indicated that the economic viability of the mushroom production as the mushroom yield ranged from 60-80 kg/100 kg wheat straw and total income from 100 kg wheat straw ranged from ₹ 6000-8000 with net profit of ₹ 5300-7000 in the three months (Bhatt *et al.*, 2011)

Table 3 indicated the social acceptability of mushroom production. Ninety five percent farm women agreed with the fact that mushroom production require lesser time and space. Eighty five percent farm women

Table 1: Extension Activity on Mushroom Production (2009-2014)

Sl.No.	Extension Activity	Year	No. of Beneficiary
1	Training	2009-2014	220
2	Demonstration	2009-2014	220
3	Technical Bulletin	2009-2014	2000
4	Extension Folder	2010	1500

Table 2: Economic Analysis of Mushroom Production

Sl.No.	Year	Yield/100 kg wheat straw	Cost (₹)	Income (₹)*	Net Profit (₹)
1	2009-2010	60 kg	700	6000	5300
2	2010-2011	80 kg	1000	8000	7000
3	2011-2012	68 kg	1100	6800	5700
4	2012-2013	78 kg	1100	7800	6700
5	2013-2014	78 kg	1300	7800	6500

*Rate of mushroom was 100 ₹ / kg

Table 3: Social Acceptability of Mushroom Production

Sl.No.	Statement	Yes		No		Uncertain		Total
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	Mushroom is a vegetarian food	60	60	35	35	05	05	100
2	It has high food value	75	75	20	20	05	05	100
3	Its production helps to use waste farm produce	80	80	10	10	10	10	100
4	It is good for environment	40	40	10	10	50	50	100
5	It is a profitable activity	45	45	15	15	40	40	100
6	It has good organoleptic quality	60	60	30	30	10	10	100
7	Its recipe preparation is easy	70	70	05	05	25	25	100
8	Its processing is easy	70	70	06	06	24	24	100
9	It require lesser time and space	95	95	—	—	05	05	100
10	It require less labour	85	85	10	10	05	05	100
	Mean	68	68	14.1	14.1	17.9	17.9	100

knew that labour requirement minimum in mushroom production. On an average 68 % farm women socially accepted the mushroom production as an income generation activity.

It is concluded that mushroom production as an income generation activity for economic empowerment of farm women is a profitable activity and Indian agriculture cannot improve without making the women equal partners in its development efforts as women play key role in many facets of the composite farming system practiced by farm families. Therefore, to improve the position of women work force it is necessary to improve their production potential by treating them as important economic sectors not as dependent member of the family (Rath *et al.*, 2007). That's why Swami Vivekanand rightly said:

**“A nation would not march forward if the
women
are left behind”**

REFERENCES

- Amartya Sen, 2007. Rural development and women empowerment.
- Bhatt, N., Singh, R.K. and Kumar, A. 2011. Adheek aay ke deti swate button ki kheti, *Phal-Pool*, Sept-Oct. pp. 29-36.
- Mir M. Amin, 2008. Entrepreneurship development: An approach to economic empowerment of women, *Kurukshetra*, pp. 29-32.
- Pradhan, D. and Sadangi, B.N. 2008. Improving child care practice for the families of women agricultural labourers, *Kurukshetra*, **56**(11): 36-39
- Sepat, I. and Kumari, U. 2007. Rural development and women empowerment, *Kurukshetra*, **55**(5): 3-8
- Singh, I. and Kumari, U. 2007. Rural development and women empowerment, *Kurukshetra*, **55**(5): 3-8.
- Suneetha, R. 2007. Is DWCRA progamme empowering the rural women, *Kurukshetra*, **55**(5): 17-20.

