

## Impact of Skill Training on Mushroom Cultivation

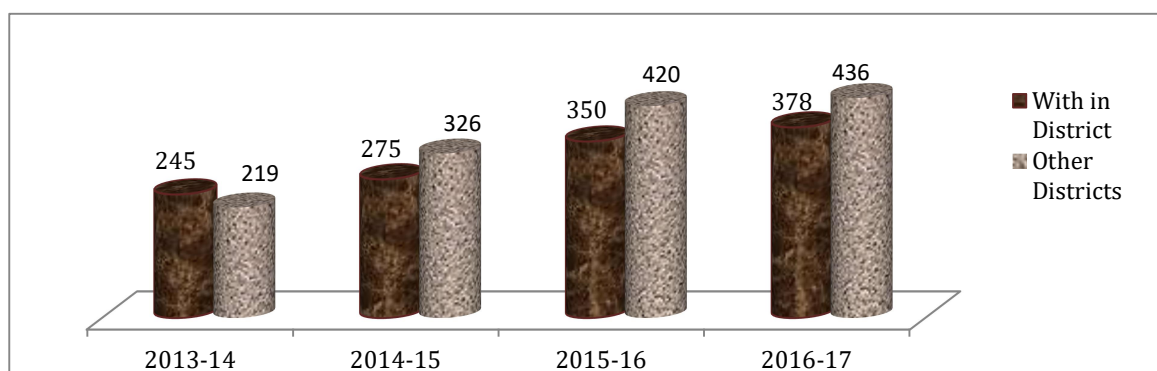
Mushroom is described as the “fruiting body of a fungus plant that typically appears above the ground and contains spores”. It is this fleshy bracket (fruiting body) that is commonly eaten and which reproduces by dispersing spores in the same way that other plants disperse seeds. Instead of drawing nutrients through the roots, fungi are sustained by a network of fine, microscopic threads known collectively as the “mycelium”.

Consumption of Mushroom has increased drastically in the recent past. So the demand for mushroom is increasing day by day due to its nutritive and therapeutic properties. It is anti-cancerous, anti-cholesterol and anti-tumorous properties. It is alternative food for balanced diet which addresses positive impact to nutritional security among farm families. It is an agri-allied enterprise which gives additional economic benefits to the farmers. ICAR- KVK, Erode District focus for mushroom promotion for the past three years in developing **agripreneurs** and **entrepreneurs** in mushroom cultivation.

### **KVK intervention in promoting Mushroom enterprise:**

Capacity building	Target people	Type of interventions
One day One week One month	Farmers / Farm women / Youths / SHG/JLPG / State Departments / Schools / Colleges /NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Exposure</li> <li>• Farm visits</li> <li>• Spawn production</li> <li>• Demonstration units on oyster and milky mushroom</li> <li>• Experience sharing in farm newsletter</li> <li>• Short Message Service</li> <li>• Popularizing through mass media</li> <li>• Recognition of farmers / entrepreneur</li> </ul>

### **Details of participants attended the training programme conducted by KVK:**



### **Methods adopted for horizontal spread of the technology:**

KVK designed the capacity building program for different categories of participants with the package of one day/one week and one month training program. KVK established spawn production lab and mushroom production demo units in the premises for the practical training programme.

KVK associates with different institutions to update the technologies like, TNAU, IIHR and DMR, Solan. For the conduct of training and financial support to establishment of Mushroom units KVK coordinated with MSME, NABARD, and commercial banks. Print and electronic media has supported for the identification of suitable candidates for the program. As a result of the training program and convergence activity the following progress have been made by KVK.

**Establishment of production units: (2013-2017)**

Spawn production units			Oyster mushroom Units			Milky mushroom units		
Within the District	Neighboring District	Total	Within the District	Neighboring District	Total	Within the District	Neighboring District	Total
5Nos	3Nos	8 Nos	29Nos	12Nos	41	5Nos	2Nos	7 Nos

**Year-wise production of bed spawn and mushroom production Details**

Year	Bed Spawn production(in Kgs)	Mushroom production(in Kgs)
2013-14	54000	161838
2014-15	59780	166786.2
2015-16	67400	181980
2016-17	73520	205120.8

**Impact of Training programme:**

- ❖ Created employment opportunities for 137 persons
- ❖ Involvement of other professionals in taking up mushroom production as a secondary activity
- ❖ Increased income earning power of individuals from Rs. 2,00,000/- to Rs. 3,25,000/- in a year
- ❖ Related Value added enterprises developed in the District (5 Nos.)
- ❖ 7 Technocrats developed in the District by KVK and part of their monthly income comes from mushroom enterprise
- ❖ Banking training institute, Departments and Educational institutions recognized our technocrats as a Resource Person.

**Case study:**

**Cluster approach in promoting Mushroom Enterprise by KVK**

Based on the feasibility of production of mushroom, KVK identified Anthiyur and Ammapettai as a cluster in promoting mushroom enterprises. The CMRC (Community Managed Resource Centre, promoted by KVK) identified participants and send them to KVK to attend the training programme and provided backward and forward support linkages in developing the enterprises. 19 units have been established by CMRC with the technical support of KVK. The financial assistance sum of Rs. 81,00,000/- have been mobilized for establishing mushroom units and market related activities from banks with the support of CMRC. The CMRC have established *What's app* group for creating linkages among the entrepreneurs for exchange of knowledge and marketing information.

Year	No.of.units established	Production (in Kgs)	Amount earned (in Rs.)
2013-14	4	4250	637500
2014-15	11	11700	1755000
2015-16	16	29750	4462500
2016-17	19	34525	5178750
<b>Total</b>		<b>80225</b>	<b>12033750</b>

**Conclusion:**

Technocrats developed by the KVK spreading the mushroom technologies in the district and nearby areas. Education institutions, NGOs and state departments make use of the KVK facilities to promote mushroom cultivation in their respective locations.

KVK proposed to develop this enterprise more in the field of value addition and collective marketing in near future.

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