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## Research Article

### IMPACT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON “MUSHROOM CULTIVATION FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT” IN DISTRICT AMBALA, HARYANA, INDIA

\*<sup>1,2</sup>Rupesh Kumar Arora

<sup>1</sup>Earlier at KVK, Tepla, Ambala, Haryana, Pin Code – 133104

<sup>2</sup>Presently working at Regional Research Station, Punjab Agricultural University, Bathinda, Punjab, Pin Code -151001 India

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#### ABSTRACT

The present study were conducted to ascertain the Impact of Vocational Training programme on Mushroom Cultivation for Self Employment for the establishment of mushroom units and adoption (%) rate of the mushroom farming among the trainees who acquired trainings from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra(Tepla) Ambala, Haryana during 2010-2013. The numbers of mushroom units established were also increased progressively from 6 to 22. The adoption rates were increased from 9.83 per cent to 42.30 per cent. The facilities provided in KVK also plays the remarkable role among the farmers as the total number(493) of diseased samples including diseased mushroom samples analyzed in Basic Plant health Diagnostic Facility/lab in last 4 years and subsequently increased year wise and nowadays, farmers are more responding to the recommendations given to him. The mass media i.e. Newspaper played the significant role in facilitating the information regarding imparting of On-Campus vocational training as per the feedback from the mushroom trainees.

## INTRODUCTION

The Farm Science Centre known as Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVKs) are functional in various districts of our country having the objectives: To solve the problem of un-employment in the rural areas of their respective district by providing vocational training and advisory services, To strengthen the allied enterprises other than crop production in the area as a source of subsidiary business or main source of income for diversification of agriculture and increase of farmers income per unit area, To increase the production and productivity in the area of main crops and other enterprises, To educate the farming community and making them economically and socially sound, To disseminate new, proven and economically viable technologies in the area and To get the feedback to know the problems of the farming community in the area and to resolve these by use of technology and increase the production level. The KVK being an educational institution of the farmers, offers a very real opportunity by organizing trainings to work closely

with trainees in developing a more skilled and educated work force. The training programmes of KVK are multipurpose one to cover not only the various needs of a farmers but also the entire needs of village and community (**Chaudhary, 1999 and Sharma et al., 2013**). Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tepla, Ambala came into operation in the year 1996 under the administrative control of “SOCIETY FOR CREATION OF HEAVEN ON EARTH”, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of national repute. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tepla conducted various need-based and skill oriented training programmes i.e. short and long-term vocational training courses in agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers, farm women and rural youths with emphasis on “learning by doing” to generate higher farm production and self employment. The Vocational Training imparted to the farmer’s, farm-women and unemployed youth to increase the income and make him self- dependent and an entrepreneur in future.

After training, follow up extension programmes are undertaken (**Singh et al., 2013**). In the present study, an attempt have been made to analyze the impact of vocational training programmes on “mushroom cultivation for self employment” with the objective to motivate the establishment of maximum number of mushroom units in district Ambala and its adoption rate (%). Moreover, the feedback were taken about source of information

\*Corresponding author: **Rupesh Kumar Arora,**

<sup>1</sup>Earlier at KVK, Tepla, Ambala, Haryana, Pin Code – 133104

<sup>2</sup>Presently working at Regional Research Station, Punjab Agricultural University, Bathinda, Punjab, Pin Code -151001India.

regarding skill based training programme i.e. vocational training to be conducted at On-Campus and the benefits of facilities of Basic Plant health Diagnostic lab provided/available in Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambala.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present studies were conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tepla, Ambala district from Haryana in the adopted villages of the operational area of KVK for four years (2010 to 2013). The Vocational training on “Mushroom Cultivation For Self Employment” were conducted for 5-7 days at the KVK Campus. The farmers and un-employed youth were the participants/trainees during the Vocational Training Programme. The trainings were imparted on skill development covering all the topics related to mushroom regarding Introduction to Mushroom, Health/Medicinal benefits of the mushroom, Importance of the Medicinal mushroom (*Ganoderma* sps, *Lentinula edodes* etc.) and its products available in market, Value addition Products, Cultivation of various edible mushroom i.e. *Agaricus bisporus* (White button Mushroom), *Pleurotus* sps. (Dhingri Mushroom) and *Calocybe indica* (Milky mushroom), Diseases, abiotic disorder and pests attack of mushroom and their management. More emphasis will be done on the practical aspects of cultivation of the edible mushroom *Agaricus bisporus* (White button Mushroom) and *Pleurotus* sps.(Dhingri Mushroom).

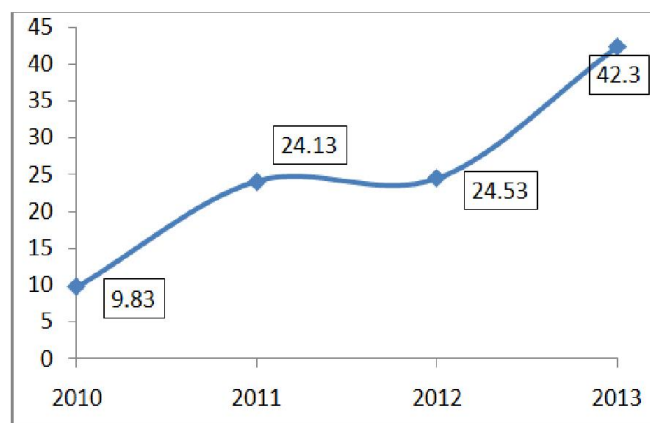
The cultivation of white button mushroom and Dhingri mushroom were done in the KVK Campus as the part of low cost mushroom production technology. The cultivation of Dhingri mushroom on substrates i.e. wheat straw and compost preparation for the cultivation of white button mushroom were done by the Long method of Composting and trainees were involved in the compost preparation. Apart from the vocational training, one day training programme were also conducted at frequent intervals to upgrade their skills, to overcome their shortcomings and to motivate them. More frequent visits were also conducted to the mushroom unit established. The trainees were interacted personally for the feedback/study purpose. The feedback were taken from the famers after a month of training regarding mushroom unit established in the operational area of the KVK in Ambala district of Haryana and whether the farmers will continue the enterprises of mushroom cultivation for the next successive years or not. A total of 195 farmers were exclusively imparted mushroom training during the above said period.

**RESULTS**

The total numbers of 5 trainings were conducted during 2010-13 and in which 195 trainees/participants were participated. It was observed that more number of mushroom units was established progressively and average adoption rate among the trainees were increased. The initially 6 units were established having the adoption rate of 9.83 per cent in 2010 and later on increased up to 22 units having the adoption rate of 42.30 per cent Table 1, Graph 1 and Plate -1.

**Table 1. Number of training programs organized and mushroom unit established in District Ambala, Haryana during 2010-13**

Year	Number of Trainings	Number of Participants	Mushroom Unit established	Adoption rate (%)
2010	2	61	6	9.83
2011	1	29	7	24.13
2012	1	53	13	24.53
2013	1	52	22	42.30



**Graph 1. Adoption rate (%) of the Mushroom Trainees in Mushroom Farming of District Ambala Haryana**

The Basic Plant Health Diagnostic facility/lab established in Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tepla funded by ZPD, Zone-1(ICAR). The total number of diseased samples including diseased mushroom samples analyzed were 67 in 2010-11 and increased up to 320 samples in 2012-13 and the total count comes to 493 in 4 years Table 2. The data showed the increase in credibility of diseased diagnostic lab among the farmers year wise and farmers were more responding to the recommendations given. The mass media i.e. Newspaper played the significant role (50%) in facilitating the information regarding imparting of On-Campus vocational training followed by intimation by Telephonic conversation from KVK (20%) and Notice Board played the least role (5%) Table 3 as per the feedback from the mushroom trainees.

**Table 2. Total Number of Diseased Samples including diseased mushroom samples analyzed in Basic Plant health Diagnostic Facility/lab in KVK, Tepla, Ambala**

Year	No. of Samples	No. of Farmers	No. of Village covered of District Ambala
April,2010 - March,11	67	67	31
April,2011 - March,12	106	81	87
April,2012 - March,13	320	312	119

**Table 3. Source of information regarding Vocational training at On-Campus in KVK, Tepla, Ambala**

S. No.	Sources	Percentage
1.	Mass media i.e. Newspaper	50
2.	KVK(by Telephonic conversation on the basis of record of Register of Farmer’s Visit to KVK)	20
3.	Through Mobile SMS	15
4.	Through Sarpanch, friends Neighbours, relatives etc	10
5.	Through Notice Board displayed in KVK	5

### Impact of mushroom farming

The mushroom farming enterprises have a significant impact on mushroom farmers to raise the income of the farming community, creating additional employment opportunities, providing sustainability to the existing cropping system, mushroom farming are transforming farmers into full 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 these mushrooms, cultivation can be done round the year with regular income. The need of market reforms and regulations were required as there were the problems in direct marketing as the increasing number of farmers are marketing their mushrooms directly to the processors, exporters, MNCs and trade houses and during the peak production periods prices tend to remain low and there is the need of processing industries and more emphasizes will be done on the value addition products of the mushroom.

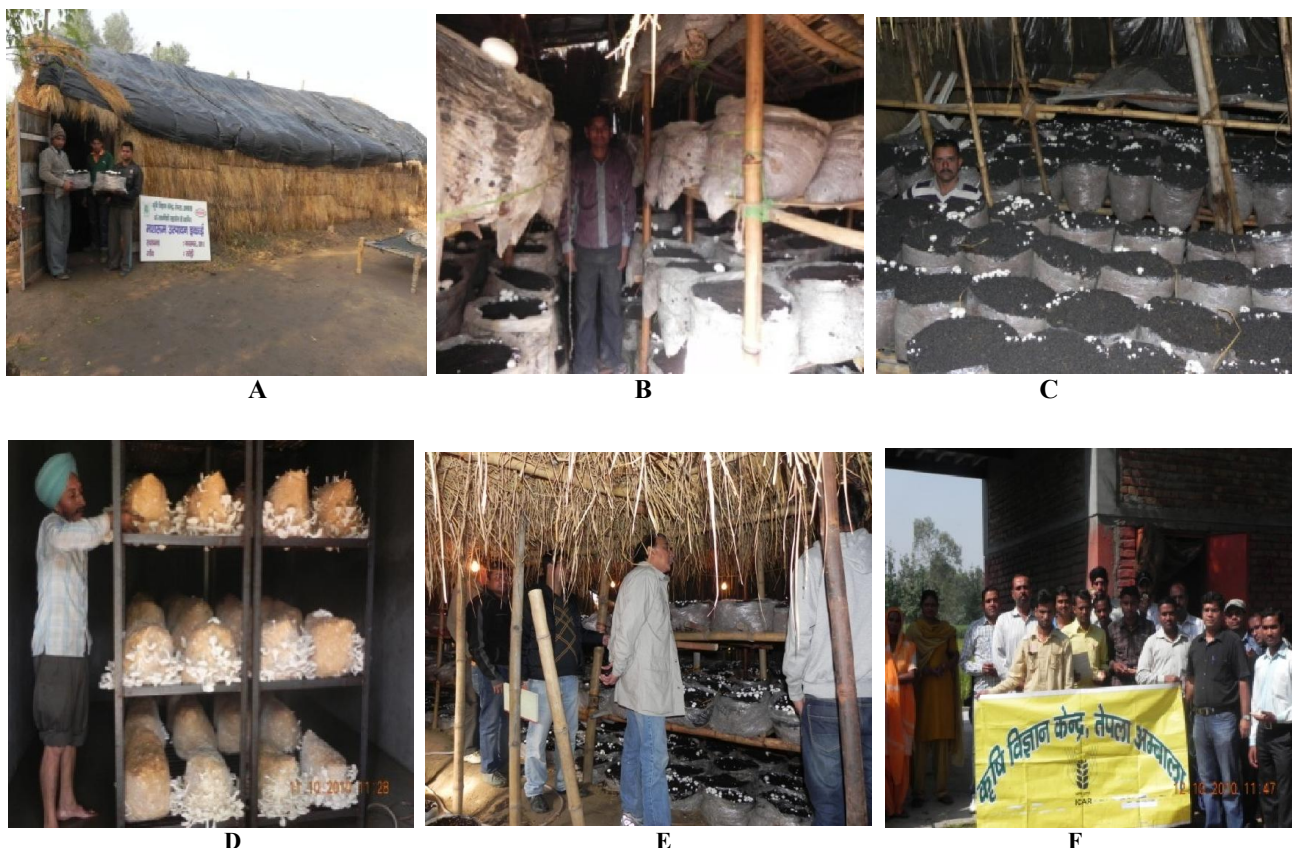


Plate-1. A, B, C, D and E – Glimpse of Mushroom Units F – Mushroom Trainees in Vocational Training at On-Campus

### Conclusion

The Mushroom farming enterprises are having a great impact on the farmers but having the limitations of marketing problems of this high value perishable commodity. Farmers remain at the receiving ends and able to get the lower price of their produce so farmers have to put the joint or group efforts. Joint efforts work as power of scale-bigger the scale, lesser the cost with more emphasis on quality consciousness and tried to expand the cultivation beyond the white button mushroom. Other popular mushroom species such as Dhingri mushroom and milky mushroom can be successively cultivated in the region. These mushrooms can also be cultivated with a comparatively lower

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