

Mushroom cultivation

The promising mushroom types and species which can be cultivated in warm subtropical regions are oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp.), paddy straw mushroom (*Volvariella volvacea*) and milky mushroom (*Calocybe indica*). In the present investigation, five different mushroom species, viz., *Pleurotus sajor-caju*,



Pleurotus sajor-caju on toria stick



Pleurotus flabellatus on paddy straw

P. flabellatus, *P. florida*, *V. volvacea* and *C. indica*, of all three categories have been cultivated successfully with the use of different agricultural residues in Tripura. All three oyster mushroom species have been found to grow throughout the year under in house condition but their productivity is only high and considerable during the period of September to January. The paddy straw mushroom (*V. volvacea*) developing gray to light brown fruit bodies and salmon coloured spore print on white paper, grows well during the period, April to November. However, the months starting from June to October are more favourable for fruit body production than others. Milky mushroom, also known as 'Dudh Chhata', can be cultivated during the period from April to October in Tripura. However, the productivity is considerably high during the period April to August in this warm subtropical region.

Agricultural residues, such as, black gram haulms, black gram pod shell, brinjal stem, paddy straw, pea haulms, saw dust, sesame stick with pod shell, toria (mustard) stick and maize stalk are more or less equally good substrates for oyster mushroom cultivation. Paddy straw mushroom, on the other hand, prefers paddy straw, pea pod shell and rajmash pod shell for fruit body formation, while, milky mushroom grows well on arhar pod shell, paddy straw, pea haulms and tomato haulms



Pleurotus florida on on paddy



Volvariella volvacea on cut paddy
straw in cube bed

Calocybe indica on paddy straw with
casing soil (soil: sand: cow dung
manure::1:1:1) | Fig in right]

