

Extension

Successful introduction of mushroom cultivation has been made in Balaram Village of Dhalai district in Tripura. Two clusters of farmers were taken by ICAR at Balaram and Maracherra. In both the clusters training was given by concerned scientist on mushroom cultivation of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre. Of the two clusters, successful mushroom cultivation is being carried out by several farmers of Balaram villages. They are selling fresh mushroom in local markets @ Rs. 80/- per kg. Two farmers of Balaram, namely, Mr. Bimal Debnath and Mrs. Rebika Sangma, have started large scale production of mushroom, preparing separate mushroom house, substrate soaking tank and disinfecting unit, racks, etc. Many more farmers are now interested and coming forward to produce mushroom in large scale for generating more income. In the month of May, 2008 mushroom cultivation was first introduced at there giving in situ training and demonstration at the farmers' houses. In all six SHGs (Abachanga, Khabaksha, Sharda, Pohor, Bokri Bodol and Loknath) and fifty beneficiaries were pertained in training programme. Later on several training and demonstration were on mushroom cultivation with use of different agricultural wastes in different methods. The farmers successfully learned the techniques (Fig.1). Later on mushroom cultivation has been fully adopted by several farmers of Balaram village.



Fig: Mushroom cultivation training and initiation of mushroom cultivation with spawn distribution; A & B: Poly bag filling; C. Demonstration

In all 139 farmers cultivated mushroom during the period starting from June, 2008 to January, 2009 (Table-1, Fig.2). They used 750 mushroom spawns (each 150g) and produced 362kg of fresh oyster mushroom. There expenditure was calculated as Rs. 9000/- @ Rs. 12 for a poly bag filling. The farmers sold their produce @ Rs. 80/- per kg fresh mushroom to the local markets and earned Rs. 28952/-, which resulted Rs. 19952/- as net profit.



Fig. Production and Selling of Mushroom at Balaram Village.