

**Titlle:- *Skill development of rural youth for self-employment by Mushroom Cultivation Technology in the unemployment era.***

**Category:- Horticulture**

**Challenges:**

Rajasthan has a diverse type of climatic conditions. Agriculture is the major occupation of the farmers. Due to uncertainty in the rain, farming risks, decreasing agricultural land and low yield and high expenses, farmers want to adopt farming as well as other business related to it. Farming alone is not beneficial for the farmer. At present, the level of education in the youth provides an opportunity to do something new in the field of agriculture. Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan is known for its innovations in the farming. The climate of Sriganganagar is slightly different from other districts of Rajasthan. If you look at the temperature here, then from 0.6 degrees in winter, it goes up to 48.4 degrees centigrade in the summer. The average annual rainfall is about 200-225 mm remains. Most of the area of this district comes in the urban area. The main irrigation source is cannal system. Therefore, sufficient irrigation water is available to the farmers. Sriganganagar, a food bowl, has always been a leader in grain production of the state. The main employment of the youth of this area is agriculture or business related to it. Currently, increasing unemployment among the youth is becoming a major problem.

Due to the healthy properties of mushroom, nutritious vegetarian diet and its flavor, its demand is increasing day by day among the local people. The spread of mushroom farming is increasing rapidly in many districts of neighboring Punjab and Haryana. Due to this, there is a growing trend towards the cultivation of mushroom in the farmers and youth of this region. But the biggest challenge before them was that the availability of all the technical knowledge and spwan (seed) related to farming of closed rooms was not available locally anywhere. Many farmers and unemployed youth of the area conctected to this Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar and wanted to get information about the cultivation of mushroom. They sought technical guidance from the scientists about its commercial farming and the availability of other businesses and spawn (seed) in it. In view of the growing demand of farmers and youth Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar submitted a project entitled **“Developing Agri-entrepreneurship among rural youth through mushroom cultivation” under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** to the Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan. Two main objectives of this project were kept in which the first farmers were given full training about the cultivation of Mushroom and the related businesses and the second was production of quality spwan (seed) and made available to the farmers. Keeping in view the objectives of the project, five training programmes of two days duration were organized for the farmers and rural

youths at ARS, Sriganaganagar in the month of February and March, 2017. In these training programmes 210 farmers and youths participated from various remote areas of Rajasthan state.

#### **Initiative:-**

Mr. Randeep Singh S/O Sri Tejender Singh, resident of 3 A.P.D. Tehsil - Vijayanagar District Sriganaganagar, after completion of his graduation, adopts the farming as his livelier in the absence of a job. But due to inadequacy and excessive cost of farming, the family situation was becoming more vulnerable. In such a situation, Mr. Randeep Singh met to the scientists at agricultural research station for technical guidance of innovative technology of agriculture. Scientist from the Centre, advised to cultivate mushroom for earning additional income with cultivation and encouraged to participate in the mushroom cultivation training. Mr. Singh was enthusiastic about the low cost of Mashroom production techniques and participated in two days Mashroom Production Technology training held on 26-27 February, 2017 at ARS, Sriganaganagar.

#### **Results:-**

After training, Mr. Randeep Singh started oyster mushroom production. Initially he began his production from a room of 40x15 sq ft. The spawn were also made available to Mr. Singh from the laboratory started under RKVY project at Agricultural Research Station, Sriganaganagar. In March and April 2017, he sold oyster mushroom approximately Rs. 30,000/- in the local market with net benefit of Rs. 10,000/-. In order to further increase its awareness in the local people, a mushroom campaign was also organized by Mr. Randeep Singh and his colleagues, which led to the rapid increase in demand in the market. Taking inspiration from this, in the year 2017-18, Mr. Randeep Singh started cultivating white button mushroom with an increased level. He started the production of white button mushroom in a pucca room 45x15 sq ft and two kuchcha huts (Jhonpadi) 300x60 and 120x45 sqft area. This year, it is estimated that about two to three tonnes of mushroom will be produced and sold in the market. If it is financially analyzed then there is a possibility of earning around Rs.2.50 lakhs.

#### **Impact:-**

The biggest benefit to Mr. Randeep Singh was that the means of a self-employment became available at home and employment was also provided to other members of the family. Mr. Singh is also planning to production of its processed products such as mushroom pickle, canning and cultivation of other important mushrooms such as Shitake, Cordicep and Geneodrama. Seeing the success of Mr. Singh, many other youth of the area, inspired towards mushroom farming.

#### **Lessons learned:-**

The cultivation of mushroom in a room, avialability of spawn and marketing are the challanging jobs to the farmers. Under this RKVY project scientis conducted training programme on mushroom cultivation technology, made available mushroom spawn of standard

quality, enhance awareness among farming community and motivated them to adopt this innovative technology.

**Supporting images:-**



Mr. Randeep Singh getting certificate during two days training on mushroom production technology



Mushroom awareness campaign organized by Mr. Randeep Singh and his colleagues



Mixing of spawn in compost



Compost filled bags in mushroom cultivation room



Mr. Randeep Singh inspecting mushroom bags in cropping room

#### **Additional Information:-**

Name of the Project: “Developing Agri-entrepreneurship among rural youth through mushroom cultivation” under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Year of Start: 2016-17

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**Education:** Graduation  
**Age:** 25 years  
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