

MANAGEMENT OF MUSHROOM PRODUCTION ENTERPRISES BY THE GROWERS

Sadhna Pandey¹, Sushma Kaushik² & B.S. Meena³

It is well known fact that India is the second most populous country in the world has many problems and the major among them is the food problem. Like the other developing countries, in India too malnutrition in terms of protein deficiency has become a major health hazard. Besides, due to rapid urban development and population explosion, rural landholders have lost access to their lands, turning them to mere wage labours. It is familiar sight to find rows of such farmers on the roadside waiting to be employed on daily wages. Hence, to bridge the gap between the population and food problem, the non-traditional food resources have to be explored.

Kapoor (1989) reported that 100-200gm mushroom on dry weight basis per day can provide nutritional balance to a normal human being. Keeping in view, the smallholdings of the farmers, mushroom production has tremendous potential as an income generating activity. It can also provide additional income to the farmers who wish to take up this work especially in their lean season. As it requires little space so, it is of great importance for landless and marginal landholders. In addition to floor air space is also utilized resulting for higher productivity. The greatest advantage of this venture is the fact that mushroom has capacity to convert valueless substances in to nutritious delicacies (Kumar & Rekhi, 1990). The management of mushroom unit is very important which has a direct bearing on the profit and loss of the unit. For well-managed unit, the mushroom grower should have knowledge about different managerial functions. Therefore, the study has been undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the management practices as followed by the mushroom growers
2. To find out the relationship of mushroom management practices with other variables
3. To assess the various constraints encountered

by growers in management of mushroom growing units.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two villages namely Kakroi and Bhadana of Sonapat district in Haryana state. Hundred mushroom growing units were to study the management profile of mushroom growers. Six parameters viz. training, financial management, raw material management, labour management, infrastructure facilities, and marketing Management were taken for the study of management profile of mushroom growers. A schedule was developed to assess these parameters.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mushroom management profile of the growers—The mushroom management practices as followed by the villagers have been presented in table 1. Data reveal that majority of the respondents had low training profile (56%), medium financial management (54%), medium raw material management (42%), medium labour management (38%), medium infrastructure facilities (51%) and low marketing management (45%). As regards their overall management maximum number of mushroom growers fell in medium category followed by low (21%) while only 19 per cent of them had high level of management.

As regards their weighted score out of six managerial practices only two viz. financial management (208) and raw material management (236) were found above mean whereas in all other aspects i.e. Training, labour management, infrastructure facilities and marketing management, the weighted score was found below mean. Thus, it could be inferred that by and large the management of mushroom growers was not satisfactory which needs to be taken care off.

¹ & ³. Scientist, (Social sciences), IGFR, Jhansi, U.P. ². Assoc. Prof., Deptt. of Home Sc. Ext. Edu., CCS HAU, Hisar.

Table 1. Management profile of mushroom growers (N=100)

	Management practices	Categories			Weighted score
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	
1.	Training	38	06	56	182
2.	Financial management	27	54	19	208
3.	Raw material management	36	42	22	236
4.	Laborer management	29	38	33	196
5.	Infrastructural management	23	51	26	197
6.	Marketing management	15	40	45	170
7.	Overall management	19	60	21	198

Below satisfaction <200, Satisfactory >200

Relationship of project management with other variables—The data in Table 2. reveal that project management was positively and significantly correlated with family education status, average monthly income, social participation, entrepreneurial motivation, perceived feasibility of production, year of establishment and size of unit while with age of respondent it was found negatively and significantly correlated. It can therefore be inferred that growers of young age, with more family education status, more entrepreneurial motivation, more perceived feasibility of production, more years of establishment and large size of units have better management practices. This might be because growers with high education, more social participation and more entrepreneurial motivation made them more aware about entrepreneurship and they perceived mushroom production as highly feasible technology. Mushroom growers who were practicing the mushroom cultivation for more years gathered more experience had larger units and more production as compared to growers who have recently started.

Table 2. Relationship of project management with other variables

S. No.	Variables	Project management
		-0.2691
1.	Age	0.0642
2.	Caste	0.0778
3.	Type of family	0.1836
4.	Size of family	0.4089*
5.	Family education	0.1544
6.	Occupation	0.5327*
7.	Average monthly income	0.0375
8.	Land holding	0.4036*
9.	Social Participation	0.3309*
10.	Entrepreneurial motivation	0.0971
11.	Risk orientation	0.1573
12.	Change proneness	0.5584*
13.	Perceived feasibility of production	0.5596*
14.	Year of establishment	0.5281*
15.	Size of unit	

*Significant at 5 per cent level of significance

Constraints experienced by the growers—The mushroom growers were also asked to indicate various constraints faced by them in carrying out this enterprise, which included their problems related to personal, educational, financial, Infrastructural, raw material and manpower.

Table 3. Constraints encountered by mushroom growers in management of mushroom growing units

S. NO.	Constraints	Percent	Ranking
1.	Personal		
	Excessive burden of work	49	I
	Lack of confidence	40	I
2.	Educational		
	Lack of leisure time	37	III
	Lack of knowledge about: Various improved technologies	71	I
3.	Financial		
	Loaning schemes	59	II
	Training facilities	56	III
4.	Infrastructure		
	Delay in getting loans	41	I
	Complicated procedure in getting loans	38	II
5.	Manpower		
	Non availability of funds and finance	32	III
	No cold storage facility	62	I
6.	Raw material		
	Seasonal activity	47	II
	Poor quality of spawn	40	I
7.	Marketing		
	Procurement of raw material is time consuming	35	II
	Experienced workers leave the unit after sufficient exposure	58	I
8.	Training		
	Non availability of skilled labourers	50	II
	Distant location of markets	74	I
9.	Marketing		
	Poor marketing avenues	56	II
	Short duration of training course	66	I
10.	Training		
	Very few number of trainings organised	61	II
	No provision of feedback	54	III

Multiple responses

Ranking of these constraints (Table 3) shows that among personal constraints, they mostly suffer from 'excessive burden of work' (49%) followed by 'lack of confidence' (40%). Among educational constraints, most of them had 'lack of knowledge about various improved technologies' (71%), followed by their 'lack of knowledge loaning schemes' (59%). Regarding financial constraints, majority of respondents were confronted with 'delay in getting loans' (41%), which was closely followed by 'complicated

procedure for getting loans' (38%). Under Infrastructural constraints, growers mainly suffer from 'no cold storage facility' (62%) followed by 'seasonal activity' (47%). The main problem due to which growers were not able to get good mushroom crop was 'poor quality of spawn' (40%) which led to reduction in their income. 'Procurement of raw material a time consuming process' was the second important constraint related to raw material (35%). Among constraints related to manpower, they mostly suffer from two problems, i.e., 'experienced workers leave the unit after sufficient exposure' (58%) 'Non availability of skilled laborers' (50%). Regarding marketing constraints majority of the respondents complained 'distant location of markets' (74%) followed by 'poor marketing avenues' (56%). Under training constraints majority of the growers suffer from 'short duration of training course' (66%), 'very few number of trainings organised' (61%) and no provision for feedback' (54%).

Thus, it can be concluded that various constraints faced by most of the mushroom growers in properly carrying out this enterprise

were excess burden of work, lack of knowledge about various improved technologies, delay in getting loans, no cold storage facility, poor quality of spawn, tendency of experienced workers to leave the unit after sufficient exposure, distant location of markets and short duration of training course.

CONCLUSION

The study underlined that management profile of mushroom growers was of low level. So, it becomes responsibility of technical institutions to provide training to them on scientific management of mushroom enterprise. This will enable the growers to earn better profits by adopting improved managerial processes such as better labour management, improvement in Infrastructural facilities and marketing etc.

It is joint responsibility of Governmental, Non governmental and technical institutions to take immediate steps to resolve various constraints experienced by growers related to personal, educational, financial, infrastructure, raw material, manpower and training, in order to improve their efficiency for managing mushroom enterprise.

REFERENCES

1. Kapoor, J.N. (1987) Button Mushroom (*A. bisporus*) cultivation. A publication of ICAR, New Delhi P:14-15.
2. Kumar, S. & Rekhi, T. (1990) income generation through mushroom cultivation for land less women. In: women in agriculture - Technological perspective. Prasad, C. and Shri Ram (eds.) IFHA, New Delhi.

