

## CONSTRAINTS IN ADOPTION OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION PRACTICES

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### ABSTRACT

Mushroom cultivation as a subsidiary occupation in rural area constitute an important and crucial segment which provide extra income to the growers. Hence, there is an urgent need to provide the facilities for setting up of viable units for mushroom cultivation and to overcome the constraints which are major barriers in the adoption of mushroom cultivation farming.

**Key words :** Constraints, musroom cultivation

### INTRODUCTION :

India is the second most populous country in the world. Being an under developed country, she is having many problems and the major among them is the food problem. Malnutrition in terms of protein deficiency has become a major health hazard in our country. Due to increase in population and rapid urban development, the rural householder have lost access to their lands leading them to mere wage labourers. The non-tradition food resources need to be explored to bridge the gap between the population and food problem. Mushroom being an edible fungi, is grown worldwide for its profitability. Out of 2000 species of prime edible mushrooms, only 4 to 5 species are grown commercially throughout the world with an annual production of about 4 million metric an also provide additional income to the farmers who wish to take up this work especially in their lean season. Keeping the importance of mushroom farming in view, a study was conducted to a find out the constraints in adoption of mushroom cultivation practices.

### METHODOLOGY :

The study was conducted purposively in Faridabad Block of district of Faridabad because this block has maximum area under vegetable cultivation. Five villages, namely, Palwali, Tikawali, Dadasia, Badsahpur and Mahavatpur were selected purposively because the majority of farmers of these villages grow vegetables throughout the year. Twenty vegetable growers from each village were selected randomly. Thus 100 vegetable growing farmers constitute the sample of the study. The data were collected with the help of a structural schedule by personal interview method with the respondents. Statistical measures such as percentage and rank were used.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

The data presented in Table 1. revealed that lack of

technical guidance in post harvest technology (93%), lack of practical oriented training (91%), lack of proper knowledge of compost preparation (85%) and complex technology for spawn production (81%) were the major technical constraints as reported by the majority of respondents.

**Table 1. Technological constraints in mushroom cultivation as per received by respondents N=100**

S.No.	Constraint	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of proper knowledge of compost preparation	85.00	III
2.	Complex technology for spawn production	81.00	IV
3.	Lack of technical guidance in post harvest technology	93.00	I
4.	Lack of practical oriented training	91.00	II
5.	Lack of literature on mushroom cultivation	24.00	V

The findings of the study by Nair *et al.* (1991), Khurana and Sharma (1995) and Paul *et al.* (2001) are inline with the observations of the study.

**Table 2. Marketing constraints in mushroom cultivation as perceived by respondents N=100**

S.No.	Constraint	Percentage	Rank
1.	Distant location of market	57.00	IV
2.	Problem of grading and packing	93.00	II
3.	Lack of transport facility	96.00	I
4.	Less local demand for mushroom	89.00	III
5.	Heavy losses due to perishable in nature so can not stored for long time	12.00	V

The data in Table 2 indicated that lack of transport facility, problem of grading and packing and less local demand for mushroom were the major marketing constraints as perceived by 96, 93 and 89 per cent respondents, respectively.

The results are in confirmation with the findings of Tiwari and Kapoor (1988) and Paul *et al.* (2001).

The data presented in Table 3. showed that among financial constraints, 'initial investment is very high', 'high cost of spawn' and 'no subsidy by the Govt. on loan' were the major constraints perceived by 97, 91 and 84 per cent of respondents.

**Table 3. Financial constraints in mushroom cultivation as perceived by respondents N =100**

S.No.	Constraint	Percentage	Rank
1.	High cost of spawn	91.00	II
2.	Difficulty in getting loan	68.00	IV
3.	Initial investment is very high	97.00	I
4.	No subsidy by the Govt. on loan	84.00	III

Sandangi and Singh (1994) and Paul *et al.* (2001) also reported financial intricacies as major constraints confronted for mushroom cultivation.

**Table 4. Input supply constraints in mushroom cultivation as perceived by respondents N=100**

S.No.	Constraint	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non-availability of compost when needed	79.00	IV
2.	Non-availability of quality spawn in the area	97.00	II
3.	Inadequate supply of spawn at appropriate time	91.00	III
4.	Lack of storage facilities for spawn at home	100.00	I
5.	Non-availability of quality raw material in the area	12.00	V

The data in Table 4. revealed that all the respondents reported that 'lack of storage facilities for spawn at home' was the major input supply constraints in mushroom cultivation. Non-availability of quality spawn in the area and inadequate supply of spawn at appropriate time were other major input supply constraints as perceived by 97 and 91 per cent respondents, respectively.

**Table 5. Social constraints in mushroom cultivation as perceived by respondents N=100**

S.No.	Constraint	Percentage	Rank
1.	People misconceive it as poisonous	29.00	III
2.	Misconception that mushroom consumption is injurious to health	37.00	II
3.	People regard mushroom as a non-vegetarian food	21.00	IV
4.	Lack of knowledge about nutritional value of mushroom	92.00	I

The results are inline with the findings of Joseph *et al.* (1991), Chandra (1994) and Paul *et al.* (2001).

The data presented in Table 5 showed that majority of respondents (92%) reported that lack of knowledge about nutritional value of mushroom was the major constraint among the social constraints perceived by the respondents regarding mushroom cultivation practices. Other social constraints like "people misconceive it as poisonous", "misconception that mushroom consumption is injurious to health" and "people regard mushroom as a non-vegetarian food" were not perceived as major constraints for mushroom cultivation.

## CONCLUSION :

The findings of the study clearly revealed that lack of technical guidance in post harvest technology, lack of practical training, lack of proper knowledge of compost preparation, complex technology for spawn production, lack of transport facility, problems of grading and packing, less local demand for mushroom, initial investment is very high, high cost of spawn, no subsidy by the government on loan, lack of storage facilities for spawn at home, non-availability of quality spawn in the area, inadequate supply of spawn at appropriate time and lack of knowledge about nutritional value of mushroom were major constraints as perceived by the respondents in adoption of mushroom cultivation practices. The findings of the study throw the lights on the constraints which make the mushroom growers unable to adopt the mushroom farming technologies. The developmental agencies working in the area should plan their future course of action regarding mushroom cultivation technology considering the possible constraints in adoption of mushroom cultivation practices.

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