

ASCI MUSHROOM GROWERS' TRAINING BENEFICIARY OF ICAR KVK KASARAGOD VENTURES INTO SPAWN PRODUCTION ENTERPRISE – A SUCCESS STORY

It was in 2020-21 that ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kasaragod organised the Mushroom Growers' Training Program under the sponsorship of Agricultural Skill Council of India. The on campus training was on vocational mode with a duration of 21 days. There was a participation of 9 men and 9 women during the training in which every minute detail of mushroom cultivation and Spawn production was dealt with by expert resource persons. The topics covered included Substrate preparation, Bed preparation, Maintenance of unit, Harvesting, Value addition of mushrooms including dehydration, pickling and mushroom soup powder preparation. Soon after the training, 3 women participants Smt Radha, Smt Sharada and Smt Sumati had ventured into start up mushroom cultivation units at home scale in their own residences. All the three found it a very big success earning an additional income of Rs. 20000 annually. Now as an advanced achievement, Smt Radha had moved a step ahead and has started a spawn production unit at her own residence by the name Asci Keerthi. Asci Keerthi is located in Chengala panchayat of Kasaragod district. Spawn of oyster mushroom will be produced here at the rate of Rs. 200 per kilogram. This is indeed a great moment for ICAR KVK Kasaragod to cherish. Smt Radha got financial assistance from the State Horticultural Mission. The machineries procured for starting the unit were Autoclave, BOD, Laminar Airflow Chamber, refrigerator, Air Conditioning unit and 5 metal racks. The unit has a potential to produce 500 kg of spawn per month. The total expenditure incurred to start the unit is Rs 550000. Availability of quality mushroom spawn being the major constraint in the mushroom cultivation sector, let us hope that 'Asci Keerthi' meets the demand and flourishes high justifying its name. Other than spawn, mushrooms - both oyster and milky - will be available for sale at Keerthi at the rate of Rs 400/kg. With the funding from the gram panchayat, Radha is planning to start a value addition enterprise from mushroom soon.



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