

**“Endorsing Employment Confidence of Rural Population through Spawn  
Production and Mushroom Cultivation” Sponsored by  
TNSCST Chennai and NCSTC New Delhi**

Date of the programme: 25.11.2021, 26.11.2021 & 28.11.2021,

1. The First day was started by Prayer song followed by lightning of Kuthuvilakku and Dr. V. Selvi, Head of the Department, delivered the formal welcome address. Dr. K. Nirubama, briefed about the objectives of the programme and Dr. R. T. Narendhirakannan, Asst. Professor, Department of Biochemistry gave a brief introduction about the speaker Dr. V. Prakasam, Founder – Chairman, Mushroom Foundation of India, Former Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University [TNAU], Coimbatore. He delivered a speech on ‘Prospects of Mushroom Cultivation’. In his talk, he focussed mainly on edible fungi mushrooms.

He described the parts, ecology and biology of mushrooms. He also gave the data on status of mushroom cultivation worldwide as well as in India. Types of edible and non-edible mushrooms were also showcased in his speech. He also briefed different varieties developed by TNAU and other institutions and lead farmers involved in mushroom cultivation. Steps and key factors responsible for successful mushroom cultivation were given. Cultivation practice for oyster, button, milky and paddy straw mushrooms were discussed in detail to enhance the knowledge and confidence level of the participants.

He also gave the details about value added products and health benefits of mushroom consumption. Finally focused on marketing strategies like production, package and distribution of mushroom, which is the basic need for successful business. He concluded that mushroom production would lighten up the livelihood of the farmers and young entrepreneurship. At the end, he answered the questions asked by the participants in a well understanding manner.

Followed by the resource person's talk, participants were taken through the Hands-on training session on spawn production and Mushroom cultivation.

### **Proceedings of Day 2 of Training Programme:**

Dr. Anitha, Asst. Professor, Department of Biochemistry [PG and Research] introduced the speaker Dr. S. Krishnakumari, Retd Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore to the gathering. She focussed on three main topics Mushroom Tissue Culture, Spawn Production and Cultivation Technology. To start with she gave an introduction about mushrooms and the mushrooms which she and her team standardised in the laboratory. She extended her speech about medium preparation for spawn production. She further gave information about commercial available mediums and its uses. She explained in detail the tissue isolation techniques using freshly harvested mushrooms. She spoke about the Directorate of Mushroom Research [DMR], Solan, Himachal Pradesh where mostly mother culture will be purchased for sub-culturing.

She further added the different sub- culturing techniques and the importance of the plugging process. The spawn production was explained in detail in her speech. The steps involved in spawn production technology were briefed well for better understanding of the participants. She spoke about the cultivation technologies for oyster and milky mushrooms. The stages of cultivation namely fumigation, processing of paddy straw, making of mushroom beds and casing process were well explained to give a clear view. Finally, she clarified the doubts of the gathering in a detailed manner. Followed by the resource person's talk, participants were taken through the Hands-on training session on spawn production and Mushroom cultivation.

### **Proceedings of Day 3 of Training Programme:**

Dr. G. Thirbhuvanamala, Associate Professor, Plant Pathology, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TamilNadu Agricultural University, and Coimbatore delivered a speech on 'Commercial aspects of Mushroom'. She elaborated about the variety of edible mushroom, and choice of seasonal wise and profitable mushroom species. How to overcome the

challenges in cultivating and marketing mushrooms. Planning sustainable model of mushroom cultivation and making successful mushroom unit with long-term goals.

Session -II of the day3 was handled by **Mr. A.R. Subramanian**, Proprietor Maga Mushrooms, Kovaipudur, Coimbatore 641 042. He has proven himself as a successful mushroom cultivator in Tamil Nadu. He has the biggest cultivation unit with mass production. He presented several insights in front of participants, explaining the struggles, challenges, profit loss calculation and investment strategies in mushroom production and marketing.

Participants were taken to a hands-on training room and asked to see the improvements. Followed by that, there was a valedictory session and certificate distribution to the participants. Student participants and farmers expressed their feedback about the 3 days training program and thanked the organizers and TNSCST for supporting the same.

### **Possible outcomes:**

The workshop promoted the mushroom cultivation and trading techniques among unemployed youth, students community, teaching faculty and farm folks as an important agro-based enterprise, has inspired the self-employment and the cultivation in different areas of the state, thereby improving the living standard of marginal farmers/landless workers particularly farm women as well as act as a source of rural employment and upliftment of needy people.



Inauguration of the event



Practical Session



Lead Talk by Resource Person