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Impact of mushroom cultivation on economical status of rural women through skill development

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Abstract
The study revealed that exposure to training, by department of microbiology, basic science, RPCAU Pusa, Samastipurhad increased the skill of rural farm women regarding all the subcomponents of mushroom production and empower a woman is to improve their stander of living among family member. There is an urgent need to make rural farm women economically independent and we cannot think of a better alternative than entrepreneurship development. The study was conducted in Samastipur district of Bihar. Total 75 rural women were selected from adopted villages to study the impact of mushroom cultivation on economical status of rural women through skill development. Relevant data were collected with the help of personal interview. The data were analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. keeping in view the above facts the present study was conducted to find out the impact of mushroom cultivation on economical status of rural women through skill development in Samastipur district of Bihar and its importance.

Keywords: Mushroom, training, cultivation, rural women

Introduction
Rural women play a vital role in farm and home system. She contributes substantially in the physical aspect of farming, livestock management, post harvest and allied activities.Women contribute 50-60% of labour in farm production in India. There is evidence to suggest that if Mushroom cultivation is a women friendly profession. Mushroom growing is one agricultural activity in which rural farm women can play a pivotal role without sacrificing their household responsibilities. Mushroom cultivation is simple, low cost, and suitable for rural areas, is less labor intensive and can provide employment in both the semi-urban and rural areas. Mushroom cultivation will improve the socio-economic condition of farmers, families and solve employment problems of both literate and illiterate, especially rural farm women.
Mushroom cultivation as an entrepreneurship development among rural farm women could prove a suitable approach for economic empowerment. This is the only possible way to empower rural farm women by providing resource support such as organizational development, vocational training, skill up-gradation training, entrepreneurship development training, financial linkages and technical support so that they will get employment/self-employment and earn good incomes.
The rural farm women can adopt agriculture based agribusiness on individual or group level and raise their income and employment opportunities which make them economically and socially empowered. Mushroom production, Bee-keeping, Dairy, Goatary, Seed production, cultivation of fruits, flower and vegetables can increase the income of rural farmers up-to 70-80%. Therefore, there is a urgent need to make rural farm women's economically and socially independent.

Methodology
The study was conducted in Samastipur district of Bihar. There are 38 districts in state and the dissemination of mushroom technology is fast in all districts of state. Out of 38 districts, Samastipur district was selected purposively for the study because of the fact that RPCAU is located in same district and there is a training centre at RPCAU, Pusa.

All together there are 20 blocks in Samastipur. Out of which Pusa and Kalyanpur blocks have been selected for study purpose based on assumption that these block have the largest number of trained beneficiaries. Out of these only three villages were two from Pusa namely Birauli and Deopar and one from Kalyanpur namely selected Ladhaura. A complete list of the beneficiaries who have undergone through training on mushroom cultivation from RPCAU was obtained from training centre. 25 beneficiaries respondents from each of three villages were purposely selected. Hence all total 75 respondents were selected. The respondents were selected through random sampling, the data were collected by using pre structural interview schedule and were subjected to statistical analysis.

Result and Discussion

Skill Development of Respondent Before and After Getting Training

On the basis of improvement in skill towards mushroom cultivation technology the responds were classified into three groups low (0-11) medium (12-23) and high (24-34) level of skill.

Skill of rural women before training

Skill development	No. of respondents	Percentage	Mean
Low(0-11)	38	50.67	
Medium(12-23)	30	40.67	9.97
High(24-34)	07	9.33	
Total	75	100.00	

This table revealed that the majority 50.67 percent of the respondents had low level of skill about mushroom cultivation followed by medium i.e. 40.67 percent while the 9.33 percent had high level of skill score related to mushroom cultivation before imparting training and their mean score was found to be 9.97.

Skill of rural women after training

Skill level	No. of respondents	Percentage	Mean
Low(0-11)	18	24.00	
Medium(12-23)	42	56.00	14.62
High(24-32)	15	20.00	
Total	75	100.00	

It can be seen from above table that after exposure of training the majority of respondents 56.00 percent had medium level of skill score followed by 24.00 percent had low level of skill score only 20.00 percent of respondents showed higher level of skill score related that mean score of skill after getting training was found to be 14.62.

Gain in skill

The impact of any training programmed depends to a large extent on gain in skill of respondents. The respondents were trained in mushroom cultivation technologies through selected tools and their combination. After the training the level of skill of the respondents was measured with the help of same skill test which was administrated before imparting training to them. The gain in skill was computed by subtracting the pre training test skill score from the score obtained after the training i.e. post training. The number of respondents by gain in skill score is presented in table

Gain in skill of rural women after training

Skill level	No. of respondents	Percentage	mean
Low (0-10)	44	58.67	
Medium (11-20)	31	41.33	4.65
High (23-34)	00	00.00	
Total	75	100.00	

This table revealed that gain in skill was low in 58.67 percent of the respondents followed by medium in 41.33 percent of the respondents. The table also indicated that the mean score of respondents was found to be 4.65.

Impact of training programme on economical status of respondents

Income level

In the present study the impact of mushroom cultivation training programme on economical status of rural women and their income has been derived from different sources namely. Poultry/birds, pigs, cow, buffaloes, agriculture and mushrrom production. Mushromm income was calculated on the basis of harvest price whereas income from different source of rural women through various training like mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping and through different production system. Hence it is mandatory to assess the income level of rural women about pre- training and post training. For the purpose income from different source and mushroom cultivation was quantified and average income for different categories of farms was calculated in before training and after training. Thus farm size-wise average income being presented in this table.

Table: Average income level of respondentspre annum from different source included mushroom cultivation.

Categories	No. of respondents	Income in rupees before training	Income in rupees after training	Difference
Below poverty line (up to 12000)	32	10875.00	13812.5	2937.5
Low (12000-25000)	22	22454.54	26709.09	4254.55
Medium (25000-50000)	15	27933.33	30940.00	3006.67
High (50000 & above)	06	52333.33	54366.66	2033.33
Total	75	113596.22	125828.25	12232.05

This table indicated that respondents involved in mushroom cultivation training programme has belonged to low income groups and their average income from different source was i.e. 22,454.54 Rs/annum before training and after growing mushroom their income level increased up to 26,709.09 followed by medium income group of respondents i.e 27,933.33 Rs/annum before training and after selling it their income level increase up to 30,940 Rs/annum. This table also indicated that even below poverty line women involved in mushroom cultivation training had their income level increase from 10.75.00 Rs/annum to 13.812.5 Rs/annum. In case of high income group their production after getting it increase from 52,333.33 Rs/annum to 54,366.66 Rs/annum so it may be say that low income group had involved in mushroom cultivation more efficiency then other income group because its cultivation no more space. Less expensive and technology

is very simple that's why even landless women or low income group of respondents can prefer to do it with more interest and enthusian.

Skill on rural women on mushroom cultivation

The successful mushroom cultivation training programme depends upon the extent of skill of the respondents after the adoption of techniques of mushroom cultivation

Distribution of respondents according to improvement in skill

		Pre-traning		Post-traning			
SI No.	**Particulars**	**No. of responds**	**Percentage**	**No. of responds**	**Percentage**	**Differences in skill/percentage**	**Rank**
1.	You are skilled in traditional method	17	22.66	47	62.66	40.00	III
2.	You are skilled in scientific method	18	24.00	58	77.33	53.33	I
3.	You are skilled in seasonal management	24	32.00	62	82.00	50.66	II
4.	You are skilled in recognized edible mushroom	11	14.66	27	36.00	21.34	IV

This table indicated that after imparting the training programme the skill of respondents were improved related to various field. The data showed that maximum difference in skill were improvement in scientific method i.e 53.33 percent and minimum difference in recognize edible mushroom.

Importance of mushroom cultivation on economical basis

		Pre-traning		Post-traning			
SI No.	**Particulars**	**No. of responds**	**Percentage**	**No. of responds**	**Percentage**	**Gain in knowledge percentage**	**Rank**
1.	Mushroom cultivation is a profitable business	22	29.33	62	82.66	53.33	1
2.	It can be done as commercial basis	38	50.66	69	92.00	41.35	II
3.	MC can be done as side business	27	36.00	42	56.00	20.00	IV
4.	MC involves low input and high return	22	29.33	52	69.33	40.00	III

A similar result can be observed through this table that after training knowledge score of respondents becomes very high comparison to before training knowledge score i.e. 53.33 percent of respondents were maximum gain in knowledge to emphasized on mushroom cultivation involve low input and high return. Only 20 percent of respondents replied that mushroom cultivation can be done side business.

Conclusion

Afterinvestigation of my research work Pre training skill, the finding indicates that pre training skill mean score of respondents was found to be 9.97. Whereas post training skill the finding indicate the post training. Mean score of respondents was found to be 14.62. Further finding indicate that gain in skill was low in 58.67 percent of respondents and medium in 42 percent of respondents. The deference their mean score of respondents were found to be 4.65. The respondents acquired maximum skill through training imparting timely either one day or weakly by department of microbiology, basic science, RPCAU Pusa, Samastipur.

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