

Oyster Mushroom Farming Picked Up In Bihar

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Introduction

Agriculture is one of the few industries that will continue to run successfully despite global chaos that has forced many major businesses to close. As the world is moving towards “low investment – more profit” motto with major economic loss throughout the world due to the pandemic that has affected industries. In agriculture sector mushroom farming has become one of the best adapted businesses in the recent years for more economical growth in future. The idea for mushroom farming as a business stemmed from the fact that mushrooms are the most popular veggies among vegans who want to ingest a lot of protein. Mushroom farming is a landless farming and has been adapted by many major developed countries among which are the United States, China, Italy, and Netherlands which contributes as the major producers.

Mushroom farming not only enhances economy or elaborates business ideas but also have several medicinal and health benefits, as it has high protein content, rich in nutrients, low in glycaemic index and glycaemic load which help as a dietary food for diseased such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, etc. Among varieties of mushrooms available, oyster mushroom is slowly under the light in field of agriculture. In the recent years, Bihar has shown up itself in the field of mushroom production. In India, since Bihar contributes to 2% of the total countries mushroom production, it is a budding state in terms of mushroom production and hence to understand the production processes and economic importance skilled development training programs are required within the state.



Encouraging Farmers to Practice Oyster Mushroom Framing In Bihar

In India, mushroom cultivation is the most profitable and prolific enterprise. It is gradually gaining popularity since it transforms farmers' hard manual labour into profit in a short period of time. It is very important for people related to the field of agriculture to understand the need and urge for mushroom production, which not only enhances one's livelihood but also invades the malnutrition or protein deficiency. Production of oyster mushroom requires indoor space and cultivation can be practiced in levels within. To increase the mushroom farming, government has introduced various models with loan and subsidy benefits. Central and state governments both joined together, providing 90% of subsidy to the mushroom entrepreneurs or farmers for the settlement of farms.

Challenges Faced and the Overcomes By the Bihari Farmers

Without challenges nothing can be turned out to be at its best. In the way of practicing and adapting mushroom farming, farmers in Bihar face some of the basic challenges. It is very important for government and trainers to look towards and solve such challenges which were not less than problems.

Bihar has been suppressed in the field of literacy and economy, which itself is very challenging as farmers needed to be garnished with the knowledge of mushroom and the way of farming. The knowledge of investments and profits were also the same important.



The Pusa Agriculture University in Bihar started a campaign under the slogan “**MushroomLagao, GareebiBhagao**”. The campaigns led to positive response local people which influenced them practice oyster mushroom production. Farmers grew brimming useful information on mushroom growth. Also, training centres were set with proper trainers or experience holder and equipment which helped people from basics to

The farmers were asked to follow the best season for the growth of mushroom according to the state’s condition. As too much temperature is unfavourable for the perfect growth, hence the farmers avoided the growth during May-July. The normal temperature for mushroom is between 20-30 degrees, which is available from February-April and August-December. The moisture content is one of the challenge during the dry days, as it requires a humidity of range 55-70% for perfect growth, which is maintained by continuously sprinkling of water in the “Thaath-house” (where mushrooms are grown).

Insects and pests are common to the agricultural fields, and so for mushrooms. To prevent the attack of pests is itself a challenge for beginners. Training centres by government provides the farmers in Bihar with medicinal knowledge that too with low possible cost. Also the mushrooms has to be transported and used within 5 days from the harvest day, that pushed the farmers to manage their own transportation, which is a bit expensive.

Perception Analysis of Oyster Mushroom and Farmers Relationship

Oyster mushroom farming has been accepted by a good number of farmers in Bihar by now.

People in Bihar slowly understand the value of mushroom farming and the benefits in business. Farmers from different districts of Bihar have adopted oyster mushroom farming. They understood the difference between the button mushroom production and oyster mushroom production with their own benefits and demands. By looking at the situation, government is planning to add mushroom in the mid-day meal of government schools, twice in a week. This will not only eradicate malnutrition but also will increase the demand of mushroom, which ultimately will awaken people for choosing mushroom farming



Conclusion

Agriculture sector can be flourished with adapting business model emerging with the growing demands. Production and cultivation of mushrooms are one the most profitable sector in agriculture. In terms of agriculture or farming, oyster mushroom production is a landless farming which can be started at home with a low cost investment. The scopes for production are huge and engaging large amount of people for adopting and practicing it on small and large scales. The demand of mushrooms would grow with time to help boost the economy of agriculture sector in India. With high in protein content, oyster mushroom is in high demand at national as well as international levels. These demand forces farmers to produce more and more mushroom ultimately giving a rise to the profits and encouraging increasing the production. This ultimately is a solution for self-employment which enhances the economy of the state.