Available online @ www.iaraindia.com / www.selptrust.org
RESEARCH EXPLORER- A Blind Review & Refereed Quarterly International Journal
ISSN: 2250-1940 (P) 2349-1647 (O)
Impact Factor: 3.655 (CIF), 2.78 (IRJIF), 2.77 (NAAS)
Volume VI, Issue 21
October - December 2018
Formally UGC Approved Journal (63185), © Author

PROBLEMS OF MUSHROOM CUTIVATORS (A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO METTUR TALUK)

Dr. K. SELVARAJ
Associate Professor and HOD of Commerce, Mahendra Arts and Science College (A), Namakkal

P. P. VANITHAMANI
Research Scholar in Commerce, Mahendra Arts and Science College (A), Namakkal

Abstract

Mushrooms known as fleshy fungus have been used by human beings since times immemorial and have been mentioned in the classical writings of Hindus, Greeks and even Romans. Mushrooms have been considered one of the world's greatest natural resources since they have the ability to transform required input into nutritional substance and high protein food. In India, mushrooms are raised as a seasonal crop on a commercial scale round the year under the controlled environmental conditions. The finding of the study will be useful to the mushroom growers, researchers, extension workers, the agro industry people and policy makers. The study will give better understanding of cost of cultivation and marketing efficiency of mushroom crop. The main are the objectives of the study are as under to find out the socio- economic status of the mushroom cultivators in the study area, to study the reason for starting mushroom cultivation business and to point out the problems faced by the mushroom cultivators in the study area. Usually, small, marginal and landless farmers are engaged in mushroom cultivation mainly because small piece of land, and little amount of money are required as capital. Marketing costs and margins are relatively higher than those of other agricultural products in Mettur. A large number of small, marginal and landless poor farmers as well as women can earn a significant amount of money from mushroom cultivation that can help reduce poverty and create employment opportunity in Mettur.

Keywords: Mushroom, Cultivation, Marketing, Socio economic status.

Introduction

Mushrooms known as fleshy fungus have been used by human beings since times immemorial and have been mentioned in the classical writings of Hindus, Greeks and even Romans. Mushrooms have been considered one of the world's greatest natural resources since they have the ability to transform required input into nutritional substance and high protein food.

Global Scenario: Mushroom industry globally has expanded both horizontally and vertically, meaning that the expansion has been in production and addition of newer types of mushrooms for commercial cultivation, both edible and non-edible mushrooms. Today China is leading in global mushroom

production both in cultivation of edible and non-edible types. China produces approximately 70 percent of world mushroom production and mushroom is their sixth economically important crop as far as country's revenue generation is concerned. The second highest mushroom producing country is USA, followed by some European countries. European production is confined to France, Germany, Holland, Italy and other countries in western-Europe.

Present status in India: Though mushroom cultivation, both in east and west started many centuries ago, yet its cultivation in India is of recent origin. Paddy straw mushroom cultivation was first attempted in India at Coimbatore in 1943 by Thomas and his associates. However, first systematic attempt in cultivating button mushroom was made in 1961, when a scheme entitles "Development of Mushroom Cultivation in Himachal Pradesh" was started at Solan by H.P. Government in collaboration with ICAR, New Delhi.

Mushroom cultivation in India: In India, mushrooms are raised as a seasonal crop on a commercial scale round the year under the controlled environmental conditions. About 2000 species of fungi are used as food by tribes and various communities, however, only a few are cultivated. Climatic conditions in India are favourable for natural occurrence of mushrooms.

Importance of the study: The finding of the study will be useful to the mushroom growers, researchers, extension workers, the agro industry people and policy makers. The study will give better understanding of cost of cultivation and marketing efficiency of mushroom crop. The estimate of the production, marketing system and surpluses of mushroom crop will be of specific interest to research. The study has also cited reasons why the people have not adopted mushroom cultivation so far despite getting mushroom training so many times.

Objectives of the study: The following are the objectives of the study are as under

- To find out the socio- economic status of the mushroom cultivators in the study area.
- To study the reason for starting mushroom cultivation business
- To point out the problems faced by the mushroom cultivators in the study area.
- To study the opinion about profit from mushroom business in the study area.
- To discover the level of satisfaction of the mushroom cultivators in the study area.
- To identify problems and constraints faced by the mushroom cultivators and to suggest ways and means to overcome them for the problems of mushroom cultivation.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- There is no significant relationship between age and level of satisfaction
- There is no significant relationship between education and yearly profit of mushroom business
- There is no significant relationship between age and reason starting mushroom business

Research Methodology

Research design: The research design of the project is descriptive as it describes data and characteristics associated with the population using mobile phones. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exists" with respect to variables in a given situation.

Method of data collection: To accomplish the objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data's were collected.

Sampling method: The sampling used for the study is convenient sampling. This sampling is selected by the researcher for the purpose of convenience to access.

Sample size: 100 questionnaires was distributed for the respondents, 2 questionnaires was rejected due to inadequate answers. Finally 98 questionnaires were taken into account for the study.

Statistical tools used for the study: The data collected were tabulated and analyzed by applying statistical tool are i. Simple percentage methods. ii. Chi-square test methods. iii. Correlation

Area of the study: The study was conducted in Mettur Taluk.

Period of the study: The study covers a period of one year from October 2017 to October 2018.

Limitations of the study: The survey was limited to Mettur region only, so it cannot be generalized to all the cities. The samples size is limited to 98 customers only. Time is one of the major constraints. At most care taken by the researches to choose the correct information from the respondents.

Review of literature: A comprehensive review of literature is essential in any research endeavour. The scientific investigations arrived at through systematic thinking, factual observations and past experience, become a sound base of knowledge for future research work to be undertaken. Before initiating any study, a critical and thorough insight of the studies already carried out relating to topic of the problem under investigation, therefore, becomes imperative for conceptual clarity and methodological improvement in the research work to be carried out. This chapter reviews the available literature and to document major findings of different studies, research gaps and the recent changes that have been taking place in problems of mushroom production and marketing in India and abroad.

Data analysis and interpretation of problems mushroom cultivators:

Table showing the age of the respondents

S.N	Age	No. of Sample	%
1	Below 20	4	4
2	20-30	58	59
3	30-40	26	27
4	Above 40	10	10
Total		**98**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation: From the above analysis reveals that the majority of the respondents (**59%**) are belonging to the age group of 20-30 years followed by 27 percent of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 30-40 years next 10 percent of the respondents are belonging to the age group of above 40 years remaining 4 percent of the respondents are belonging to the age of below 20 years.

Conclusion: It is finished that the majority of the respondents (59%) are belonging to the age group of 30-40 years in the study area.

2. Chi- square test analysis:

1. Association between age and level of satisfaction

Ho = There is no significant relationship between age and level of satisfaction

ACTUAL FREQUENCY TABLE

Age	Level of Satisfaction	Total
4	22	**26**
58	54	**112**
26	20	**46**
10	2	**12**
0	0	**0**
98	**98**	**196**

Table value: Degree of freedom @ 5% level

d = (r-1) (c-1) = (5-1) (2-1) = (4) (1) =4 =9.49

Hypothesis testing: The calculated value is greater than the table value. Hence the hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion: There is significant relationship between age and level of satisfaction in the study area.

3. Correlation analysis

3. 1. Association between annual income and experience

Annual income in mushroom cultivators be denoted by (x) experience by (y).

Annual income (x)	10	48	26	14	**0**
Experience (y)	40	38	20	0	**0**

$$\sum xy = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x2 * \sum y2}} \quad \frac{343}{875 \times 1043} \quad \frac{343}{955.31.41} = 0.3590$$

Conclusion: There is a positive correlation between experience of mushroom cultivators and level of satisfaction of mushroom cultivators in the study area.

Findings of the study

Percentage analysis: The majority of the respondents (59%) are belonging to the age group of 30-40 years the study area. The majority of the respondents (**65%**) are male respondents in the study area. The most of the respondents (**39%**) are studied both to 12th std., and graduate level in the study area. **T**he majority of the respondents (55**%**) are business in the study area. The majority of the respondents (**73%**) are married category in study area. The most of the respondents (**76%**) are living in joint family in the study area. The majority of respondents **(49%)** have hot annual income 50,000-1,00,000 The concluded that (**71%)** of the respondents are having in the family between to 6 in the study area**.** The majority of the respondents (**41%)** are having experience between below 3 years in mushroom cultivation in the study area. The greater part of the respondents (**43%**) are getting source of awareness from the relatives in the study area. The most of respondents (**63%**) are doing mushroom cultivation in the own land in the study area. The majority of the respondents

(**43%**) are having wealth position below 5 lakhs in the study area. The majority of the respondents (**39%**) are doing as family business in the study area. The majority of the respondents (**49%**) are needed below 50,000 as capital for the mushroom cultivation in the study area. The best part of the respondents (**55%**) is having mushroom set between 3 to 6. The majority respondents (**47%**) are using own capital for the mushroom cultivation business in the study area. The majority of the respondents (**54%**) are getting yield of mushroom between 2 to 4 months in the study area. The three fourth majority of the respondents (**60%**) are selling the mushroom in the own market in the study area. The majority of the respondents (**43%**) are facing the problem of raise in price of seed. The majority of the respondents (**39%**) of profit from mushroom cultivation of 50000 to 100000 in the study area. The great majority of respondents (**65%**) are satisfied with profit from mushroom cultivation in the study area. The majority of respondents (**51%**) are satisfied with Expectation mushroom cultivation producers in the study area. The majority of respondents (**56%**) are satisfied with Overall level of satisfaction about mushroom cultivation in the study area.

Rank Analysis: The marketing problem of mushroom is getting first rank, Finance problem of mushroom is getting second rank, raw material of the mushroom is getting third rank, labour problems of the mushroom producers is getting fourth rank and finally managerial problem of the mushroom cultivation is getting fifth rank in the study area.

Chi-Square Test Analysis: There is no significant relationship between age and level of satisfaction in mushroom cultivators. There is no significant relationship between educational and yearly profit in mushroom cultivators. There is no significant relationship between age and reason starting mushroom in mushroom cultivators. There is no significant relationship between experience and level of satisfaction in mushroom cultivators. There is no significant relationship between gender and level of satisfaction in mushroom cultivators.

Suggestions of the Study: Channels of marketing-There are large number of intermediaries in the marketing channels of mushroom industry. Therefore the mushroom cultivators do not receive a good price for their mushrooms. Thus the government should increase the market price of the mushrooms and reduce the number of intermediaries, so that the mushroom cultivators receive a larger benefit from their cultivation. Storage facility – The cultivated mushrooms are perishable in nature. There is a large need of proper storage facility for the mushroom cultivators. In Mettur there is a lack of storage facility. Therefore the government should take steps to provide storage facilities for the mushroom cultivators. Defaulters of mushroom cultivators- The wholesalers, retailers and distributors of mushrooms do not pay immediately to the mushroom cultivators. They buy on credit and delay the payments and sometimes do not pay at all. This affects the business of the small mushroom cultivators. This credit payment must be avoided by the buyers and the mushroom cultivators must be paid in cash so that they are able to reinvest in the business again and can continue producing without any financial problem. Advertisement- Mushroom cultivators produce on a small scale. Therefore they do not give importance to advertisement. But actually advertisement is a necessity. Advertisement will help many people to have an awareness in the society and improve their business on a larger scale. -Reduce market price of inputs - Government can provide incentives to mushroom cultivators - Availability of good mushroom spawn - Need more extension and training for producers - Provide easy loan program to the mushroom cultivators by the Government through the banks - Mushroom association should be formed by the mushroom cultivators

Conclusion: Mushroom is an economically profitable and promising agricultural enterprise in Mettur District. Usually, small, marginal and landless farmers are engaged in mushroom cultivation mainly because small piece of land, and little amount of money are required as capital. Marketing costs and margins are relatively higher than those of other agricultural products in Mettur. The marketing margins of mushroom from farm-gate to wholesalers and wholesalers to retailers were Rs. 90 and 110 per kilogram, respectively. Smooth marketing channels are required for optimal mushroom production. Three intermediaries – mushroom office, wholesalers and retailers are involved in the mushroom marketing channels. Mushroom cultivators are facing major problems like storage, defaulters, advertising and transport.

They are also facing problems relating to productions, which are high price of spawn, infestation of fly and cockroaches, and high temperature, marketing, technical and awareness problems. Economically solvent, rich and middle income group people are the main customers of mushroom in Mettur. A large number of small, marginal and landless poor farmers as well as women can earn a significant amount of money from mushroom cultivation that can help reduce poverty and create employment opportunity in Mettur.

References

1. Ahmed I and Rahman S A (2008). Economic viability of mushroom cultivation to poverty reduction in Bangladesh. Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems 8(1): 93- 99
2. Akkaya F, Yalmaz I and Ozkan B (2001). An Economic analysis of commercial mushroom producing farms and mushroom production in Antalya Province. ZiraatFakultesiDergisiAkdeniz Universities 14(1): 39-51
3. Bhatt N and Singh R P (1999). Status of mushroom cultivation in India. Indian Farmer's Digest 32(1): 10-13
4. Chandel B S and Suman B C (1996). Economics of mushroom cultivation under natural condition of sub-tropics- a study. Mushroom Research 5(1): 43-46
5. Chauhan S K and Sood R P (1992). Economics of production and marketing of mushroom in Kangra district, H.P. Indian Journal of Agricultural Marketing 6(1): 44-49
6. Chisti A F, Muhammad A and Gulnaz H (2000). Economics of mushroom farming: farm sizes compared. Sarhad Journal of Agriculture 16(2): 211-216
7. Dehemy E L and Gad M A (2007). Economic feasibility study for mushroom production in small enterprises. Arab Universities Journal of Agricultural Sciences 15(1): 3-16
8. Deshmukh B J, Tilenkar S N and Patil H N (2001). Profitability of oyster mushroom production in Maharashtra state. Indian Journal of Agricultural Marketing 15(2): 62-67
9. Dhancholia S and Thakur V S (2008). Preliminary studies on mushroom collection and cultivation in dry temperate zone (cold desert) – Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh. International Journal of Agricultural Sciences 4(1): 377-380
10. Ferratto J A and Prola G (1994). Economic analysis of mushroom production for the fresh market. Horticultura Argentina 13(33): 50-57
11. Gautam Harender Raj (2015). Adoption of technology can change from agriculture subsistence to commercial. Kurukshetra 63(03): 3-6
12. Groenewgen A N (1992). Profitability and financing of mushroom growing in the Netherlands. Periodeeke Rapportage Landbouw Economisch Institute.
13. Hinton W L (1982). Mushroom in Britain and Ireland: An economic study. Occasional paper Agricultural Economics Unit Department of Land Economy University of Cambridge.
14. http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/mushroom-producing-countries.html
15. Kangotra Arti (2011). Economic analysis of mushroom cultivation in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. M.Sc Agricultural Economics unpublished thesis submitted to CSK HPKV, Palampur.
16. Kangotra Arti and Chauhan S K (2013). Economic viability of button mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh, India. Indian J. Agric. Res. 48(2): 134-139
17. Kanwar L S (1986). Economics of mushroom cultivation in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. M Sc Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, India. pp 83-84
18. Kanwar P, Kapoor A and Sharma N (2009). Mushroom cultivation as income generating activity: women self help group in Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Journal of Agricultural Research 35(1): 100-105
19. Kapoor P (1985). Economics of mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh. M Sc Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, India. p 95