

“BIRUMA DIGAL” AN INSPIRATION FOR FARM WOMEN TOWARDS LOW BUDGET AND HIGH PROFIT MUSHROOM FARMING

Mrs. Biruma Digal
Age: 42 years
Village: Bandapanga
Block: Baliguda



INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Biruma Digal, 42 years old is a self-empowered woman, involved in mushroom production from last four years. She resides at Bandapanga village of Baliguda block of Kandhamal district. Before starting mushroom cultivation, she used to do household works and helped her husband in poultry farming. But she was not happy with that due to low income and marketing problem. Then she thought of doing something new that is of low budget and high profit farming. However, lack of technical knowledge, she heeded the advice of a fellow farmer and approached KVK, Kandhamal with the aim of getting technological guidance and to do farming to support her husband, thereby improving her financial and livelihood prospects.

PLAN AND SUPPORT

After getting one day training on “Oyster mushroom cultivation” at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kandhamal, G.Udayagiri, she started producing oyster mushroom in small scale by getting spawn from KVK. Inspired by her initial success, enduring support from her husband and guidance of KVK scientists, she established a shade-net mushroom production unit in her residence and started producing both paddy straw and oyster mushroom round the year. She has also benefited with various initial inputs required for mushroom cultivation through TSP and other demonstration programme of KVK.

Later she attended a 7 days skill training of rural youth (STRY) programme on Mushroom cultivation during 2023-24 at KVK, Kandhamal and achieved certificate as a Master Trainer in Mushroom cultivation.



OUTPUT AND OUTCOME

Presently, her average yield increases from 0.5 to 0.9 kg and from 1.5 to 2.5 kg per paddy straw mushroom bed (21 days per cycle) and oyster mushroom bag (60 days per cycle), respectively. Introducing mechanized straw cutting for mushroom cultivation has led to reduced labour, time, and drudgery, with an annual cost saving of Rs. 24,000. Now her earnings from mushroom is about Rs.12,000/- per month and her annual income has now increased to an average of Rs. 1,50,000/-.



IMPACT

Mrs. Biruma Digal has achieved success as a Mushroom grower and is recognised as a self-driven to profitable farming that provides financial support to her family. Her family's economic and livelihood standard increased by the extra income from mushroom cultivation i.e., Rs 9,000-10,000 per month. Her progress is now providing an inspiration to other farm women and rural youths of that area to take up mushroom cultivation as a profitable agricultural venture. This motivated them to retain and undertake agriculture as a profession for earning their livelihood. As a Certified Trainer, she also provides training to farm women and rural youths in adjacent villages, urging them to embrace mushroom farming through the assistance of KVK Scientists and experts.

