

Success Story (2018-19)

Diversification of farming system through roof top mushroom production showed good potential to compensate the losses in crop component from natural calamities

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Sh. Charan Singh, Vill., Bhayangi Bhangela, Distt.-Muzaffarnagar (U.P.) is a marginal farmer with 6 members in his joint family. Sh. Charan Singh is a very innovative farmer having 0.4 hectares of irrigated land. He is having vegetable+ livestock based farming system and exotic vegetables contributing more than half of the total farm income. Shree Charan Singh is an adopted farmer of ICAR-IIFSR under Farmers First Programme. He has visited the institute in December, 2018 and shown his interest for diversifying his farming system with mushrooms. ICAR-IIFSR organized a 7 days training on mushrooms for farmers during 13-19 March, 2018 in which Sh. Charan Singh was very well trained on round the year mushroom production technology. After the training, he has planned and grew button mushroom with chicken manure based compost prepared on roof top of his home. A low cost crop room of 18'x9' size was also constructed on the same roof top with three tires racks. Tray method of cultivation was used and spawn was supplied by the institute. Regular monitoring of crop and need based advisory were also provided to farmer.



Sh. Charan Singh preparing mushroom compost on roof top his home



Sh. Charan Singh showing the spawn run in mushroom bed

There were encouraging results from mushroom component and farmer made a record harvest of 230 kg fresh button mushroom from seven quintals compost. Very high biological efficiency (32.85%) was recorded in 60 days (10 January-10 March, 2019) under this case which generally varies between 15-20% under seasonal cultivation. About 20kg of fresh mushroom was used for home consumption and rest of the amount was sold @Rs.100/kg in the market. The gross return from mushroom was Rs.23000/- with net return of Rs.17100/- from a small crop room constructed on roof top. Recyclable spent compost of 4.30 quintals with N,P and

K value of 7.98kg, 2.5kg and 4.20 kg respectively, was also received as byproduct from mushroom component. Mushroom production also gave a relief to farmer during the difficult year due to natural calamities. Farmer faced a loss in net income from early vegetable crop component due to heavy precipitation and cyclonic wind in the month of September, 2018. Diversification of farming system through mushroom compensated the losses from natural calamities to considerable extent. Sh. Charan Singh is now happy farmer and fully satisfied with farming system diversification through mushroom. This success story also gives a way to use the vacant space of roof top for mushroom cultivation without affecting land or home area.



Sh. Charan Singh with his good mushroom crop

