



Department of Botany
Government Degree College
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گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج ترال

Report on

One-Day Experiential-cum-Training Tour to *Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), Lal Mandi, Srinagar*

Mushroom cultivation has attracted considerable interest owing to its ecological, economic, and nutritional advantages. Recognizing the importance of mushroom cultivation, the Department of Botany, Government Degree College Tral, Pulwama organized a one-day experiential-cum-training tour to *Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), Department of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar* for the students of UG 3rd semester (NEP Batch 2023, SEC-CMC III) on **21-09-2024** under the distinguished leadership of worthy Principal **Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Malik**. A group of 16 students (Annexure A) along with two faculty members and Lab Assistant of the Department viz., Dr. Mohd. Rafiq Wani, Prof. Waseem Shahri and Mrs. Yasmeen Akhter paid a visit to the center. This visit offered students valuable insights into the mushroom cultivation process and its commercial viability. The main objective of the visit was to acquaint students with the practical aspects of mushroom farming, encompassing different methods, technological advancements, and strategies for commercialization. Additionally, it served as a platform to explore how the transfer of technology can enhance the capabilities of small-scale farmers and encourage entrepreneurial ventures.

The visit was structured into multiple sessions. Upon their arrival at the center, the students were welcomed by officials from IMDC, who provided a concise orientation session detailing the center's goals and its contribution to the advancement of mushroom farming in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The students explored various laboratories within the center, where they were introduced to different types of mushrooms, including button mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, etc. They also observed the facilities dedicated to the production of high-quality mushroom spawn. Experts elaborated on the utilization of sterilized grain as a growth medium for mycelium- the vegetative component of the mushroom. The students were later acquainted with various substrates, such as wheat straw and other organic materials vital for mushroom cultivation. They gained insights into the processes of pasteurization and inoculation. Following this, the student groups were escorted to controlled environments/labs, where temperature and humidity were meticulously regulated for mushroom cultivation, emphasizing the significance of maintaining sterile conditions for averting fungal and microbial contamination.

The students afterwards received a thorough demonstration of the cultivation methods for

button mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) utilizing polybags within a controlled environment during their visit. The discussion encompassed a detailed analysis of the different types of compost, spawn, and casing materials employed in the cultivation process. Furthermore, the students were educated on the appropriate techniques for harvesting the mushrooms before they are packaged for market distribution.

At the conclusion of the tour, a total of **50 bags of compost**, in addition to spawn and casing material, were acquired from the aforementioned center via formal requisition under proper Government receipt. This acquisition was aimed at initiating the first mushroom crop under controlled laboratory conditions created at Department of Botany, Government Degree College Tral.



