Department of Botany Govt. Degree College Tral, Pulwama

Report on Visit to Local Mushroom Farm, Bonimohalla Tral on 25-11-2023

Mushroom cultivation can help reduce vulnerability to poverty and strengthen livelihood through the generation of fast-yielding and nutritious source of food and reliable source of income. Considering the significance of mushroom cultivation, the Department of Botany, Govt. Degree College, Tral organized a one-day visit to Local Mushroom Farm, Bonimohalla Tral for the students of UG-III-Semester (NEP Batch 2022, SEC-CMC-III) on 25-11-2023 under the able guidance of worthy Principal **Prof. (Dr.)**Mushtaq Ahmad Malik. A group of 42 students along with faculty members of the Department viz. **Dr. Mohd. Rafiq Wani, Prof. Waseem Shahri** and **Dr. Sadaf Nissar** visited the farm. The purpose of the visit was:

- **1.** To acquaint the students about the basic layout of a mushroom farm.
- **2.** To provide the practical knowledge about the basic inputs required for establishing a mushroom farm at a small scale.
- **3.** To gain knowledge about the basic practices involved in the successful cultivation and marketing of mushrooms and
- **4.** To provide a platform for the students to interact with the farm manager for discussing the basic investment requirements and the economic gains from that type of agri-business.

During the visit, the students were demonstrated with the cultivation practice of mushroom- *Agaricus bisporus* (Button mushroom) in polybags under controlled atmospheric conditions. The type of compost, spawn and casing material used in the process was also discussed threadbare. Moreover, the students were shown the appropriate method of harvesting the mushrooms before packing them for market distribution.











Dr. Mohd. Rafiq Wani (HOD)

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