

SAGA OF A HOUSEWIFE TO A SUCCESSFUL MUSHROOM ENTREPRENEUR

Mrs. Surama Jena

At: Ghagara, Block: Kendrapara, District: Kendrapara

Age: 45 years

Educational Qualification: Matriculate

No. of family members: 6

Resources owned by Farmer: Land:1.0 ha, Pond:0.4 ha

Animal resources: 50 backyard poultry



Background: It is true that a woman can prove herself and be successful in whatever she puts her mind to. Mrs. Surama Jena is one among the successful entrepreneur in Kendrapara district of Odisha who has carved a niche for herself in a very short span of time. Over 7 years of struggle for success, she has not only paved the way of employment generation but also she is regarded as an advance farmer in the field of mushroom cultivation. Being a wife of a driver and mother of three kids, Surma Jena did not wish to just be confined to her house only. A BPL and matriculate, she wanted to do something on her own which she can master and which will add an extra income to her family.

KVK Intervention: During a normal discussion with neighbors, Smt. Jena learnt about the prospects and opportunities of mushroom cultivation in 2008. She says I started growing mushrooms with a mere amount of Rs.60/- on experiment basis. She told, I supplied my first crop of paddy straw mushrooms to friends and relatives. Though their appreciation encouraged her to step into the real business world of mushroom cultivation, she was afraid to start as she was not trained in mushroom cultivation. Discussions followed by technical visits to various mushroom units gave her the confidence of growing mushroom. The need for scientific mushroom cultivation was felt immensely as a cultivator in 2008 and she established contact with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kendrapara based on advice of her neighbors. She was trained at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kendrapara in scientific methods of mushroom cultivation (Paddy straw and Oyster). Further training at Centre for Tropical Mushroom Research and Training Institute, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology boosted her self confidence and growing mushrooms became an easy task without compromising on quality.



Surama's business grew by leaps and bounds and now she owns a well-equipped mushroom unit with an average production of 35kg of paddy straw mushroom per day during Kharif and 55kg of oyster mushroom per day during Rabi. Her average contribution to her family income is Rs.35,000/- per month. With this she was able to provide quality education to all her three children's. The elder daughter is a cost accountant, second daughter BTECH and youngest son is a Diploma holder. Hard work together with the determination to do something different bore fruits as proved by Surama.



It has been an incredible journey for the 48-year-old Surama who not only transformed herself from a simple housewife into a successful woman entrepreneur but also provided quality education to her children with minimum resources at her disposal.