

Mushroom Cultivation: Empowering PVTG Women



After some official procedure, the group was selected and provided Rs.27,000/- for mushroom cultivation.

At the first phase, the group prepared 60 nos. mushroom beds on trial basis with an investment of Rs. 4200/-. In the 1st phase, they harvested near about 70 kg of mushroom from these mushroom beds. The group sold all 70 kg of mushroom @ Rs.140/- per kg in the nearest market, Pallahra, as well as in their village/locality. Total the group earned Rs.9,800/- by selling mushroom.

Realising the profit amount, the SHG decided to extend the number of beds for more profit and accordingly they increase number of beds in next phases of mushroom cultivation. With some technical support the group constructed a vermi compost unit and use the waste straw of mushroom beds. They have also started producing vermi compost in commercial mode to sell more vermi compost in nearby areas.

Before coming to her own business, she completes her daily household works as a house wife and supports her husband in various agricultural activities when required. As no such earnings of this 8 member's family, it is difficult to run their daily livelihood which brings some disturbances in the family.

Since started doing this Mushroom cultivation, she is getting profit from the business and able to support her family and group members financially. Now she is earning Rs.6,000/- Monthly and contributing towards household income regularly. Everybody in her family as well as her neighbouring and community people is very happy with her.

Mrs. Haimamanjari Mahanta lived in Naikanipali Village of Seegarh GP under Pallahara block of Angul District. She lived in a joint family with total 8 family members. Agriculture is the primary source of income of the family. Whole income comes from agricultural activities. Out of 8 members two members are earner. Hardly had both earner able to earn Rs.8,000/- to Rs.9,000/- per month. It was very difficult for the family to manage.

From the VDA meeting Mrs Haimamanjari came to know about financial assistance has been provided for income generating activities (IGA) under OPELIP programme. To get more information on IGA, she discussed with the CRP and some MPA level experts. She also discussed with the group members to do an IG activity. But recalling the previous experience, the group members did not show their interests. In this situation, Mrs Haimamanjari took the lead role to motivate her group members to do mushroom cultivation. After several rounds discussions and mobilisation by Haimamanjari with the group members, the group members agreed to do mushroom cultivation.