

SUCCESS STORIES OF KVK FROM ICAR-ATARI (Zone-III)

Name of the KVK East Khasi hills (Meghalaya)

“Production of off-season exotic vegetable”

Introduction

Lumwahkrem is a village in Cherrapunjee which is situated at 25.220163 latitude and 91.667160 longitude with GPS coordinates of 25° 13' 12.5868" N and 91° 40' 1.776" E respectively. It is a place which receives annual rainfall of 11,777mm. The monsoon season starts from May end to October. This prolonged monsoon period confines the growing season of the village to the months of November to April. This peculiarity makes it possible for the farmers to produce off-season vegetables which fetches a handsome price in the market. To add to this, the village of Lumwahkrem produces vegetables which are grown organically. Their produce are devoid of any chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This special feature of their produce has made them popular among the residents of Cherrapunjee and Meghalaya as a whole. The office of the KVK, East Khasi Hills conducted PRA in the village to learn of the cropping pattern, problems faced by the farmers and knowledge of exotic vegetables. Upon studying the village and their agricultural practices, the KVK, EKH made an effort to introduce Broccoli in the village.

KVK Intervention:

1. The office of the KVK, East Khasi Hills wanted to create awareness of exotic vegetables to the farmers of Lumwahkrem village. Therefore, in order to add to the income of the farmers and to introduce them to exotic vegetables, the KVK in the year 2014-15 introduced Broccoli variety Solan Green Head as an On Farm Trial in the area.
2. Training on Package of practices of Broccoli was given to the farmers. Demonstration on nursery raising of broccoli was also done.
3. A few number of farmers showed interest in growing the vegetable and Shri. Kynpham Rapphap took the initiative to sow the broccoli seeds in his nursery and provide the seedlings raised to his fellow farmer friends.

Impact of intervention:

Prior to the intervention taken by the office of the KVK, EKH, the farmers of Lumwahkrem were not aware of the exotic vegetables especially Broccoli. They had no knowledge of the health benefits of Broccoli and its nutritional content. The vegetables that they grew mainly consisted of Tomato, Lettuce, Mustard leaves, Carrots, Peas, Frenchbean, cauliflower, cabbage, chillies, raddish, beetroot etc. As their produce are organic, they got a good price in the market. However with the introduction of broccoli, which grew very well in their village, they were able to increase their income. At the time Broccoli was a new exotic vegetable and it fetched a slightly higher price in the market compared to the other vegetables. As the farmers of Laitkynsew grew organic broccoli, they were able to sell their produce at a price of Rs. 80/kg and the Broccoli leaves sold at a price of Rs. 30/ bunch.



Fig. 1. Broccoli at Laitkynsew



Fig. 2. Broccoli Head

Conclusion:

As a result of the good production of Broccoli in the village in the initial stages, the farmers have started growing broccoli regularly. The office of the KVK, EKH was able to conduct Frontline demonstration of Broccoli in 2015-16. The number of farmers growing broccoli have grown from the initial 10 numbers to almost all the farmers residing in Lumwahkrem village.

Crop	Area(ha)	Production (kg)	Gross expenditure (Rs.)	Gross income (Rs.)	Net Income (Rs.)	B:C Ratio
Broccoli	1	5000	1,11,916.00	4,00,000.00	2,88,084.00	3.5

SUCCESS STORIES OF KVK FROM ICAR-ATARI (Zone-III)
Name of the KVK East Khasi hills (Meghalaya)
“Low cost mushroom production unit for producing Oyster mushroom”

Introduction

Laitdiengsai Village is located at the north-eastern part of East Khasi Hills district under Mawkynrew Block predominantly a hilly area. It lies approximately between 21.7679° N Lat. and 78.8718° E Long. The climate of the area is temperate which permit cultivation of large varieties of horticulture crops including fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, mushrooms and medicinal plants. The important vegetables grown include cabbage, cauliflower, garden pea, radish and potato. The temperature varies from 1.7 °C to 24 °C which favors the possibility of round year cultivation of oyster mushroom.

KVK intervention

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Khasi hills intervened and demonstrated the low cost production of oyster mushroom during 2014-15. The centre also supported the farmer by supplying him oyster spawns. Supports in terms of training on package of practices of Oyster mushroom was given in the village, and since the farmer was keen to start up with the new variety of mushroom, spawns were provided to him from the KVK centre. The intervention of KVK East Khasi Hills has inspired him and he has already set up a small unit for Oyster mushroom production. The KVK scientists are constantly monitoring the activities and are also providing him technical guidance to keep pests and diseases under control.

Impact of intervention

Before the intervention, Mr. Sworen Massar had been practising the traditional farm activities like crop cultivation, animal rearing and cultivation of button mushroom. However, the income from his activities was not sufficient enough to meet the needs. The introduction of oyster mushroom has increase the income of the farmer with a net income of Rs. 2, 25,840 and BC ratio of 4.04. The profit that the farmer gained from the production unit encourages him to have a wider thought of expanding his activity. Even other farmers of the village are impressed from the work that he has been doing and have come forward to express their interest to take up cultivation of oyster mushroom as one of their farm activity.

Conclusion

The farmer express that his income has been increase since oyster mushroom is very feasible in the area, it is economically viable and gives fast return and the farmer could maximize the production of mushroom through the optimum utilisation of space in his farm. He also mentioned the time taken for cultivation is very less and also the cultivation practices is very simple and can be easily follow and manage by him. Thus, mushroom cultivation could also be a source of income generation and self employment for the unemployed youth as well as farm women in the area.

Crop	Area	Yield kg/month	Mushroom sold	Gross expenditure	Gross Return (Rs.)	Net return	BC Ratio
Mushroom	200 m ²	200 kg/month (1200kg/6 month)	Oyster mushroom (Rs @250/kg)	74160.00	300,000	225840.00	4.04



Low Cost Mushroom shed



Mushroom bed after the polythene sheet has been removed



Oyster mushroom ready to be harvested