

History



Cultivation of edible mushrooms in India is of recent origin, though methods of cultivation for some were known for many years. The important historical developments in the cultivation of edible mushrooms are as below:

- ✓ **1886:** Some of specimens of mushrooms were grown by N.W. Newton and exhibited at the annual show of Agriculture, Horticulture Society of India.
- ✓ **1896-97:** Dr. B.C. Roy of the Calcutta Medical College carried out chemical analysis of the local mushrooms prevalent in caves or mines.
- ✓ **1908:** A thorough search of edible mushroom was initiated by Sir David Pain.
- ✓ **1921:** Bose was successful in culturing two agarics on a sterilized dung medium, details of which were published in the Indian Science Congress held at Nagpur during 1926.

- ✓ **1939-45:** Attempts on experimental cultivation of paddy straw mushroom (*Volvariella*) was first undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Madras.
- ✓ **1941:** Padwick reported successful cultivation of *Agaricus bisporus* from various countries but without much success in India.
- ✓ **1943:** Thomas *et al.* gave the details of cultivation of paddy straw mushroom (*V. diplasia*) in Madras.
- ✓ **1947:** Asthana reported better yields of paddy straw mushroom by adding red powdered dal to the beds. He suggested April-June as the most suitable period for cultivating this mushroom in central Provinces and also carried out the chemical analysis of this mushroom.

- ✓ **1961:** A scheme entitled —Development of mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh|| was started at Solan by the H.P. State Govt. in collaboration with I.C.A.R. This was the first serious attempt on cultivation of *Agaricus bisporus* in the country.
- ✓ **1962:** Banoet *al.* obtained increased yield of *Pleurotus* on paddy straw.
- ✓ **1964:** Cultivation of *Agaricus bisporus* on experimental basis was started by CSIR and State Govt. at Srinagar in J&K.
- ✓ **1965:**Dr. E.F.K. Mantel, F.A.O., Mushroom Expert, guided and assisted Department of Agriculture for construction of modern spawn laboratory and a fully air conditioned mushroom house. Research on evaluation of different strains and use of various agricultural wastes, organic manures and fertilizers for preparing synthetic compost were undertaken. Dr. Mantel's consultancy concluded after a period of 7 years.

- ✓ **1974:** Dr. W.A. Hayes, F.A.O., Mushroom Expert, guided further in improving the method of compost preparation, pasteurization and management of important parameters in the mushroom house. New compost formulations, casing materials and important parameters like nitrogen content in the compost, moisture in the casing mixture, air movements and maintenance of proper environmental factors were also standardized which raised the mushroom yields from 7 to 14 kg/m².
- ✓ **1977:** A 1.27 crore, Mushroom Development Project was launched under U.N.D.P by the Department of Horticulture (H.P) wherein the services of Mr. James Tunney were made available. He got a bulk pasteurization chamber constructed and made available readymade compost and casing to the growers of H.P. The U.N.D.P. Project was concluded during 1982 and since then the Department of Horticulture (H.P) is running the project.

- ✓ **1982:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) sanctioned the creation of National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT) during 6th plan on October 23, 1982 with the objectives of conducting research on mushroom production, preservation and utilization and to impart training to scientists, teachers, extension workers and interested growers.
- ✓ **1983:** All India Coordinated Project on Mushroom (AICRPM) was initiated during 6th Five- Year Plan on 01.04.1983 with its headquarter at National Research Centre for Mushroom Presently known as Directorate of Mushrooms.
- ✓ **At present** there are ten co-ordinating and one co-operating centres working under AICRPM located in 11 states. Of these, nine centres are based at State Agricultural Universities, while two at the ICAR institutes.

Thank you..