Indian Farmer
Volume 13, Issue 11, 2026, Pp. 623-624
Available online at: www.indianfarmer.net
ISSN: 2394-1227 (Online)

Success story

OPEN ACCESS

Woman empowerment through adopting integrated model "Oyster Mushroom and vermicompost production"

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Received: 04/11/2026 *Accepted on:07/11/2026*

ABSTRACT

This success story focuses on the inspirational journey of Mrs. Boro, a farmer in Udalguri district of Assam who discovered fortune through mushroom cultivation after experiencing repeated setbacks in traditional mushroom farming. Through tenacity, ingenuity and support from KVK Udalguri from the help of NABARD sponsored IFS project she transformed her life and make herself involved in mushroom and vermicompost production. Due to high demand of market she now shared her knowledge to fellow farmers of her village and now become a successful entrprenur. The project was for two years from 2021 and she now make herself self sustainable and continue her business with fellow farmer.

Keynotes : mushroom, Vermicompost, KVK udalguri, sustainable

Experience: Mrs. Boro, a 42 year old farmer residing at Purani Tangla village, Udalguri learned that mushroom cultivation is more economical and feasible. Hence seeing market potential she started Oyster mushroom cultivation in small scale since during 2018. The returns are considerably good and quick compared to other enterprises. He has increased his size of operation to large scale production.

Present status: Presently she is running a Mushroom farm and he markets her entire mushroom through the business established. They sell both the fresh mushroom and dried mushroom locally in the village and nearby towns.

KVK Intervention: In 2018-19, she has attended a vocational training programme conducted by KVK Udalguri. After attending the training programme she has came in to contact with the KVK for technical guidance. She was selected as one of the farmers for NABARD sponsored IFS project on integrated Paddy – vegetable - mushroom - vermicompost farming system. Under the project she got the financial assistance for cultivation of Paddy *var* Ranjit Sub-1, vegetables like tomato, chilly, cauliflower, cabbage and carrot, oyster mushroom and vermicompost. The paddy straws were used in mushroom cultivation followed by production of vermicompost by using post harvest bi-products of mushroom as well as vegetables.

Outcome and Impact: The success of Mrs. Boro got lot of attention from neighbors and other adjacent villages as she herself able to enhance her income up-to 133% compared to traditional farming. She hardly able to maintain her livelihood by earning Rs. 5000.00 per month before intervention of integrated farming model. Now she earns Rs. 11,650.00 per month which is Rs.1,39,800.00 per annum.

Glimpses of activity photographs:



CONCLUSION

Mushroom and vermicompost cultivation along with paddy and vegetables crops offers a promising path towards food security, environmental sustainability and economic empowerment. It gives a viable solution to use agricultural waste while lowering pollution levels and improving nutrition. Mrs. Boro is a perfect example of how perseverance and creativity can transform a tiny space into a profitable farming operation. By involving herself to commercial scientific cultivation leads to success in her life along with secure livelihood to her family.