

National Workshop on Shiitake Mushroom and Interactive Mushroompreneurs Meet Organized at ICAR-NEH, Manipur Centre

A three days National Workshop on “**Shiitake Mushroom: As Nutraceutical and Next Generation Functional Food**” and **Mushroompreneurs Meet** was successfully organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre in collaboration with Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (SPBB), New Delhi during 22-24 February, 2022.

Shiitake Mushroom (*Lentinula edodes*), a unique speciality mushroom of North East India having both culinary and nutraceutical properties, is relished as a highly appetizing and nourishing food stuff. North East Region (NER) encompasses a large biodiversity of Shiitake Mushroom. The native strains of shiitake are relished by the locals in NER India and its commercial cultivation has large potential as fresh, processed and nutraceutical in international export market.

The workshop was organized to provide information on advances and innovation in Shiitake Mushroom research, mushroompreneurs development as well as hands-on training. Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal inaugurated the workshop as Chief Guest on 22 February 2022, wherein he stated the importance of mushroom in daily diet and appreciated the efforts of organizers for conducting this relevant workshop. Dr. S.L Mehta, Former DDG (Education), ICAR and President SPBB briefed on the importance of this workshop and shiitake mushroom in human health. He highlighted on contribution of SPBB in disseminating the science of biochemistry and biotechnology to the common man through different events. Dr. Shelly Praveen, Former Head Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and Secretary, SPBB highlighted the importance of Shiitake Mushroom as a new emerging highly nutritious functional food having lot of medicinal and nutraceutical properties. Dr. V.P. Sharma, Director, ICAR Directorate of Mushroom Research, Solan delivered the plenary talk on status of Shiitake mushroom research in India.

Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-NEH, Umiam in concluding session highlighted the role and importance of mushroom in bringing nutritional and income security among the poor farmers of the North East region. He mentioned about the presence of mushroom in the very basic dietary habits of people in North East. He also stressed upon the need for exploring the diverse germplasm of Shiitake mushroom from the region and developing valuable products and brand promotion through Farmer Producer Organizations. Dr. I. Meghachandra Singh, Joint Director, ICAR Manipur Centre briefed on the efforts of ICAR-NEH Manipur Centre in conservation and characterization Shiitake strains native to NE India and development of new technologies to cultivate it on unexplored substrates.

The workshop organized in hybrid mode was a typical blend of in-depth talks, discussion, brainstorming and hands-on training. The eminent experts in the field of mushroom research, scientists, professors, academician, students, entrepreneurs and farmers from various parts of the country participated in the workshop. More than 600 delegates from all over the country had registered for the workshop and every session was attended by more than 150 delegates.

During the three days’ detailed deliberation on different aspects of Shiitake Mushroom viz. biodiversity, conservation, nutraceutical landscape, improvement, innovation in production production technology were discussed by experts from ICAR-NEH, ICAR-DMR, IGKV; ICAR-IARI and mushroom industry.

The interactive Mushroompreneurs Meet was the unique attraction of workshop where entrepreneurs brainstormed the business ideas with the experts and discussed various issues and way forward for promotion and development of Mushroompreneurs. Hands on Session were also conducted for imparting expertise in the cultivation of Shiitake Mushroom.



A gallery view of delegates and hand-on sessions in the National Workshop



Mushroompreneurs Meet and hand-on sessions in the National Workshop



Mushroompreneurs Meet and hand-on sessions in the National Workshop