



SENGAMALA THAYAAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST WOMEN'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
(Accredited by NAAC / An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institution)
SUNDARAKKOTTAI, MANNARGUDI-614 016.
TAMILNADU, INDIA.

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT MICROBIOLOGY

REPORT OF THE EVENT

EXTENSION ACTIVITY-2024-2025

Organized by: PG and Research Department of Microbiology

Date: 01.02.2025

Venue: Poomalai Vaniga Vilagam

Participants: College Students, Staff Members, Women Self-Help Group Members

Introduction

As part of our commitment to community development and skill enhancement, PG and research department of Microbiology organized an extension activity on edible mushroom cultivation for the members of the Women Self-Help Group at Poomalai Vaniga Valagam. This initiative aimed to provide knowledge and practical skills to empower women with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Objectives

- To educate women on the benefits and commercial potential of edible mushroom cultivation.
- To provide hands-on training in mushroom farming techniques.
- To promote self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship among women self-help group members.
- To enhance income-generating opportunities through sustainable agriculture.

Program Highlights

The event commenced with an inaugural session where Ms. P.Maheswari, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of mushroom cultivation in generating additional income for households. The training session was conducted by Dr. G.Manimekalai and students who have expertise in mushroom cultivation.

Topics Covered:

1. **Introduction to Edible Mushrooms:** Types, nutritional value, and health benefits.
2. **Mushroom Cultivation Techniques:** Selection of spawn, substrate preparation, and inoculation process.
3. **Growth and Maintenance:** Proper environmental conditions, watering, and harvesting methods.

4. **Pest and Disease Management:** Identifying and controlling common issues in mushroom farming.
5. **Marketing and Entrepreneurship:** Strategies for selling mushrooms and developing a small-scale business.

Hands-on Training

Participants were given hands-on training in preparing the substrate, inoculating mushroom spawn, and maintaining optimal growth conditions. Demonstrations were conducted on setting up a cost-effective mushroom cultivation unit using locally available resources.

Interaction and Feedback

The session was interactive, with participants actively engaging in discussions and clarifying their doubts. The women expressed keen interest in adopting mushroom cultivation as an income-generating activity and appreciated the practical insights provided.

Conclusion and Future Prospects

The training program concluded with a feedback session where participants shared their experiences and learning outcomes. The initiative was well-received, and plans were discussed for follow-up sessions and continuous support for interested participants. Through this initiative, Department of Microbiology successfully contributed to the empowerment of women by equipping them with valuable skills in edible mushroom cultivation. This activity stands as a testament to the power of education in fostering economic independence and community development.

