

# Serving the Mushroom Growers through ICT during Lockdown

## Background

- ❖ Considering the potential of mushroom growing for marginal farmers and unemployed youth, one skill development training under ASCI was provided to 20 participants.
- ❖ Unfortunately, the time for spawning of oyster mushroom approached during lockdown. This may discourage the participants. KVK Bageshwar accepted this challenges of initiating mushroom venture that was necessary to boost the enthusiasm among newly trained participants.
- ❖ KVK Bageshwar provided 50 kg spawn of oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp.) along with necessary inputs by following social distancing and all precautions against COVID 19. Straw was available with the growers.



## Action points

- ❖ Now the challenge was to provide timely advice and take care and follow up of the crop grown by first time growers.
- ❖ Whatsapp group Mushroom Growers Bageshwar created and managed by KVK worked as a platform for providing timely advice, solving problems and sharing experiences and relevant videos. Moreover, queries and problems of individual growers were also addressed through phone calls, video calls and messages.
- ❖ This led to bring the crop in time with initial harvest of 1 q and total harvest will reach to 2.5 q. Thus, the first time growers would realize the potential of this venture. The fresh produce has great demand during lockdown period and is being sold @ Rs. 150 per kg in local market.

