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Overview of mushroom development in Bangladesh

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Bangladesh is one of the most suitable countries in the world for mushroom cultivation for its favorable climate with low production cost and high market value. In Bangladesh, mushroom cultivation started since 1976-77 by the technical and financial support of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). To promote commercial production, a number of projects were initiated by the Government of Bangladesh under Department of Agricultural Extension. Oyster, Shitake, Reishi, Milky White, Straw, Wood ear and White Button mushroom are the varieties which have so far been produced or attempted for production in Bangladesh. Only oyster mushroom has been commercially adopted and is widely produced across the country by the mushroom producers. One of the pioneer private company namely Panbo Bangla Mushroom Ltd. (PBML) a member company of ORION GROUP has been producing white button mushroom utilizing best European raw materials and technology since 2012. PBML is a hi-tech mushroom firm and 100% export oriented mushroom growing, processing and canning plant in Bangladesh. PBML already acquired certificates of food safety standards viz. BRC (British Retail Consortium), ISO 22000:2005 system certification, HACCP system certification, GLOBALG.A.P, BSTI (Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institute) from both national and international regulatory authorities and USFDA certification under process. The production capacity of fresh mushroom is 1500-2000 MT/year and 6-8 millions pieces of 284 gm canned mushroom per year. Besides, there are some natural mushroom like Shammo oal and Harin bash oal available in Chittagong Hill Tracts. These natural mushrooms are very popular to hill dwellers due to its aromatic fragrance.

Biography

Mohammad Arif Mahmud has completed his MS and PhD from Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan. He has provided consultancy in International Center for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as a Mushroom Consultant-a UNDP-CHTF funded project in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. He has published more than 10 papers in reputed journals. He has been serving as a Plant Manager of Panbo Bangla Mushroom Ltd., since 2010.

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