

Training on Shitake Mushroom (*Lentinula edodes*) Cultivation in Rubesa

A week-long farmers training on shitake mushroom cultivation in wood logs was conducted in Shelley Chiwog to 11 households. Three groups of farmers consisting four members each were trained providing a resource person. The program was conducted in collaboration with National Mushroom Centre (NMC) and Dzongkhag Administration, Wangdue Phodrang, funded by Bhutan for Life Project.

The main objective of the training was to provide hands-on training and promote shitake mushroom production.

The training covered identification and verification of the billets harvested by farmers as per the requirement tree species called *Quercus griffithii*, also known as **Sisi shing** in local. Each group were supplemented with necessary equipment or materials including drill machine, drill bet, automatic injector, wax and rosin. A total of 4500 billets are incubated. The farmers were given hands on training for



Shitake Mushroom cultivation vigorously covering all processes of mushroom production. This is expected to increase income from this farming.

The shitake mushroom production by the end of 5th year from three villages are estimated at 15500 kilograms as shown in (Table 1).

Table 1: Shitake mushroom production projection at three villages (500gm/log/year)

Name of village	No of billets	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Khotokha	1560	780	800	820	840	800
Jongphey	700	350	370	390	410	400
Shelley	1750	875	895	615	635	600
Total	4010	2005	2065	1825	1885	1800

The farmers training will be continued next year to be well versed in mushroom farming by the 2nd year. The mushroom farming will be an alternative source of income beside potato being the main cash crop.

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