



Mushroom Cultivation

Why in News?

Farmers in **Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** are leading an **agricultural revolution** by embracing **mushroom cultivation**, yielding remarkable results. This year, they have produced over **2,500 quintals of mushrooms**, generating revenue of more than Rs 3.15 crore.

Key Points

- **Mushroom Farming Expansion:**
 - 1,220 mushroom growers in Udhampur have successfully cultivated nearly one lakh bags of mushrooms.
 - The region has witnessed a **significant expansion in mushroom farming.**
- **Year-Round Cultivation and Profitability:**
 - Mushroom cultivation can be done **year-round in controlled units, generating higher income during the off-season.**
 - The venture is **highly lucrative and accessible** with the right training and guidance.
 - The ease of accessibility attracts many groups in agriculture to explore mushroom farming.
 - The initiative has particularly **empowered local women and elderly residents**, offering them a **new source of income.**
- **Impact of Agricultural Initiatives:**
 - This highlights the **effectiveness of targeted agricultural initiatives** that create sustainable income opportunities for farmers.
 - As the season progresses, Udhampur anticipates increased production and a **significant boost in monetary returns for its farming community.**

Mushrooms

- **About:**
 - Mushrooms are **fungi that typically have a stem, a cap, and gills.**
 - They are **classified as fungi because they lack chlorophyll** and cannot produce their food through photosynthesis.
 - Mushrooms, belonging to the fungi species, are a **nutritious vegetarian delicacy** and also possess **several medicinal properties.**
 - They are a good source of high-quality protein, containing 20-35% protein by dry weight.
- **Varieties:**
 - Currently, **three main varieties of mushrooms** are cultivated:
 - Button Mushroom
 - Paddy-Straw Mushroom
 - Oyster Mushroom

