

Mushroom cultivation certificate course and FDP 2025-26

The six-month **Certificate Course and Faculty Development Program on Mushroom Cultivation** was organized by **Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, University of Delhi**, from **October 2025 to February 2026**. The program aimed to provide participants with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on training in mushroom cultivation, processing, marketing, and entrepreneurship.

The course attracted 35 enthusiastic participants from students, faculty members, and individuals interested in agri-entrepreneurship. The program focused on both **theoretical understanding and practical training**, enabling participants to develop skills in mushroom production, post-harvest management, and business development related to mushroom cultivation. This year, an additional component on spawn production was incorporated into the course to provide participants with advanced technical skills in mushroom cultivation. The program included the following lectures, practical sessions, and field activities

Inaugural Session

The program commenced on **08 October 2025** with an inaugural session and keynote address by **Dr. Neeraj, Dean, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana**. The keynote highlighted the growing importance of mushroom cultivation in sustainable agriculture and the opportunities it offers for entrepreneurship, innovation, and value-added product development.

Visit to Mushroom Facility

On **09 October 2025**, participants visited the **Conventional and IoT-enabled mushroom cultivation facility** at the college campus. The visit was guided by **Prof. Rekha Mehrotra, Convenor of the program**, who explained modern technologies used in mushroom production and environmental control systems for efficient cultivation.

Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

Participants received training in the **cultivation of White Oyster mushrooms** through a talk and hands-on session conducted by **Dr. Richa Sharma**. The session covered important aspects such as substrate preparation, spawning techniques, environmental conditions required for growth, and harvesting methods. The practical sessions included substrate preparation, different methods for spawning and bag preparation, induction of fruiting, harvesting methods and post-harvest management.

Button Mushroom Cultivation

A major component of the course focused on the **cultivation of button mushrooms**. **Dr. Pooja Bhadoriya** conducted theory and practical sessions explaining the complete cultivation process. Participants were actively involved in several hands-on activities including:

- Compost preparation through pile formation
- Multiple rounds of pile turning to facilitate aerobic fermentation
- Regular practical sessions were conducted between **November and December 2025** to give participants practical exposure to the detailed composting process, spawning, bag preparation
- A detailed hands-on practical session on casing procedures, involving the application of a casing layer to facilitate fruit body development, was demonstrated by **Prof. Rekha Mehrotra**.

King Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

Participants were introduced to the cultivation of **King Oyster mushrooms** through a talk by **Dr. Preeti Verma**. Subsequent hands-on sessions helped participants understand the management and cultivation of this high-value mushroom species. Practical session included

- Substrate preparation and its sterilization.
- Bag preparation
- Spawning methods

- Scraping of spawn run bags for fruiting induction
- Fruiting and harvesting

Entrepreneurship and Mushroom Industry Awareness

A dedicated session on entrepreneurship and mushroom industry awareness was conducted to highlight the economic potential of mushroom cultivation and encourage participants to explore mushroom farming as a viable entrepreneurial venture. In this **session Prof. Rekha Mehrotra** delivered a talk titled “Exploring the World of Mushrooms and Related Entrepreneurial Ventures,” highlighting opportunities in mushroom-based enterprises and the development of value-added mushroom products.

Expert Lectures

The program also included lectures from distinguished experts in the field.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Chaudhary, Retired Professor from Haryana Agricultural University, delivered a talk on “**Mushroom Production Overview**,” explaining the scientific and commercial aspects of mushroom farming.

Session on marketing and financial Aspects

A session on **marketing and financial aspects of mushroom cultivation** was conducted to highlight the importance of effective marketing strategies and financial management in developing sustainable mushroom enterprises.

- **Dr. Dimpy Handa** delivered a talk on “*7 P’s of Marketing Mushrooms in India*,” explaining key marketing strategies for mushroom products, positioning, pricing, promotion, and distribution strategies.
- Another session was led by **Mr. Subhash Manda** on *the* financial aspects of mushroom cultivation in India, where participants gained insights into investment requirements, cost management, and the profitability of mushroom-based ventures.

Mushroom Biotechnology and Bioprocessing

A special lecture titled “**Potential for Mushroom Bioprocessing – Fermentation Approach**” was delivered by **Dr. Ananya Rana from NIFTEM, Kundli**, introducing participants to advanced research and industrial applications of mushrooms.

Field Visit

On **03 February 2026**, participants undertook a **field visit to the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Kundli, Sonipat, Haryana**. The visit provided exposure to advanced research facilities and ongoing work in mushroom product development, bioprocessing, and biofortification.

Spawn Production Training

The course concluded with a **talk and practical session on spawn production** conducted by **Dr. Richa Sharma**, where participants learned about the preparation of high-quality mushroom spawn and the importance of sterile techniques in spawn production.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session marked the successful conclusion of the training program. Participants shared their experiences and expressed that the training enhanced their knowledge and practical skills in mushroom cultivation. Certificates were distributed to all participants in recognition of their successful completion of the program. The session concluded with encouraging words from our **Principal Prof. (Dr.) Payal Mago and Program Convenor Prof. Rekha Mehrotra**, who urged the participants to utilize the knowledge gained and explore entrepreneurial opportunities in mushroom cultivation.

Inaugural session



Facility Visit



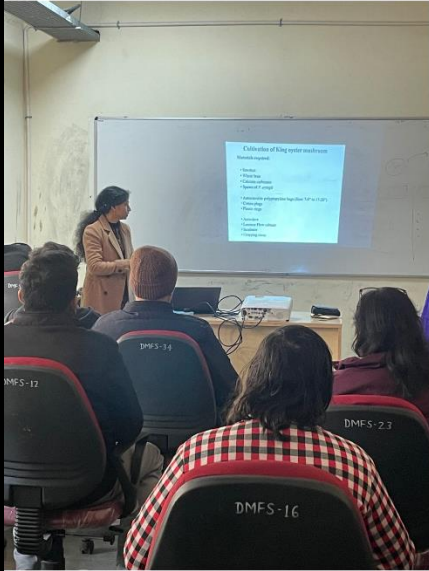
Oyster mushroom sessions



Button mushroom sessions



King oyster mushroom sessions



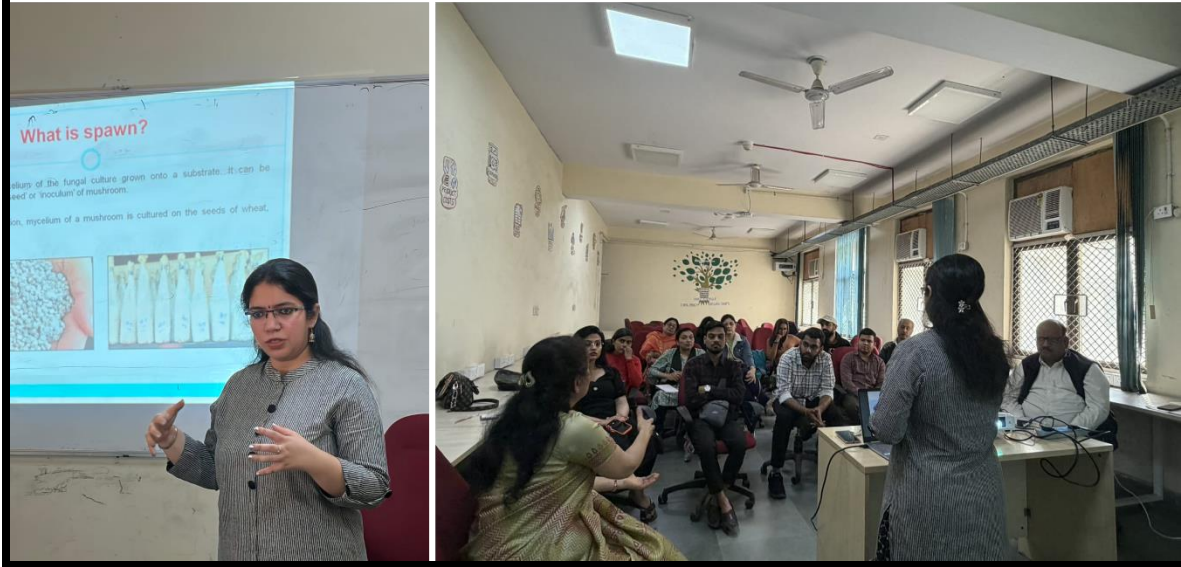
Marketing and Finance sessions



Field Visit



Spawn session



Valedictory Session

