



## EFFECT OF SUBSTRATE QUALITY AND SOAKING PERIOD ON BIOEFFICIENCY OF STRAW MUSHROOM (*VOLVARIELLA SPP*) IN ODISHA

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### ABSTRACT

*O*disha is the leading state in terms of straw mushroom production. Farmers utilized paddy straw for straw mushroom cultivation owing to its availability at cheaper rates throughout the state. In most cases cultivation is done in no pasteurized substrate. The acidic medium in hot and humid climate is more prone to competitor moulds and diseases. Therefore the biological efficiency is at 10% which is low. In order to increase the biological efficiency an experiment was carried in the year 2012-13 to know the effect of straw quality and soaking period on mushroom production. The bed raised with hand threshed deshi variety straw (Panidhan) has biological efficiency of 16.8 %. Cattle threshed straw types were found inferior in respect of sporophore yields. Pre-soaking of high yielding variety straw for six hours was superior pre-soaking beyond six hours resulted in deterioration of productivity.

**KEY WORD:** Mushroom, Biological efficiency, Soaking period, Straw quality