

## SUCCESS STORY OF [Mushroom Cultivation]

**Title:** *Transforming Rural Youth's life through Mushroom Cultivation*

### 1. Basic Information

- **Entrepreneur's Name:** Akhumla
- **Age:** 20
- **Gender:** Female
- **Address:** Kuthur village, Chessore block, Tuensang, Nagaland
- **Educational Qualification:** Primary
- **Landholding:** 1.2 acres
- **No. of children (if any):** Nil
- **Type of Enterprise:** Mushroom Cultivation
- **Year of Establishment:** 2022
- **Year of ARYA Training:** 2021-22
- **Initial Investment:** Rs. 75,000/-
- **Source of Investment:** ARYA Project Grant



### 2. Background & Motivation (max. 100 words)

Ms. Akhumla is a very hardworking young farmer earning her livelihood from cultivation of different vegetables in her small farm of 1.2 acres. Not satisfied with her low income she made an effort to expand her farming endeavor and got involved in mushroom cultivation. Prior to ARYA intervention her income was low due to lack of technical knowledge and scientific cultivation practices to convert her efforts into profits to the maximum. Driven by motivation to improve her farming skills, she approached KVK Tuensang for getting technical knowledge and skill development in the year 2022.

### 3. Technology Interventions & Best Practices (max. 100 words)

Cultivation and establishment of Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) unit requires relatively low investment and is quite suitable and adaptable within the existing farming systems. It complements crop cultivation by utilizing the agricultural by-products such as straw and other plant materials, minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency. The substrate, paddy straw is chopped into 3-5 cm length using local dao. After that, sterilization of straw is done by dipping in boiling water. After sterilization and draining of excess water, straws are filled in the mushroom cylinder bags in 3-4 layers, simultaneously spawns of oyster mushroom is placed in each layer.

### 4. Role of ARYA Project (max. 50 words)

Under the project she received vocational training on oyster mushroom cultivation established a mushroom unit of 300 bags capacity from project assistance. She received one low cost mushroom house of 50 sq.m along with 300 mushroom bags and 150 packets of mushroom spawn.

## 5. Business Growth & Achievements

- **Production & Income Growth:**

Particulars	Before ARYA (2021-2022)	After ARYA (2022-2023)	2023-2024	2024-25
Size of enterprise (eg: no. of animals, size of land, units etc.)	1.2 acres	50 sq.m	50 sq.m	50 sq.m
Breed/ Variety Used	Vegetable production	Oyster mushroom	Oyster mushroom	Oyster mushroom
Feed Type	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Production (Kg/No.)	1770 kg	570 kg	600kg	650 kg
Price	Rs.20/kg	Rs.200/kg	Rs.200/kg	Rs.200/kg
Cost of Production/unit (Rs.)	24000	75,000	77000	80000
Gross Income (Rs. /Year)	35,400	114000	120000	130000
Net Income (Rs. /Year)	11,400	39000	43000	50,000
Benefit Cost Ratio (B:C)	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Marketing (eg: local markets, Regional Market, Direct sales to consumers etc.)	Local markets And direct sales to consumer	Local markets And direct sales to consumer	Local markets And direct sales to consumer	Local markets And direct sales to consumer
No. of family members involved in the enterprise	01	02	02	02
No. of labourers employed*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Average Employment Generation (No. of days): Per Person/Year	30 days	120 days	125 days	130 days

Now she is selling fresh mushrooms both locally and by sending them to other villages and to Tuensang town.

## 6. Socio-Economic Impact (max. 100 words)

The establishment of mushroom enterprise has transformed the financial status of the young entrepreneur. She is now a successful mushroom grower and her success story continues to encourage other unemployed youth to venture into alternative businesses and so far 10 other youths have been inspired to start their own mushroom business. In 2022-23 she was able to

harvest 570 kgs of mushroom from 3 pickings and earned a net profit of 39,000/-. Till date she is running her mushroom unit of 300 bags capacity and actively giving trainings and practical demonstration to other youths.

### **7. Future Plans& Vision (max. 50 words)**

Miss Akhumla plans to polish her skill sets by attending more advanced trainings and hopes to expand her business one day. She also has plans to venture into value added products of mushroom once she can scale up her production.

### **8. Key Takeaways & Message for Aspiring Entrepreneurs**

**“ARYA is the platform I needed to achieve success because setting up a mushroom unit is easy but it is crucial to possess scientific knowledge to ensure success”.**

### **9. Good quality photographs of the entrepreneur and activities related to the enterprise (3 photos or more)**

