

Cost of production of *Pleurotus sajor-caju* in Dakshina Kannada dist. of Karnataka State

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Studies on the economics of *Pleurotus sajor-caju* cultivation, at farmers level, revealed that cost of production was very high during the initial three production years, when the cultivator was following the methods of cultivation prevailing in other parts of the country. The cost of production was Rs. 65.73, Rs. 52.03 and Rs. 46.18 per kg of mushroom during the first, second and third year of cultivation respectively. With the adoption of a standardized production technology, the cost of production has come down to Rs. 34.95 per kg of mushroom.

Based on the data collected during the cultivation trials, with a standardized production technology, in the conventional mushroom and in a low cost mushroom shed, a model low cost mushroom farm for the cultivation of *P. sajor-caju* suitable for Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state has been designed. Finally, the cost of production per kg of mushroom in this model low cost farm using paddy straw as substrate has been estimated as Rs. 14.29.