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## Mushroom Biotechnology: Premises, promises and challenges

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Population explosion, dwindling agricultural land and less scope of quantum jump in production of food grains after green revolution has compelled scientists to look for alternative source of food which can cater to the need of exploding population. Mushrooms are one of the best alternatives which grow independent of sunlight and fertile land and can produce highest quantity of protein per unit area and time from the lignocellulosic wastes. Hence, Mushroom Biotechnology came into existence which deals with discovery of new edible mushrooms from nature, domestication of newly discovered as well as other wild mushrooms, enhancement in the production of fruit bodies, increase in nutritional and medicinal attributes and applications in mitigating the environmental pollution and providing low cost, viable, multipurpose technology to farmers to meet the growing demand of food, feed, fodder, fertilizer and energy. It is also concerned with exploitation of medicinal and tonic properties and cosmetics as well as nutritious beverages products. Presently mushrooms are among the most popular, nonconventional food accepted the world over and the increased consumer demand over the years has led to quantum jump in its production. Mushrooms are not only used as an effective weapon against malnutrition but also an important tool for restoration, replenishment and remediation of earth's overburdened ecosphere.

### Biography

Mohan Prasad Singh is presently working as Professor of Biotechnology at University of Allahabad (India). After completion of M. Phil. and qualifying NET and JRF, he joined as Lecturer in HNB Garhwal University in Botany in 1992. In 1998 he completed his Ph.D. and in 2000 he moved to the Department of Biotechnology at VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur where he became Reader in 2000 and Professor in 2008. Prof. Singh has been carrying out his research on various aspects of edible oyster mushroom over last two decades. He has improved production and nutritional content of mushroom and suggested the effective way to get rid of environmental problems through mushroom. He has published 45 research papers, edited three books and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute. His research area is Mushroom nutraceuticals, biodegradation & bioremediation.

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