

EFFECT OF COMPOSTED PADDY STRAW ON THE
CULTIVATION OF STRAW MUSHROOM (VOLVARIELLA SP.)

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A compost mixture was prepared with paddy straw, chicken manure (1% w/w, dry basis) and urea (0.75%). This mixture was enriched separately with rice bran (5% w/w, dry basis), chicken manure (10%) and with both rice bran (5%) and chicken manure (10%), and used substrates as to cultivate the straw mushroom (Volvariella sp). The yields of mushrooms were compared. Uncomposted straw enriched with supplements as above was used as the control.

All three substrates based on composted paddy straw gave a two fold increase in the yield as compared to corresponding substrates with uncomposted paddy straw. The substrate with both rice bran and chicken manure gave increased yields (41% w/w, fresh weight basis on the dry weight of straw) in comparison to the other two. The steaming of the composted mixture was necessary to obtain the higher yields.