

USE OF SOME RAW MATERIALS ON GROWTH OF
INDOOR STRAW MUSHROOM

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Straw mushroom (Piduru Hathu) belongs to the family Pluteacea of the Basidiomycetes. The genus Volvariella comprised a group of several species which can be grown on a wide variety of substrates in tropical and subtropical regions. Volvariella volvacea is probably the best known species and it has been traditionally cultivated in Southeast Asia since 18th century. In commercial scale the indoor method straw mushroom production has several advantages over the outdoor methods. The success of straw mushroom commercialization, therefore, depends on improving the technology of indoor method cultivation in a manner that will suit for Sri Lanka.

An experiment was carried out to study the use of different raw materials on straw mushroom production in commercial scale. Six compost mixtures prepared with different materials were tested with V-42 strain of straw mushroom. Fresh mushroom yields were measured and analysed.

Compost prepared using cotton waste, rice bran and calcium carbonate of 60:5.5:2.7 gave highest Biological Efficiency (32.2%) and a stable crop.

Results of this experiment clearly indicate the necessity of further experimentation for efficient utilization of the compost mixtures.