

Participation of Farmers and Processors

- Took part in the awareness campaign & mobilization of cluster members
- Took part in the survey of the status of mushroom industry
- Took part in the training courses particularly the practical



ERMCI-Activities

- Imparting a common understanding of the concept of the cluster among the facilitating team and the stakeholders
- Conducting quality mushroom cultivation training courses.
- Offering high quality mushroom spawns.
- Building competitiveness among the cluster members.

Potential of mushroom farming

- There is a good number of people with some skills on mushroom cultivation and are engaged in mushroom production and the number keeps on increasing

as ERMCI keeps on conducting training courses.

- There is a huge amount of agro-wastes which is a source of substrate for mushroom cultivation.
- The nutritive and medicinal values of mushroom could be used as potential bites for mushroom markets.



Participants sowing mushroom seeds in pasteurized substrate

CONTACT

Postal Address: P.O. Box 31664

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel.: 0787-280 742 (Chairperson: Mr. S. Asman)

0754-879 877 (Secretary: Dr. G. Shemdoe)

E-Mail: sja2746@yahoo.com



EASTERN REGIONS MUSHROOM CLUSTER INITIATIVE (ERMCI)



*Mushrooms for Medicines,
Food, Environment Protection,
and Income Generation*

**Serving Coast, Dar es Salaam
and Morogoro Regions**

EASTERN REGIONS MUSHROOM CLUSTER INITIATIVE

Background

The Eastern Regions Mushroom Cluster Initiative (ERMCI) was among the first eight pilot clusters which were identified and approved for support by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Innovation Systems and Cluster Programmes in Tanzania. The cluster was built on the foundations of the Tanzania Mushroom Growers Association (TMGA) whose main goal is to promote mushroom industry in Tanzania. However, since the Association is covering the entire country, it was resolved to limit the activities of the cluster to three administrative regions (Coast- Dar es Salaam- and Morogoro regions) in the eastern part of the country, hence ERMCI.

Vision

The mission of the ERMCI is to become the leader in mushroom production and processing in East Africa within a few years to come.

Mission

To promote mushroom farming and mushroom diets, both in rural and urban areas in the East African Community.

Objectives

The objectives of ERMCI are:

- To develop, promote mushroom industry in Tanzania.

- Promote and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of experiences among cluster members.

- To sensitize the Tanzanian masses on the importance of mushrooms for good nutrition and also as potential cash crop.

- To provide relevant information to all stakeholders on issues related to production and marketing of mushrooms produced in Tanzania.

- To provide linkage between the stakeholders of the mushroom industry and the government authorities.

Organization Structure

The Cluster is composed of a facilitating team, three leadership teams (one for each region) and cluster members with different special interests in the mushroom industry. Compositions of both the facilitating team and the leadership groups are drawn from Public Institutions, private sector and R & D Institutions thus forming a Triple Helix.

Triplex Helix

The Academia - University

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) - College of Engineering (CoET) & Faculty of Science (FoS)

- CoET nurtured the cluster (technical support, training, financial support)
- FoS Provided staff to serve on Facilitating team

- FoS contributions in the survey tool design, data collection and analysis
- UDSM administration provided Editor for the Swahili standard mushroom cultivation manual

- FoS availed new local strain of gamodema to growers

The Local Government

- Have been supportive in both awareness & training meetings
- RC & DC have been involved in the openings and closings of training courses
- Local government leaders serve in the regional leadership groups



Hon. Dr. Christine Ishengoma Coast RC delivering opening speech during the first high quality mushroom production training course at ERMCI Centre Kibaha.