



Ganoderma lucidum, a local wild mushroom with medicinal properties

Technology Parks

Processing Ganoderma mushrooms into tea and capsules to help boost the immune system



Project funding

The project is funded by NEDBANK and SANBio / NEPAD



The ZERI aims at providing affordable options that are viable and suitable to generate income and reduce poverty to people in Namibia's rural and peri-urban communities

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ZERI PROJECT
“Promotion of Mushroom Farming in Namibia”



Southern African
Network for Biosciences
(SANBio)



ZERI Project

The project aims at promoting the production, consumption and the medicinal use of mushrooms in Namibia.

The objectives of the project is to:

- Create awareness on mushroom cultivation
- technology and utilization
- Promote mushroom production through training, spawn production and access to the market
- Promote research and extension services on mushroom
- Promote awareness of indigenous mushrooms with potential for domestication and commercialization
- Conserve genetic resources of cultivated mushroom species for public distribution and research within the country
- Add value to cultivated edible and medicinal mushrooms through production of immune-boosting mushroom nutraceutical

Benefits of mushrooms

Food: Mushrooms are rich in proteins, vitamins (vitamin C) and essential micronutrients (iron, calcium, sodium, potassium and phosphorus)

Medicinal properties: Low in cholesterol, boost the immune system to fight infections, lower blood pressure, prolong life of people living with HIV/AIDS

Source of income: Mushrooms create income generating opportunities.

Job creation: Job opportunity for the unemployed

Use of agricultural waste: Wastes such as, grass, corn cobs, saw dust, maize, wheat and millet stalks, millet chaff can be used as raw materials for mushroom cultivation.

ACTIVITIES

Current activities:

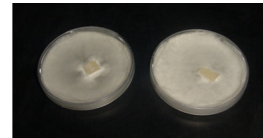
All activities are conducted at the University of Namibia (main campus in Windhoek), Ogongo Campus (Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources) and Henties Bay (Sam Nuyoma Campus)

Species that are currently under production are:

Pleurotus ostreatus , *Pleurotus sojo-caju*
Ganoderma lucidum, *Lentinula edodes*,
Pleurotus eryngii, HK35

Culture production:

Different mushroom cultures are grown in the laboratory at the respective campuses



Spawn production:

This is the production of mushroom seeds for sale to interested communities



Mushroom production:

The respective campuses undertake small scale production for local markets. Farmers are encouraged to produce large quantities to expand the market.



Training:

The project offers training in Mushroom Cultivation Techniques to interested groups or individuals.



Interested people are encouraged to contact the campuses for training arrangements.

Research:

Research is being conducted for the domestication and commercialization of indigenous edible and medicinal mushrooms.



Mushroom house:

Mushroom houses can be constructed from local materials such as, thatching grass, millet & maize stalks, reeds, clay bricks and others. Below is an example of a low cost mushroom house at Ogongo Campus

