

Converting Weed Crops into Income opportunities and Food Security

Work session: 1 December 07 13:30 – 15:00 pm

Abstract: This presentation explores the symbiotic relationship between mushrooms and forestry and introduces the real opportunities for food and income security in rural development.

Mushrooms grow naturally everywhere in the world and are cultivated for food and medicine in almost every climate, from the extremely hot to the frigid cold. Jamaica offers a range of microclimates for growing a variety of speciality mushrooms. Mushroom cultivation offers an excellent opportunity for income and food security for poor and landless youth and adults in rural Jamaica.

The national and global demand for mushrooms is large and growing. The global mushroom market size was valued at \$33,553.0 million in 2019 and is estimated to reach \$53,342.0 million by 2027, registering a CAGR of 9.3% from 2021 to 2027.

This presentation will introduce the fundamentals of mushroom cultivation, explore the challenges and characteristics of the Jamaican mushroom industry, and highlight import next steps to developing this new industry.

Using the weed crops of bamboo and lemongrass, Jamaica Exotic Mushrooms Limited developed proprietary processing for producing a substrate for mushroom cultivation.

Mrs Smith's companies operate out of brand new GMP standard facility in the cool hills of Manchester, near Spalding.

PRESENTER PROFILE



Ms Pauline Terri Smith
 Social Cultural Anthropologist
 and Social Entrepreneur
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