

Training Course on Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs

APCoAB in collaboration with Taiwan Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), Taichung, Chinese Taipei, Food and Fertilizer Technology Centre, Chinese Taipei and Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) organized the training course at TARI during 21-27 November, 2010. This is one of the two training courses under the APAARI-Council of Agriculture (COA), Chinese Taipei collaborative program organized during 2010. The training course was aimed to equip researchers, government officers and extension workers in the AP region with a working knowledge and share experiences on improved technologies for mushroom production. The curriculum was particularly focused on the importance of eco-friendly resource recycling of agricultural wastes. Fifteen participants undertook the course, of whom three from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were nominated by APAARIAPCoAB. The course comprised lectures on edible and medicinal mushrooms, their cultivation technology, production, nutritional and medicinal value, and market prospects. Practical demonstrations were given on preparation of substrates, tissue isolation and sub-culture, and preservation of cultures. The participants were exposed to on-farm mushroom cultivation and management practices through visits to mushroom farms and interaction with large and small scale growers. The participants also observed cultivation of mushroom as value-added products.