

AGRI VALUE-CHAIN

MycoGrow

Mushroom livelihoods

Low-capital oyster mushroom farming lifts rural Bangladeshi incomes and nutrition

✓ PROVEN PRECEDENT

NMDI: the sector could triple, employ ~500k;
54% bio-efficiency

▲ WHY IT MATTERS

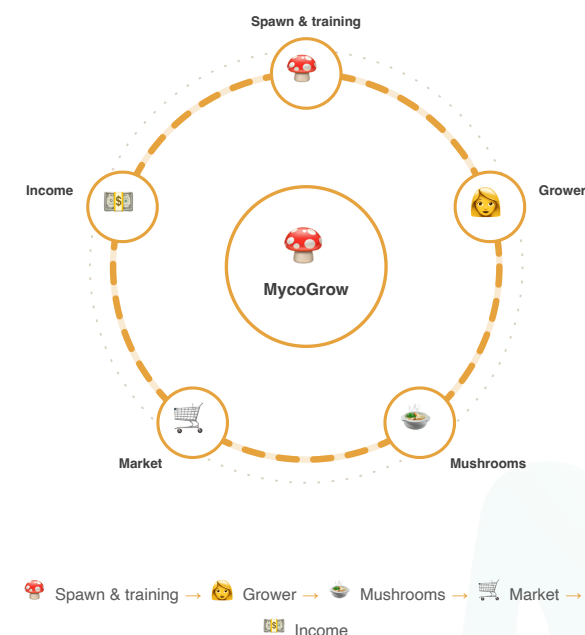
Tk85–90cr imports/yr · only 5% of growers
get a loan

THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh produces roughly 40,000 tonnes of mushrooms a year (worth about Tk 800 crore), yet domestic output still falls short of demand, forcing an estimated Tk 85–90 crore in imports annually³, even as global mushroom demand climbs about 6.74% per year⁵. The crop grows year-round on cheap, abundant agricultural residue: straw plus a bran supplement delivers around 224 g per bag at roughly 54% biological efficiency, valorizing waste into food⁴². It is also a real livelihood ladder for the landless and for women, who already make up 28% of mushroom entrepreneurs and over 40% of the sector's laborers, with reported benefit-cost ratios of 1.55–4.25⁵¹. But the sector is capital-starved at the bottom: only 25% of farmers even attempt a loan and just 5% succeed, leaving 92.8% to self-fund⁵.

OUR PITCH

MycoGrow is a micro-franchise network that hands rural Bangladeshis — especially women and the landless — a turnkey kit to grow oyster mushrooms on rice straw and sawdust, the residues already lying around their farms²⁴. The wedge is the financing gap itself: by bundling spawn, training, substrate know-how and guaranteed offtake into a low-capital package, MycoGrow replaces the bank loan that 95% of would-be growers never get⁵. The unit economics are honest and modest — typical operators clear single-digit-thousand-taka monthly profits on small investments, but at benefit-cost ratios of 1.55–4.25 and grown vertically in a single room, requiring no cultivable land¹. It works because every input is local and cheap, demand outstrips a supply gap that already drives tens of crore in imports, and the National Mushroom Development Institute estimates the sector could triple and employ up to half a million people³.



Built so the operator never fails

HelperChain doesn't hand out a loan and walk away. Every operator gets the **full rail** — inputs, training, finance, supervision and a **guaranteed buy-back** of what they produce. We carry the risk so an ordinary person can succeed.



Equipped & trained

We provide the tools, inputs and hands-on training to start — turning **spawn & training** into a working operation. No prior capital or expertise required.



Funded, not indebted

Pay-as-you-go, **riba-free** finance turns a poor person into a *funded* operator — with **no debt if a cycle fails**. The network carries the downside, not the operator.



Supervised & supported

Ongoing follow-up and quality assurance — the single factor peer-reviewed evidence shows decides whether ventures survive (**p<0.001**). The operator is never left alone.



Guaranteed buy-back

HelperChain **commits to purchase the output at a fair, pre-agreed price**, so there is always a market — the operator just produces; **we guarantee the offtake**. This is what removes the fear of failure.



Surplus recycles

A thin margin is recycled to fund the next operator — so help compounds and the network grows stronger with every person it lifts.

The promise: we give the operator everything needed to succeed — and we buy back the output at a fair, pre-agreed price. Inputs in, output bought back, risk carried by the network — so they never fail alone.

SOURCES (5)

1. Sarker, N.C. et al. (2020). Mushroom Production Benefits, Status, Challenges and Opportunities in Bangladesh: A Review. Annual Research & Review in Biology. journalarbb.com/index.php/ARRB/article/v...

2. Agri-food wastes as substrates for oyster mushroom cultivation (2025). PMC. pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1266332...

3. New Age Bangladesh (2025). Mushroom farming comes up as new economic front (NMDI data). www.newagebd.net/post/country/280192/mus...

4. Yang, W., Guo, F. & Wan, Z. (2013). Yield of oyster mushroom on rice/wheat straw substrate. Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences. pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3824138...

5. Dey, B.K. et al. (2024). Strategic insights for sustainable growth of mushroom farming in Bangladesh (SWOT-AHP, TOPSIS). Heliyon. pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1140292...

