

# Vedanta Aluminium Expands Livelihoods for Women in Rayagada Through Mushroom Cultivation

Bhubaneswar :Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has undertaken a successful demonstration of scientific mushroom cultivation in the tribal districts of Rayagada, training 76 women in Kashipur block. Through this effort, it has expanded the range of livelihood avenues available to women in the region, offering a scalable, low investment income model for rural house holds. The pilot project has been implemented in villages such as Dumerpadar and Porlong, where participants have undergone hands-on training in bed preparation, seeding, bag filling, and scientific cultivation techniques. The participants have also been supported with essential inputs, including chuna, besan, mushroom seeds, and cultivation bags, enabling them to immediately apply their learnings at the household level. In addition, each participant was provided two mushroom beds to begin cultivation. Chandrika Naik, a beneficiary from Dumerpadar village, said, "Through this initiative, we have learned scientific mushroom cultivation and are now able to earn from our homes.