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**Changing face of Mushroom Cultivation Training at  
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The method employed to provide Mushroom Cultivation Training to the farmers, entrepreneurs and other persons has undergone a sea change if we go back to the year 1998. During that time, slides were made on transparencies using marker pens (Fig. 1). The transparencies were then put in inverted position over a projector, which projected the contents on the screen. Some faculty also used white board markers (Fig. 2) for showing some formulas etc to the trainees. The trainees didn't get any copy of the material shown over the projector. Also, there were no smart cameras through which trainees could take photographs. Making transparencies was a tedious job. In the event of any corrections, whole slide had to be all over again or make corrections with a white marker pen.

	
Transparency projector (Fig.1 )	White Board Marker (Fig.2)

After this came the slide projectors where slides were made of the negatives (Fig. 3&4) of the photographs taken and they were put up in a straight or a circular path of the slide projector as shown in fig 3 and fig 4. This method somewhat improved the quality of the slides as earlier the photos had to be got photocopied onto the transparencies and now photographs of the crop could be clicked and shown directly to the trainees.



Next came the power point presentations which was a part of the MS Word package. First time when MS Word was purchased, it consisted of around 25 3.5” slides and had to be installed into the computer. It included Word, Excel, power point and Access. Data in any form (histograms, bar charts, pie charts etc.) could be presented to the trainees. Smart panels could be used for writing something on the board and then saving it for future use or taking a print out of the same. In addition to the slides, recorded audio and videos could also be played for the benefit of the trainees. Then came the internet and the ultimate revolution in which slides, videos, audios could be presented to the participants through a computer and a projector. If internet facility is available, live videos related to mushroom cultivation can be played on the computer and shown to the participants.

	
<p>Smart Panel (Fig.5)</p>	<p>Video Conferencing (Fig.6)</p>

Now video conferencing softwares are available, like, Zoom, Webex, Google Meet which allow up to one thousand persons to join and take part in any virtual meeting, conference, seminar or training. In this corona affected times, all interviews, meetings, conferences, seminars, trainings are being conducted online.

Training could be taken on laptops, ipads, mobiles etc. which has given great flexibility to the trainers as well as trainees.

### **Registration and post training support**

The registration process for the training has also developed a sea change. While in the initial days, registration was done through writing letters and sending demand drafts for the training fees, then registration was done through email and now registration is done through google forms available on the website and fees is paid through netbanking, ATM Card or SBI collect link available on the website.

Same is true for the post training support to the mushroom farmers. Initially the farmers used to telephone, or bring compost/spawn samples for testing. But now, with the social media



available, farmers can video call, show their crop for any problem testing, send photographs and get instant solution through the social media platforms available, viz. WhatsApp, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter etc.

### **Conclusion**

It can be seen that conduction of trainings has undergone great changes from the era of giving presentations through transparencies to using computers and making powerpoint presentations and now giving training presentations through video conferencing softwares like zoom, webex, and google meet etc. While it has given flexibility to the presenters to present their information in various formats, it has also increased the ease of learning for the trainees.