

## Effect of pruned tea leaves on the yield and nutritional quality of two species of *Pleurotus* in North Bengal

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The study was conducted to analyse the efficiency of pruned tea leaves as a substrate for cultivation of *Pleurotus* species in North Bengal. Pruned tea leaf substrate was found to increase the production of *Pleurotus* species along with an increase in the nutritional components. Higher spawn run and yield was observed in pruned tea leaves single as well as in combination with paddy straw substrate. The biochemical constituents were also high in both the cases but higher when cultivated in pruned tea leaves. Fruitbody were dried and powdered and it was also observed that the powder was also contains significant good amount of total soluble protein, carbohydrates, total lipid and dietary fibre.

**Key words:** Pruned tea leaves, cultivation, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *P. sajor-caju*, yield, dietary fibre

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