

## **Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR visited an entrepreneurial mushroom unit of a young engineer guided by Coochbehar KVK**

6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023: Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR today visited the BM Mushroom Enterprise at Jatrapur village in Cooch Behar District, West Bengal. This mushroom farm is not only producing high quality mushroom spawn, but also mushroom value-added products are being produced, which are marketed to different parts of the country. He interacted with the engineer turned mushroom entrepreneur, Mr. Biproyoti Bhowmik, the head of the enterprise. Incidentally, it was known that Mr. B. Bhowmik was an engineer and six years ago he quitted his job to take up the idea of becoming an agricultural entrepreneur. This has encouraged other youths in the area like Mr. Amit Biswas who joined in the effort after successfully completing B.Sc. in Horticulture from Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV), Pundibari, West Bengal. Mr. Biswas confided that with the help of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), they are also providing various types of training in rural areas and a New Agrivers Farmers Producer Company has been created to expand the mushroom cultivation to rural areas. Dr. Pathak lauded the effort and said that youth of today's society need to come forward in this kind of farming. He also appreciated the way in which KVK was guiding the rural youth to become entrepreneurs. Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata said that there was a need to spread that type of entrepreneurship in rural areas to turn youths from job seekers to job giver. He urged the KVKs to intensify the efforts to increase agri-entrepreneurs in the country. Dr. P. K. Pal, Director of Extension Education, UBKV and Dr. B. Roy, Senior Scientist and Head of Cooch Behar KVK, other Scientists of research Institutes and SMS of KVKs were also present in the programme.



*(Source: ICAR- ATARI Kolkata)*