

Regional Regeneration Alliance

CASE STUDY: MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Exotic mushrooms sprout niche market opportunity

Exotic mushrooms could provide new opportunities for primary producers in Western Australia's Wheatbelt, according to our research.

Our study into *Mushroom Production in the Wheatbelt* found there were opportunities to further explore in the niche exotic or specialty mushroom industry with a modularised approach.

The report not only explored possibilities for a proposed mushroom enterprise, but also looked at ways to regenerate land, stimulate the economy and grow the community through diversified, value-adding enterprises.

Our vision is aligned to the Commonland 4 Returns framework that looks to transform degraded landscapes into thriving ecosystems.

The report found the production of exotic mushrooms was less technically sophisticated and had a shorter growing cycle when compared to the traditional button mushroom.

This could provide opportunities for small-scale diversification and additional revenue streams for primary producers.

Exotic mushroom production was a lower risk option than large-scale button mushroom operations, with a smaller initial capital outlay and existing business models that could be tested and explored further.

The report recommended a pilot-scale project could be used to test the production system for specialty mushrooms in the Wheatbelt, and further investigation of potential partnerships and distribution models to identify viable options for wheatbelt enterprises.

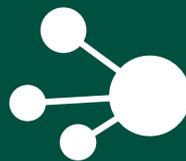
It also identified an opportunity to explore improved utilisation of spent mushroom compost in broadacre farming.

The Alliance uses a truly collaborative approach to regenerate our environment and communities, build sustainable and profitable industries and inspire hope for the future.



Exotic market

Small-scale production of specialty mushrooms an identified opportunity



Distribution

Partnerships could be explored to exploit existing supply chain distribution models



Waste re-use

Opportunity to explore improved utilisation of spent mushroom compost in broadacre farming

Source:

A Background Report to Understand the Opportunities for Inland Aquaculture, 2019. Commissioned by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Regional Regeneration Alliance.

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