

Summary:

A mushroom is the soft, spore-bearing fruiting body of a fungus, produced above the ground level or some other food source. Edible mushrooms are consumed by humans for their nutritional value and they are occasionally consumed for their [medicinal](#) value. It is one of the most suitable fungal organisms for producing protein rich food from various agro-wastes or forest wastes without composting. Wild edible mushrooms have been collected and consumed by people since thousands of years. Mushrooms consumed by those who practicing [folk medicine](#) are known as [medicinal mushrooms](#). Fresh mushrooms purchased from a store or harvested from the wild can be used many months later if stored correctly. There are many different kinds of mushrooms and many different ways to preserve them.

The global mushroom production as per FAO Statistics was estimated at about 2.18 to 3.41 million tons over period of last ten years (1997-2007). • Since there was an increase of about 56% world mushroom production in last decades and estimates can be put on current production to be around 3.5 million tons. China is the largest producer and consumer of mushrooms in the world (15,68,523 metric tons production + 17,732 metric tons imports). Next comes USA and Netherland respectively.