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# PISTIA STRATIOTES – TRANSFORMING WATER WASTE INTO WEALTH"

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## INTRODUCTION

PISTIA STRATIOTES, COMMONLY KNOWN AS WATER LETTUCE OR JALKUMBHI IN HINDI, IS A FLOATING AQUATIC PLANT THAT IS OFTEN FOUND IN TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL REGIONS AROUND THE WORLD. IT HAS DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND VARIOUS USES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE INSPIRED ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURES. FOUR VARIETIES ARE DISTINGUISHED. THE INDIAN VARIETY IS KNOWN AS VAR. cuneta. IT IS PROPAGATED BY SEEDS OR MORE RAPIDLY BY STOLONS. IT IS KNOWN FOR ITS RAPID GROWTH AND ABILITY TO QUICKLY COVER LARGE AREAS OF WATER SURFACES, WHICH CAN BE BOTH BENEFICIAL AND PROBLEMATIC.

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Despite these challenges, the plant holds potential for economic benefits if harnessed correctly, as it is readily available at no cost. In the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh, an entrepreneur named **Nazia Bano** has successfully tapped into this potential. She generates income for herself and other women by crafting various decorative items from water hyacinth. This plant typically flowers in warm weather, and its fruiting phase follows the rainy season.

## Status of commercialization

Proven and awaiting commercialization.

## Salient Features

**Handicrafts** Entrepreneurs can explore using the dried fibrous material of the plant for making eco-friendly handicrafts, similar to the use of water hyacinth.

**Agriculture** It can be used as green manure or compost material for organic farming, providing an eco-friendly alternative to chemical fertilizers.

**Ornamental Uses** Selling Pistia as an ornamental plant for garden ponds and aquariums, catering to the decorative landscaping market.

## Benefits

### ➤ Economic & Social Benefits

**Source of livelihood** It can be used as a resource for various entrepreneurial activities, providing economic opportunities in rural and urban areas.

### ➤ Agricultural & Horticultural benefits

**Biofertilizer** The plant is rich in nitrogen and other nutrients, making it an excellent biofertilizer or green manure for enriching soil in agricultural practices.

**Ornamental Plants** Its unique appearance and floating habit make it popular in ornamental water gardens, ponds, and aquariums.

## Training

Training is imparted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra-II, Sitapur, U.P

## Developer

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