

Fungal Reproduction:

Fungi reproduce by two methods:

1. *Asexual reproduction:*

- a. Fragmentation: Hyphae are fragmented into small segments and each grows into a new hypha.
- b. Budding: This is common in yeasts. Each cell produces a small bud, the bud grows up and separates into a new cell.
- c. Fission: One cell divides into two cells.
- d. Sporulation: The most common reproduction method in fungi. Spores are produced inside sporangia. Spores with different shapes, colors, size. Spores often germinate into hyphae under favorable conditions or remain dormant.

2. *Sexual reproduction:*

Generally, three steps are involved during the sexual reproduction (plasmogamy, karyogamy and meiosis). Two cells (gametes) are fused giving a fertile cell (zygote). However, various methods are known in the fungal sexual reproduction;

- a. Planogametic copulation : Two motile gametes are fused resulting into zygote. This includes isogamy, heterogamy and oogamy.
- b. Gametangial contact: Male and female gametangia become in contact, male nuclei moved into the female gametangium, karyogamy occurs and a zygote is produced.