

Farmers Problems in Sugarcane Production

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ABSTRACT

Sugar is a globally important commodity used as a sweetener and also for befool. It is extracted from sugarcane and sugar beet. Globally, sugarcane is used for about 80 percent of sugar produced; sugar beets account for the remaining 20 percent. Sugar is the second largest agro-based industry in India. The industry provides employment to skilled and semiskilled workers mostly from rural areas. Though the industry contributes a lot to the socioeconomic development of the nation, it is plagued with a number of problems such as Low Yield of Sugarcane, Short crushing season, Fluctuating Production Trends, Low rate of recovery, this paper will provide brief idea about various list of problems in sugar industries. Keywords: Crushing Season, Policy Issues, Sugarcane Farmers, High cost of Production, Small and uneconomic size of mills. This paper will provide brief idea about various problems in sugarcane production by farming community

Keywords: Sugarcane, Farmers, Problems

Introduction

Sugarcane is one of the most important cash crops in India. India being a major

consumer of sugar occupies the second place in sugarcane production, next to Brazil. In recent times, sugarcane has become a preferred crop for renewable and



eco-friendly energy production. Excepted rise in demand for energy has improved the scope of sugarcane production.

Sugarcane plays a vital role for the overall socio-economic development of farming community. Among the world's four most productive crops—rice, wheat, maize, and sugarcane sugarcane produce the greatest crop tonnage and provides the fourth highest quantity of plant calories in the human diet.

Sugarcane (*Saccharum off cinarum*) belongs to the genus *Saccharum*, and family *Poaceae*. It is believed to have originated in New Guinea and then cultivated throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world.



Sugarcane typically contains

- Water : 63-73%
- Fiber : 11-16%
- Soluble Sugars : 12- 16%
- Non-sugar carbohydrates : 2-3%

Being a water-intensive crop, sugarcane accounts for about 86% of the sugar crops and it is mostly cultivated for its sucrose content. Of late, sugarcane has been recognized as an important energy source in terms of bio-ethanol production (IISR, 2015).

Temperature ranging from 19-21°C to 27-38°C is best suited for sugarcane cultivation.

Sugarcane byproducts includes

- Ethanol
- Bagasse
- Molasses
- Crude Wax

India accounts for about 25% of the global sugar production and around 7.5% of India's rural population has engaged in sugarcane farming (Solomon, 2016). About 51% of the India's sugarcane production is produced from the tropical regions such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The remaining i.e., 49% is from the subtropical regions such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana.

Sugarcane and sugar industries act as a major source of employment and livelihood in India. More than 50 million farmers are engaged in sugarcane cultivation and processing industries. Obtaining a maximum yield from the sugarcane crops improves those farmers economic. Sugarcane production in India has increased significantly over the time and its

average annual production is 355 million tons. But the major impediment is its productivity which has remained stagnant. It is known that productivity is governed by the combination of climate, technology, genetic resources, farm management practices, states pricing policies and decisions. However, Indian farmers have been largely using traditional methods which mainly results in low productivity. Under such contradictory situation, state intervention is inevitable. There is no doubt that, the government has intervened in number of forms such as Essential Commodity Act (1955), Sugar Control Order (1966), Sugarcane Development Fund (1982), Delicensing Sugar Sector (1998), Fair and Remunerative Price (2009-10), Ethanol Blending Programme (2012), Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertaking (2014) etc. Despite many efforts by both the Central and State Governments, India's sugarcane sector is grappled with lot of issues by varying degree and nature.



- The sugarcane growers in India face two types of problems viz., on the fields and off the fields, in other words problems occurred during cultivation as well as marketing of sugarcane as follows:

On the fields Problems faced by farming community

- Availability of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. in sufficient quantity
- Fertility of land
- Supply of water,



- Labour,
- Finance,
- Fertilizer,
- Pesticides,
- Technical guidance
- Demand for sugarcane.
- Problem of low yield,
- Low rate of recovery,
- High cost of cultivation,
- Uneven production trend,
- Old machinery etc.

sugarcane equipment's among the cane farmers.

Off the fields Problems faced by farming community

- Low rate for sugarcane
- Waiting in a long queue
- Dishonest in weighing at weigh bridge
- Unnecessary deductions in the name of toll, charges, etc.
- Delay in payment of installments
- Shortages of sugarcane buyers

Conclusion

It is concluded that, although sugarcane was the main crop but the farmers faced many problems regarding sugarcane production. The biggest problem of the Indian sugar industry is that it is one of the most politically sensitive commodities. Though they are some machines has been developed for sugarcane crop worldwide but not adopted in India. Farmers have been largely using traditional methods. These results in low productivity, high cost of labor etc., due to which the area under sugarcane cultivation is decreasing which affect the socio-economic conditions of the farmers. Further suggested a proactive role of the governments to create awareness to adopt machinery and popularizing