

Correlation of socio-economic profile and adoption pattern of sugarcane practices by sugarcane growers of Karnataka state

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Bidar district of Karnataka state. It revealed that half of the respondents (55.83%) belonged to medium adoption category, whereas all the respondents adopted recommended variety in planting at proper time, to get assured yield. Only 21.67% of the respondents applied FYM as per the recommendation and majority of the respondents (81.66%) applied chemical fertilizer as per the recommendations. The study also revealed that the variables namely, education, land holding, annual income and innovativeness had a significant association with adoption level of the respondents, where as the variables namely age, cropping intensity, extension participation, institutional participation, mass media utilization and risk orientation were having non significant relation with the adoption level of the respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane is an important commercial crop of the world and is cultivated in about seventy five countries, the leading countries being India, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Thailand. The sugar industry plays an important role in the agricultural economy of India. Today sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry stand as supporting pillars of Indian economy. Besides, the sugar industry also supports the alcohol and paper industries with its byproducts like molasses and bagasse. Molasses based cattle feed is assuming importance for the development of animal husbandry in India. India is considered as homeland of sugarcane and 35 million farmers are engaged in sugarcane cultivation on 4.09 million hectares of land. Though sugarcane occupies only two % of the total cultivated area, it contributes to seven % of the total value of agricultural output. At present the total number of sugarcane units in India are 485. Geographically, Karnataka is well suited for growing sugarcane. Sugarcane is mainly concentrated in Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bidar, Bijapur, Mandya, Shimoga, Mysore, Chitradurga and Gulbarga districts. In the state, Bidar district ranked third in area occupying 30,929 hectares with production of 20, 86,161 tones in 2000-01.

The increased production of sugarcane by way of adoption of new technologies

necessitated modernization of sugar industry, there by, boosting the general economy of the country. The modernized sugar industries can crush any quantity of cane and to produce sugar products. This resulted into increasing demand for sugarcane. Thus, a major break through in sugarcane production in India needs to be accomplished with the knowledge of the present package of practices that are recommended by the concerned sugarcane research institutes and the varieties plus other inputs used by the sugarcane growers in the cultivation of sugarcane. The sugarcane productivity has shown an increasing trend over the years. The magnitude has been quite trivial, wide gap exists between potential and the realized productivity. The gap between potential yield and realized yield is due to environmental factors, induced cropping system, available varieties, fertilizer application, pest and disease management, socioeconomic factors, marketing and post harvest problems.

Although enough viable and adoptive technologies have been developed, many of these have not reached the ultimate growers. This may be one of the reasons for poor average sugarcane yield and sugar recovery as compared to both potentiality of sugarcane yield and recovery. Sugarcane and sugar output can be increased if the growers adopt the recommended package relating to sugarcane

Key words :

Adoption, Socio-economic profile, Sugarcane cultivation practices.

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