

## Knowledge level and socio-economic profile of sugarcane growers in Karnataka state

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Bidar district of Karnataka state. It revealed that majority (60.83%) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by 25.85 % and 13.33 % of the respondents had high and low level knowledge, respectively. Majority of respondents were literate (80.84%) of middle age (53.33%) and having medium annual income (61.66%). The variables namely annual income, extension participation and innovative prones revealed a significant association with knowledge level of the respondents. Education and mass media utilization revealed a non significant association, age was negatively non-significant association with knowledge level of the respondents regarding the recommended practices of sugarcane cultivation.

### INTRODUCTION

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 by products, like molasses and bagasse. Molasses based cattle feed is assuming importance for the development of animal husbandry in India. Geographically, Karnataka is well suited for growing sugarcane.

Looking to the increased internal and external demands for sugar in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the area need to be trepled and the fertility of those areas should be increased. Management practices and varieties requirement differ greatly depending upon the agro-climatic zones. Hence, it is imperative to strengthen the sugarcane research to develop high yielding, high sugar content varieties and suitable package of practices and to identify the factors for high yields of sugarcane in the potential agro-climatic zones of the states. 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, socio-economic factors, marketing and post harvest problems.

There is a common observation that most of the technologies evolved remain at the research stations and it is not uniformly adopted by the farmers. There is no exception with sugarcane on the biases of extensive research on sugarcane over past couple of decades. Sugarcane technologies are now available which can boost sugarcane production. For increasing the yield in sugarcane, the farmers need to be convinced about recent knowledge regarding production technologies.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Basava Kalyan, Bidar and Hunagund talukas of Bidar district. The selection of talukas and villages was done based on the criteria of larger area under sugarcane cultivation. Farmers who were cultivating sugarcane at least in the past three years were constituted the population for the study. The selection of the respondents from the selected village was don by random

### Key words :

Sugarcane,  
Knowledge level,  
Socio-economic  
profile,

Accepted :  
September, 2008