

A REVIEW :

Economic analysis of ratoon management in sugarcane and its assessment on productivity in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu

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KEY WORDS :

Ratoon management,
Sugarcane,
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Sugarcane is the second most important industrial crop in the country occupying about 5 million hectares in area. India is the second largest producer of sugar after Brazil. About 4 million growers are involved in the cultivation of sugarcane. Sugar industry contributes significantly to the rural economy as the sugar mills are located in the rural areas and provide large scale employment to rural population. The various by products of sugar industry also contribute to the economic growth by promoting a number of subsidiary industries. Sugarcane is emerging as a multiproduct crop used as a basic raw material for the production of sugar, ethanol, electricity, paper and boards, besides a host of ancillary products. Molasses is the cheapest feedstock for the distilleries and the large part of the ethanol requirements is met by the distilleries in the country. The ethanol requirement of the country is going up steadily and the potential of ethanol as a

bio-fuel is seriously debated. Generation of electricity using bagasse has become a standard option for the sugar industry. The use of bagasse as a substitute raw material for wood pulp in paper industry is vital for economic and environmental sustainability.

Demand for Sugar and allied products :

Sugarcane is the basic raw material for sugar production, while molasses and bagasse which are the by-products of sugar industry form the feed stock for Ethanol production and cogeneration, respectively. The demand for sugar, ethanol and electricity is increasing due to growing population and rising per capita income. The projected requirement of sugar in 2030 is 36 million tonnes, which is about 50% higher than the present production. To achieve this target, the sugarcane production should be about 500 million tonnes from the current 350 million tonnes for which the production has to be increased by 7-8 million tonnes annually. The increased production has

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