

SUGARBEET : A COMMERCIAL FIELD CROP

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Sugarbeet (*Beta Vulgaris*) and sugarcane are the two main sources of white crystal in the world. Out of the worlds total white sugar production, about 24 per cent from sugarbeet and 76 per cent from sugarcane. More than 35 countries produce sugar from sugarbeet and about 12 countries produce sugar from sugarcane and sugarbeet.



Sugarbeet (*Beta Vulgaris* spp. *Vulgaris varalltissima* Doll) is a biennial sugar producing root crop, grown in temperate countries. Now tropical sugarbeet hybrids are gaining momentum in tropical and subtropical regions as a promising alternative energy crop for the production of ethanol. The ethanol can be blended with petrol or diesel to the extent of 5-10 per cent and used as bio-fuel. The

by products of sugarbeet viz., beet top can be used as green fodder, while beet pulp used as cattle feed and filter cake from industry can be used as organic manure.

Sugarbeet has now emerged as commercial field crop because of the favourable characters like (i) tropical sugarbeet hybrids suitable for tamilnadu (ii) shorter duration of 5 to 6 months (iii) moderate water requirement of 60-80 cm (iv) higher sugar content of 12 to 15 per cent (v) improvement of soil conditions because of root crop and (vi) suitability for saline and alkali soil.



Futher, as the harvesting period of sugarbeet coincides with the period from march to june, the human resource of sugar factory in the processing of sugarbeet in the sugar mills, which facilitates in continions functioning of the sugar mills.

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