

# Information sources used and suggestions made by the Sugarcane growers for adoption of recommended ratoon management practices in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra

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## ABSTRACT

Sugarcane is one of main cash crop and plays a very important role in economic development of rural areas. In case of sugarcane, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri has given the recommendations for the ratoon management to decrease the cost of cultivation. The study was undertaken in purposively selected Karveer Tahsil of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra in the year 2008. The data were collected from 50 ratoon following sugarcane cultivators. University Scientists / State Department of Agriculture should take efforts to disseminate the information regarding the recommended ratoon management practices through group discussions, demonstrations and farmers rallies. Demonstrations of bio-fertilizer application should be conducted on farmer's field by the University authority and State Department of Agriculture.

## INTRODUCTION

India is predominantly sugarcane growing country. It is well known that Maharashtra sugarcane industry occupies supreme position in the economy of State. Sugarcane is one of main cash crop and plays a very important role in economic development of rural areas. The productivity of sugarcane is decreasing day to day. In case of sugarcane, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri has given the recommendations for the ratoon management to decrease the cost of cultivation. Here, the efforts were made to study the personal profile, information sources used by the sugarcane growers and suggestions made by them for better adoption of recommended ratoon management practices from the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, India.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in purposively selected Karveer Tahsil of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra in the year 2008. The five villages having maximum sugarcane area, viz., Vadanage, Prayag-Chikhali, Shirolu Dumala, Nigawe and Sadoli-Dumala were selected for the study in consultation with the office of the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Kolhapur district. Ten farmers following ratooning were

selected from each village randomly with the help of VEW of the State Department of Agriculture. Thus, the data was collected from 50 ratoon following sugarcane cultivators. The data was collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule. The same was analyzed and presented in the following tables.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized below:

### Personal and socio-economic characteristics of the sugarcane cultivators:

From Table 1, it is observed that, 54.00 per cent sugarcane cultivators were from middle age group *i.e.* to 50 years, 46.00 per cent sugarcane cultivators had secondary education *i.e.* Std. 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 44.00 per cent of them were having 11<sup>th</sup> Std. and above education.

It is also revealed from Table 1 that 56.00 per cent of the sugarcane cultivators possessed medium family size *i.e.* 6 to 9 members and 56.00 per cent of them owned land from 1 ha to 2 ha.

In case of annual income, it was observed

### Key words :

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**Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their personal and Socio-economic characteristics**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	No. of respondents (N=50)	Per cent
1.	<b>Age</b>		
	Upto 35 years	11	22.00
	36 to 50 years	27	54.00
	Above 51 years	12	24.00
2.	<b>Education</b>		
	Illiterate	3	6.00
	Primary (upto 4 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	2	4.00
	Secondary (5 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	23	46.00
	College (above 11 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	22	44.00
3.	<b>Size of family</b>		
	Small (upto 5 members)	9	18.00
	Medium (6 to 9 members)	28	56.00
	Large (9 and above members)	13	26.00
4.	<b>Land holding</b>		
	Upto 1 ha.	15	30.00
	1 to 2 ha.	28	56.00
	Above 2 ha.	7	14.00
5.	<b>Annual income</b>		
	Upto Rs. 1.00 lakh	33	66.00
	Rs. 1.1 to 2 lack	13	26.00
	Above 2 lakh	4	8.00

that majority of them were having annual income upto Rs.1.00 lakh.

#### Source of information:

The source of information plays an important role in

disseminating agricultural technologies to the farmers. The data regarding the information sources used by the respondents are presented in Table 2.

The data presented in Table 2 reveals that 52.00 per cent of the sugarcane cultivators always obtained information from friends and relatives followed by Agricultural Assistants (44.00 per cent) of the Department of Agriculture and University Scientists (24.00 per cent).

In case of electronic media, 78.00 per cent respondents obtained information always from All India Radio programmes, followed by Television (58.00 per cent).

In case of printed literature, 54.00 per cent of the respondents used Krishidarshani of MPKV., Rahuri as a source of information.

#### Suggestions made by the sugarcane growers for better adoption of recommended ratoon management practices:

The information in respect of suggestions made by the respondents for efficient use of recommended ratoon management practices is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 indicates that most of the respondents suggested that crowbar developed by CSRS., Padegaon should be made available locally (96.00 per cent), soil testing facility should be made locally available and free of cost (78.00 per cent), timely technical advice should be made by the Department of Agriculture (74.00 per cent) and bio-fertilizers should be made easily available (74.00 per cent).

**Table 2 : Information sources used by the respondents**

Sr. No.	Source of Information	Always		Sometimes		Never	
		Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Agril. Asstt. Deptt. of Agriculture	22	44.00	21	42.00	7	14.00
2.	Agril. Development Officer of Sugar Factory	11	12.00	9	18.00	30	60.00
3.	University Scientists	12	24.00	14	28.00	24	48.00
4.	Friends / Relatives	26	52.00	15	30.00	9	18.00
5.	Agril. Programmes on T.V.	29	58.00	4	8.00	17	34.00
6.	All India Radio programmes	39	78.00	3	6.00	8	16.00
7.	Printed literature like news papers, magazines, etc.	7	14.00	16	32.00	27	54.00
8.	Krishidarshani of MPKV., Rahuri	27	54.00	20	40.00	3	6.00
9.	Krishi Sheva Kendra	--	--	11	22.00	39	78.00
10.	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	--	--	--	--	50	100.00
11.	Kisan Call Center	--	--	--	--	50	100.00
12.	Internet	--	--	--	--	50	100.00

**Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions**

Sr. No.	Suggestion mode	No. of respondents (N=50)	Per cent
1.	Timely technical advise should be made by the Department of Agriculture	37	74.00
2.	Soil testing facilities should be made locally available and free of cost	39	78.00
3.	Bio-fertilizers should be made available locally	37	74.00
4.	Crowbar developed by CSRS., Padegaon should be made available locally	48	96.00
5.	Demonstration of Bio-fertilizers application be conducted on farmers field	34	68.00

**Conclusion:**

– University Scientists / State Department of Agriculture should take efforts to disseminate the information regarding the recommended ratoon management practices through group discussions, demonstrations and farmers rallies.

– Timely technical guidance should be made available

– Bio-fertilizers and soil testing facility should be made available locally by the State Department of Agriculture.

– Demonstrations of bio-fertilizer application should be conducted on farmer’s field by the University authority and State Department of Agriculture.

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