

Reasons and constraints of organic sugarcane cultivation in Bagalkot district

■ **MANJUNATH SHIVANAİKAR, VINAYAK N. JALIKATTI AND RAGHAVENDRA CHOURAD**

Received : 18.02.2014; Accepted : 23.03.2014

ABSTRACT

Sugarcane is most important source of sugar. Indian agro-climatic conditions are favourable for the production of sugarcane. Sugarcane plays a pivotal role in the agro-industrial economy of India and in fact on real economy, performance of sugar industry is directly related to the sugarcane production in India. Tabular analysis was carried out to derive conclusions. Increasing returns (71.67%) from organic sugarcane cultivation was the major reason for practicing sugarcane cultivation. The non-availability of labour (76.67%) was the major production problem while, the non-availability of exclusive market for organic produce (73.33 %) was the major marketing problem as opined by sample farmers.

KEY WORDS : Organic, Sugarcane, Cultivation

How to cite this paper : Shivanaikar, Manjunath, Jalikatti, Vinayak N. and Chourad, Raghavendra (2014). Reasons and constraints of organic sugarcane cultivation in Bagalkot district . *Internat. J. Com. & Bus. Manage*, 7(1) : 170-172.

In recent years, farmers facing problems of non-remunerative price for sugarcane produce in the event of surplus production and non-availability of adequate number of labours at the time of harvesting and also the Indian sugar industry has found itself in problems of high stocks, low prices, poor profitability and high raw-material cost. As a result sugarcane prices have gone up and down and sugar prices do not cover the raw-material and cost of production of sugar. This has resulted in delayed and low payments to the farmers for their sugarcane produce. Hence, present study was conducted with the specific objective to

analyze the reasons and constraints involved in sugarcane cultivation at Bagalkot district of Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

Multistage random sampling procedure was followed. In the first stage, in Karnataka Bagalkot district was selected based on number of jaggery units working in the district on one hand and on the other, district represents highest area under sugarcane. However, Belgaum district was excluded because of inclusion of large number of taluks due to undivided district of North Karnataka. In the next stage, Jamkhandi and Mudhol taluks were selected based on maximum area under sugarcane Pre-tested and well-structured schedules were used for eliciting the required information from the sample respondents. Nearly 60 sample farmers were subjected to elicit the information. Tabular analysis was carried out to derive conclusions.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The reasons for shifting from inorganic cultivation of sugarcane to organic cultivation of sugarcane were obtained

MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH FORUM

Correspondence to:

RAGHAVENDRA CHOURAD, Department of Agribusiness Management,
University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA
Email: raghu0467@gmail.com

Authors' affiliations:

MANJUNATH SHIVANAİKAR, Department of Agricultural Economics,
University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA

VINAYAK N. JALIKATTI, Department of Agribusiness Management,
University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA

from the sample farmers by conducting opinion survey and the results are presented in Table 1.

It was observed that majority of the sample farmers expressed the reason of increasing return from organic sugarcane (71.67 %), followed by reason of increasing cost of inorganic chemical fertilizers (65 %), soil health oriented motives (61.67 %), quality of organic sugarcane and jaggery (53.33 %), human health oriented motives (51.67 %), motivation by organic growers association/institutions (48.33 %), motivation by neighbouring organic farmers (46.67 per cent), environmental concern (43.33 %), demand for organic jaggery (38.88 %), motivation by media (31.67%) and supportive subsidies by the government (30 %) are the reasons for shifting over to organic cultivation of sugarcane from inorganic cultivation.

Anand Kumar (1998) found that increasing cost of chemical inputs (63%), increase on the net return in organic farming (11%), as the reasons behind shifting to organic

farming.

Loganandan and Singh (2003) observed that more number of respondents (54%) had the motive of environment safety to shift to organic farming followed by financial motives (40%), soil health oriented motives (34%), motivation by significant others viz., neighbouring organic farmers, environmental activists etc (30%), quality of output related motives(24%), motivation by media(24%) and philosophical motives (18%).

An informal discussion with the organic farmers revealed that organic production of sugarcane has a lot of problems. Opinion survey was conducted to know the problems faced by the farmers in organic sugarcane farming and its marketing and results of opinion survey are presented in Table 2.

Majority of the sample farmers (76.67 %) expressed the problem of non-availability of labour, followed by problem of non-availability of information on organic

Table 1: Reasons for shifting from inorganic to organic sugarcane production

| | | | (n=60) |
|---------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sr. No. | Reasons | No. of respondents | Per cent to total |
| 1. | Increasing cost of inorganic chemicals/fertilisers | 39 | 65.00 |
| 2. | More returns from organic sugarcane cultivation | 43 | 71.67 |
| 3. | Demand for organic jaggery (n=18) | 07 | 38.88 |
| 4. | Quality of organic sugarcane and jaggery | 32 | 53.33 |
| 5. | Soil health oriented motives | 37 | 61.67 |
| 6. | Environmental concern | 26 | 43.33 |
| 7. | Human health oriented motives | 31 | 51.67 |
| 8. | Motivation by neighboring organic farmers | 28 | 46.67 |
| 9. | Motivation by media | 19 | 31.67 |
| 10. | Motivation by organic growers association/institutions | 29 | 48.33 |
| 11. | Supportive subsidies by the government | 18 | 30.00 |

Table 2: Problems of organic sugarcane farmers

| | | | (n=60) |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sr. No. | Problems | No. of respondents | Per cent to total |
| Production related problems | | | |
| 1. | Non- availability of organic manures | 14 | 23.33 |
| 2. | Non-availability of biopesticide | 30 | 50.00 |
| 3. | Incidence of pests and diseases | 07 | 11.67 |
| 4. | Limited and irregular power supply | 29 | 48.33 |
| 5. | Non- availability of labour | 46 | 76.67 |
| 6. | Non- availability of information on organic farming | 35 | 58.33 |
| Marketing problems | | | |
| 1. | Poor transport facilities | 32 | 53.33 |
| 2. | Non- availability of market related information | 43 | 71.67 |
| 3. | High commission charges | 13 | 21.67 |
| 4. | Non- availability of exclusive market for organic produce | 44 | 73.33 |
| 5. | Lack of premium price in the local market | 34 | 56.67 |

farming (58.33 %), non-availability of biopesticides (50 %), limited and irregular power supply (48.33 %), non-availability of organic manures (23.33 %) and incidence of pest and diseases (11.67 %) as the major problems in production of sugarcane organically. This might be due to non-availability of recommended package of practice and laborious process involved in application of organic practices, coupled with major portion of land holdings brought under irrigation, and migration of agricultural labour.

Majority of the sample farmers (73.33 %) opined the problem of non-availability of exclusive market for organic produce followed by non-availability of market related information (71.67 %), lack of premium price in the local market (56.67 %), poor transport facilities (53.33 %) and high commission charges (21.67 %) as the major problems in marketing of organically produced sugarcane. The uncontrolled market situation among the respondents while marketing, for compelling the farmers to sale the organic produce in local market might have resulted for the incidence of these problems. Similar results were reported by Thimmareddy (2001) and Mallikarjun (2008) in their studies.

Conclusion:

It was observed that majority of the sample farmers expressed the reason of increasing return from organic sugarcane (71.67 %), followed by reason of increasing cost of inorganic chemical fertilizers (65 %), soil health oriented motives (61.67 %), quality of organic sugarcane and jaggery (53.33 %), human health oriented motives (51.67 %), motivation by organic growers association/institutions (48.33 %), motivation by neighboring organic farmers (46.67 %), environmental concern (43.33 %), demand for organic jaggery (38.88 %), motivation by media (31.67 %) and supportive subsidies by the government (30 %) are the reasons for shifting over to organic cultivation of sugarcane from inorganic cultivation. It was observed that majority of

the sample farmers (76.67 %) expressed the problem of non-availability of labour, followed by problem of non-availability of information on organic farming (58.33 %), non-availability of biopesticides (50 %), limited and irregular power supply (48.33 %), non-availability of organic manures (23.33 %) and incidence of pest and diseases (11.67 %), as the major problems in production of sugarcane organically. This might be due to non-availability of recommended package of practice and laborious process involved in application of organic practices, coupled with big land holdings and migration of agricultural labour. In case of marketing related problems, majority of the sample farmers (73.33 %) expressed the problem of non-availability of exclusive market for organic produce followed by non-availability of market related information (71.67 %), lack of premium price in the local market (56.67 %) and poor transport facilities (53.33 %) as the major problems in marketing of organically produced sugarcane. The uncontrolled market situation among the respondents while marketing, for compelling the farmers to sale the organic produce in local market might have resulted for the incidence of these problems.

REFERENCES

- Anand Kumar, S. (1998). Motivating farmers to convert to organic farming and strategies for organic extension, *IFOAM-Ecol. & Farm.*, May-Aug, pp. 18-21.
- Loganandan, N. and Singh, Premalata (2003). Adoption of organic farming : Profile and motives of farmer. *Indian J. Extn. Edu.*, **39**(1) : 35-40.
- Patil, Mallikarjun (2008). A study on production and marketing management behaviour of organic vegetable growers in Belgaum district, M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, KARNATAKA (INDIA).
- Thimmareddy, K.S. (2001). Case studies on organic farming. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, KARNATAKA (INDIA).

7th
Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★