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Constraints Faced by the Sugarcane Variety Phule 265 Growers in Ahmednagar District, India

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A B S T R A C T

The present investigation was conducted in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state to study the constraints faced by the sugarcane variety Phule 265 growers. Fifteen villages were selected from three tahasils have maximum area under Phule 265 variety. One hundred fifty farmers were selected from villages by using random sampling method. The data was collected with the help of pre-tested interview schedule by personally interviewing the farmers and data were subjected to appropriate statistical analysis. The measure constraints faced by Phule 265 adopter farmers were fluctuation in the prices of sugarcane, non availability of labour during peak period. Inadequacy of irrigation water at proper time delay in weighing of harvested cane. farmers was suggested Prices of the sugarcane should be increased sugarcane mills to purchase sugarcane immediately after harvest without loss of weight and adopter farmers suggested that mechanization in sugarcane is needed.

Introduction

The sugar industry has played an important role in social and economic development of rural areas in India and especially in Maharashtra. It is the second largest agro-based industry in the country, next to Textile industry. The sugar factories have been established in sugarcane-growing areas and have become centers of development for their areas of operation. India is the largest producer of sugarcane, second largest producer of sugar after Brazil and the largest consumer of sugar in the world. However, productivity level in India is much lower compared with other major producing countries like Thailand and China. The production of sugarcane and sugar in the country has always shown wide fluctuations. These fluctuations are due to variations in the area under sugarcane, climatic conditions, water availability during the crop growth period and most importantly, remunerative and timely payment of cane price to the sugarcane growers. In addition, it depends upon number of factors such as pattern of rainfall, quality seed material, incidence of diseases and pests, irrigation facilities, availability of fertilizers, ratoon management and Government's policy on sugarcane pricing.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in purposively selected Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state having largest area of Phule 265 variety of sugarcane. The present study was carried out in the jurisdiction of three sugar factories. These three factories were purposively selected for the study based on highest crushing of sugarcane. Three tahasils were selected for study i.e. Newasa, Sangamner and Rahata. From each tahasil five villages were selected for study therefore total 15 villages selected.

The list of sugarcane growers cultivating the variety Phule 265 was prepared from each selected village in consultation with cane development officers. From this list, the selection of 05 respondents from each village was made by random sampling.Thus total 150 Phule 265 adopter were considered for the present study. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected personally with help of interview schedule developed for the collection of data. Collected data were analyzed with the help of suitable statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

An attempt was made to identify the constraints faced by farmers while adopting sugarcane variety Phule 265.Their responses were tabulated after calculating frequency and percentage as shown in following Table 1.

Majority of the respondents (93.33 %) were not satisfied with fluctuation in the prices followed by 83.33 per cent farmers faced the problem of non availability of labour during peak period. Inadequacy of irrigation water at proper time (82.67 %) this was the major problem, 76.67 per cent of adopter farmers not satisfied with delay in weighing of harvested sugarcane, 68.00 per cent faced the problem of irregular supply of electricity, 67.33 per cent of farmers complained that delay in payment of installments by sugar factory, 66.67 per cent farmers faced the problem of shortage of fertilizers in the market, 62.67 per cent farmers reported that low price given by factory, 62.00 per cent farmers faced the problem of high labour cost, 60.67 per cent adopter farmers reported that, bursting of eye buds if exposed to the sunlight and 60.00 per cent farmers reported that harvesting is delayed by factory.

Table.1 Distribution of Constraints faced by the sugarcane variety Phule 265 growers

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Fluctuation in the price	140	93.33	**I**
2.	Non availability of labour during peak period	125	83.33	**II**
3.	Inadequacy of irrigation water at proper time	124	82.67	**III**
4.	Delay in weighing of Harvested cane	115	76.67	**IV**
5.	Irregular supply of electricity	102	68.00	**V**
6.	Delay in payment of installments	101	67.33	**VI**
7.	Shortage of fertilizers in the market	100	66.67	**VII**
8.	Low price given by factory	94	62.67	**VIII**
9.	High labour cost	93	62.00	**IX**
10.	Bursting of eye buds if exposed to the sunlight	91	60.67	**X**
11.	**Harvesting is delayed by factory**	**90**	**60.00**	**XI**

Table.2 Distribution of suggestions of Phule 265 growers to overcome the constraints

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Prices of the sugarcane should be increased	142	94.67	**I**
2	Sugarcane mills to purchase cane immediately after harvest without loss of weight	139	92.66	**II**
3	Mechanization in sugarcane is needed to overcome labour shortage.	132	88.00	**III**
4	Timely provide subsidy on drip system.	130	86.67	**IV**
5	Provision of fair and remunerative price (FRP) of the produce	115	76.67	**V**
6	Provision of regular supply of electricity	112	74.66	**VI**
7	Prices of the inputs, like sets, fertilizers, pesticides should be reasonable	109	72.67	**VII**
8	**Sugar factories should prepare timely harvesting schedule of sugarcane in co-ordination with sugarcane growers**	**96**	**64.00**	**VIII**

An attempt was made to obtain the suggestions from the Phule 265 adopter farmers to overcome the constraints faced by them for adoption of sugarcane variety Phule 265. The data regarding the suggestions are presented in Table 2.

Majority (94.67 %) of the adopter farmers was suggested prices of the sugarcane should be increased, 92.66 per cent suggested that, sugarcane mills to purchase sugarcane immediately after harvest without loss of weight, 88.00 per cent farmers suggested that mechanization in sugarcane is needed to overcome labour shortage. 86.67 per cent farmers suggested timely provide subsidy on drip system, 76.67 per cent suggested provision of fair and remunerative price (FRP) of the produce, 74.66 per cent adopter farmers suggested provision of regular supply of electricity, prices of the inputs, like sets, fertilizers, pesticides should be reasonable was the suggestion given by 72.67 per cent by farmers. 64.00 per cent adopter farmers was suggested sugar factories should prepare timely harvesting schedule of sugarcane in co-ordination with sugarcane growers.

The result was concluded that**,** fluctuation in prices of sugarcane is major problem faced by farmers. Suitable measures needs to be made by sugar factories should provide payment installment timely according to FRP to farmers. Government should fix the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane. Mechanization in sugarcane is needed to overcome labour shortage during peak period of sugarcane cultivation.

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