

Original Research Article

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## Line × Tester Analysis to Determine Extent of Heterosis for Various Yield and Quality Parameters in Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*)

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### ABSTRACT

Since sugarcane is a vegetatively propagated crop, heterosis can be settled and exploited in F1 age. The extent of heterosis gives a foundation to decide genetic diversity of variety and furthermore serves as a guide for the decision of attractive superior parents. Information about the magnitude of heterosis is the prerequisite criteria for the development of superior hybrids. A good hybrid should manifest high amount of heterosis for commercial exploitation. High and low positive heterosis observed was mainly due to varying genetic composition between parents of different crosses for the components characters. The knowledge of combining ability together with per se performance of the parents and hybrids, and heterotic response helps the breeders in selecting suitable parents and crosses for their use in a systematic breeding programme. The information on heterosis for quality and yield attributing characters obtain from the results of this Line × Tester experiment including cross progenies of four lines and two testers along with parents and six checks were discussed here. These crosses along with parents and six check varieties were tested in randomised block design with four replications. Results obtained revealed that genotypes differ significantly for all the 13 traits studied indicating presence of sufficient amount of variability in the present experimental material. Further heterotic studies revealed presence of pronounced hybrid vigour for various traits studied. Positive and significant relative heterosis and heterobeltiosis was recorded for tillers count and Number of Millable Canes. Also, significant positive economic heterosis was recorded for Germination Percent, tillers count and Single Cane Weight, Cane Height, Number of Millable Canes, cane yield and purity Percent over different check varieties. The present study suggested that exploitation of CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222, CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222 and CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222 should be more useful for future breeding programme of sugarcane.

#### Keywords

Sugarcane, Line x tester, Hybrid vigour, Economic heterosis

#### Article Info

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### Introduction

Sugarcane cultivation dates back to the Vedic period and the earliest reference is found in

Indian writings of the period 1400 to 1000 years BC. Sugarcane is mainly grown in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Being a member of the grass family, it belongs to the

genus *Saccharum*, tribe Andropogoneae, family Poaceae and characterized by high degree of polyploidy. Sugarcane is valuable mainly because of its ability to store high concentrations of sucrose, or sugar, in the stem and more recently for the production of ethanol, which is an important renewable biofuel source (Mennosi *et al.*, 2008 and De Costa *et al.*, 2011). *Saccharum officinarum*, *Saccharum baeberi* and *Saccharum sinense* are three cultivated species and *Saccharum spontaneum* and *Saccharum robustum* are two wild species of sugarcane. *Saccharum officinarum* is the most widely cultivated species of sugarcane. India is the second largest producer of sugarcane in the world after Brazil. Across the world, 70Percent sugar is manufactured from sugarcane and it is a major source of raw material for sugar industries and other allied group of by product industries. It is grown in 5.34 million hectare with total production of 345.6 Million tones and productivity of 64.7 tonnes/ha (Indian Sugar, 2014).

The study of the characters of agronomic and commercial interest in the progeny resulting from the crossings in sugarcane is of great importance. This is because parents can be identified for hybridization program (Tyagi and Lal, 2005). Line x Tester analysis is one of the methods used to identify genetic worth of material and to select the parents for hybridization. The line x tester mating scheme involves “*l*” lines and “*t*” testers. All the “*l*” lines are crossed to each of “*t*” testers and “*l*” x “*t*” full sib progenies produced. These progenies resulted from line x tester matings, along with or without the parents, can be tested in a replicated trial using suitable field design (Singh and Chaudhary 1985; Comstock and Robinson 1948). The genetic variability for the different traits studied in the hybrid experiments is important to the breeders. It means that there is a possibility of genetically improving the germplasm further through

selections for the significant traits (Pswarayi and Vivek, 2008). There is also an opportunity to identify best parents and progenies among the experimental materials for the development of new hybrids and improvement programme. The genetic variability present in the present day sugarcane cultivars has hybrid origin. The *Saccharum officinarum* has been contributing for genetic variability in sugarcane more than *S. spontaneum*, *S. sinense* and *S. barberi* (Patil and Patel, 2017). Nowadays, main objective of a sugarcane breeding program is to obtain new cultivars having more productivity and improved industrial characteristics. Commercially cultivated sugarcane varieties are heterozygous and complex polyploids resulted in generation of great amount of genetic variability. The study of the characters of agronomic and commercial interest in the progeny resulting from the crossing in sugarcane is of great importance. Shull (1952) defined heterosis as “the interpretation of increased vigour, size, fruitfulness, speed of development, resistance to disease and insect pests, or climatic rigors of any kind, manifested by crossbred organisms as compared with corresponding inbreds, as the specific results of unlikeness in the constitution of the uniting parental gametes”. In sugarcane, there is a good scope for exploitation of hybrid vigour as it is vegetatively propagated crop (Verma and Singh 2004). The magnitude of heterosis provides a basis for determining genetic diversity and also serves as a guide to the choice of desirable parents (Loganathan *et al.*, 2001). It is a measure of the superior performance of hybrids over mid parent (relative heterosis), over better parent (heterobeltiosis), over check parent (economic heterosis) and is a mean of identifying superior genotypes. Therefore, present investigation was conducted to identify superior sugarcane cross combinations for better cane yield, sugar yield and its attributes

through the expression of heterosis for different morphological and quality traits.

### Materials and Methods

The mating plan involves crossing of four lines namely, CoPant 84212, CoPant 98224, CoPant 99213, CoPant 94213 with two testers which are CoPant 97222 and CoSe 92423, in line x tester mating design to produce eight full sib progenies. The crosses for the investigation were made in National Hybridization Garden at Sugarcane Breeding Institute; Coimbatore Tamil Nadu. These eight progenies along with the six parents and six check varieties viz., Co 1148, Co J 64, Co S 8436, Co S 767, CoPant 3220 and Co 0238 were tested in randomised block design with four replications at the Sugarcane Breeding Experimental Block of Norman Borlaug Crop Research Centre, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, U. S. Nagar, Uttarakhand during 2013-2017. The biometrical observations were recorded for eight morphological characters viz., Germination percent, Number of Tillers/h, Number of Millable Canes/h, Cane thickness, Cane height, Single Cane weight, Cane yield/h, Commercial cane sugar (CCS) yield/h and five quality characters viz., Juice

Polarity Value, Juice Brix percent, Juice sucrose percent, Juice purity percent and Commercial cane sugar percent (CCS Percent). To test the significance of differences between treatments, analysis of variance was done as suggested Gomez and Gomez (1984). Heterosis effects were calculated as reported by Hayman (1958). The magnitude of heterosis was estimated in relation to respective mid parent (MP), better parent (BP) and check parent (CP).

### Results and Discussion

The analysis of variance revealed that estimates of mean squares were found significant for all the characters except purity Percent indicating the presence of considerable diversity in the material under study (Table 1). The results obtained from the analysis of variance revealed high significant differences for characters viz., Germination Percent (44.791\*\*), Number of Tillers (227.307\*\*) Number of Millable Canes (117.319\*\*), Single Cane Weight (0.033\*\*), Brix Percent (8.289\*\*), Pol Value (111.812\*\*), Sucrose Percent (5.597\*\*), C.C.S. Percent (4.503\*\*), and C.C.S. yield (5.821\*\*).

**Table.1** Analysis of variance (mean squares) for different morphological and quality characters in sugarcane

S.No.	Characters	Mean Squares		
		Replication (d.f.=3)	Treatment (d.f.=13)	Error (d.f.=39)
1	Germination Percent	8.069	44.791**	5.309
2	Tillers (000/h)	9.645	227.307**	36.020
3	NMC (000/h)	34.962	117.319**	18.341
4	Height	0.037	0.087*	0.041
5	Diameter	0.061	0.137*	0.561
6	Single cane weight	0.003	0.033**	0.011
7	Brix(2015)	1.445	8.289**	1.018
8	Pol(2015)	29.757	111.812**	15.438
9	Sugar	1.344	5.597**	0.793
10	Purity Percent	0.270	4.997	2.924
11	CCS Percent	0.672	4.503**	0.397
12	Cane yield	141.687	136.437*	88.282
13	CCS yield	0.661	5.821**	1.448

**Table.2** Estimation of heterosis for different characters

S.No.	CROSSES	1. Germination percent							
		Relative heterosis	Heterobeltiosis	Standard heterosis					
				Co 1148	Co J 64	Co S 8436	CoPant 3220	Co 0238	Co S 767
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	-0.22	-2.62	11.93 *	20.56 **	16.86 **	23.90 **	14.15 *	18.73 **
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-31.57 **	-31.76 **	-21.12 **	-15.04 *	-17.64 **	-12.69 *	-19.56 **	-16.33 **
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	-5.01	-10.42 *	-1.99	5.57	2.33	8.49	-0.05	3.96
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-19.34 **	-25.85 **	-14.28 *	-7.67	-10.50	-5.12	-12.59 *	-9.08
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	-7.25	-10.57 *	-2.15	5.39	2.16	8.31	-0.22	3.79
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	0.37	-5.70	9.00	17.40 **	13.80 *	20.65 **	11.16	15.62 *
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	-13.88 **	-15.03 **	-7.03	0.13	-2.94	2.90	-5.20	-1.39
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-13.71 **	-17.11 **	-4.18	3.20	0.03	6.06	-2.29	1.63
				2. Tillers (000/h)					
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	13.75 **	11.01 **	17.19 **	13.90 **	8.82 *	21.73 **	12.35 **	13.82 **
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-10.48 **	-15.22 **	-4.72	-7.40	-11.52 **	-1.02	-8.65 *	-7.46
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	6.76 *	5.88	11.77 **	8.63 *	3.79	16.10 **	7.16	8.56 *
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-3.35	-7.04	4.48	1.55	-2.97	8.53 *	0.17	1.48
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	3.71	-0.93	14.86 **	11.63 **	6.66	19.31 **	10.12 *	11.56 **
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-3.49	-4.97	10.18 *	7.08	2.31	14.45 **	5.63	7.01
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	-0.53	-0.92	4.60	1.66	-2.87	8.65 *	0.28	1.59
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-11.17 **	-14.20 **	-3.57	-6.28	-10.45 **	0.17	-7.55	-6.34
				3. N.M.C. 000/h					
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	5.61	5.33	-1.30	7.85 *	-1.87	17.98 **	24.21 **	8.16 *
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-13.57 **	-19.19 **	-12.95 **	-4.88	-13.45 **	4.06	9.55 *	-4.60
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	0.94	-0.06	-4.97	3.84	-5.52	13.60 **	19.59 **	4.14
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-6.92 *	-12.38 **	-5.62	3.13	-6.16	12.82 **	18.78 **	3.43
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	6.95 *	1.92	4.84	14.57 **	4.24	25.33 **	31.94 **	14.89 **
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-8.89 **	-10.94 **	-4.07	4.83	-4.62	14.68 **	20.73 **	5.13
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	2.80	-1.18	-7.90 *	0.64	-8.43 *	10.09 *	15.90 **	0.93
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-2.66	-12.49 **	-5.73	3.01	-6.27	12.69 **	18.63 **	3.31

Note : \*, \*\*, \*\*\*- significant at 0.5, 0.01 and 0.001 probability levels, respectively.,

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S.No.	CROSSES	4. Height							
		Relative heterosis	Heterobeltiosis	Standard heterosis					
				Co 1148	Co J 64	Co S 8436	CoPant 3220	Co 0238	Co S 767
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	-15.24 **	-15.24 *	20.11 *	17.26 *	43.55 **	16.04 *	19.14 *	33.83 **
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-7.91	-10.00	33.60 **	30.43 **	59.68 **	29.07 **	32.53 **	48.87 **
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	5.53	0.00	41.70 **	38.34 **	69.35 **	36.90 **	40.56 **	57.89 **
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-11.76 *	-18.18 **	21.46 *	18.58 *	45.16 **	17.34 *	20.48 *	35.34 **
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	1.98	-1.90	39.00 **	35.70 **	66.13 **	34.29 **	37.88 **	54.89 **
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-3.38	-9.09	34.95 **	31.75 **	61.29 **	30.38 **	33.87 **	50.38 **
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	-5.77	-6.67	32.25 **	29.12 **	58.06 **	27.77 **	31.19 **	47.37 **
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-11.74 *	-14.55 *	26.86 **	23.85 **	51.61 **	22.56 **	25.84 **	41.35 **
				5. Diameter					
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	13.29	10.11	4.14	-2.00	-3.35	-1.71	-12.42	-3.64
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-9.45	-18.75 **	-3.29	0.00	-10.26	-8.73	-18.68 **	-10.52
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	7.60	5.75	-2.23	-8.00	-9.27	-7.72	-17.78 **	-9.54
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-11.56	-21.43 **	-6.48	-12.00	-13.21	-11.74	-21.36 **	-13.47
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	10.71	10.71	-1.17	-7.00	-8.28	-6.72	-16.89 *	-8.55
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-8.16	-19.64 **	-4.36	-10.00	-11.24	-9.73	-19.57 **	-11.50
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	2.27	-2.17	-4.36	-10.00	-11.24	-9.73	-19.57 **	-11.50
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-20.59 **	-27.68 **	-13.92	-19.00 *	-20.12 **	-18.76 *	-27.61 **	-20.35 **
				6. Single cane weight					
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	5.15	4.08	16.97*	16.97*	20.85*	-2.86	-11.61	18.88*
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-5.77	-12.5	12.39	12.39	16.11	-6.67	-15.08*	14.22
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	5.38	0	12.39	12.39	16.11	-6.67	-15.08*	14.22
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-8	-17.86**	5.5	5.5	9	-12.38	-20.28**	7.23
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	2.22	-6.12	5.5	5.5	9	-12.38	-20.28**	7.23
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-5.15	-17.86**	5.5	5.5	9	-12.38	-20.28**	7.23
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	2.13	-2.04	10.09	10.09	13.74	-8.57	-16.81**	11.89
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-10.89	-19.64**	3.21	3.21	6.64	-14.29*	-22.01**	4.9

Note : \*, \*\*, \*\*\*- significant at 0.5, 0.01 and 0.001 probability levels, respectively.,







Continued.....

S.No.	CROSSES	13. C.C.S. yield							
		Relative heterosis	Heterobeltiosis	Standard heterosis					
				Co 1148	Co J 64	Co S 8436	CoPant 3220	Co 0238	Co S 767
1.	CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222	-18.67**	-22.07**	-20.1**	-15.93*	-16.56*	-19.72*	-20.03**	-9.32
2.	CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423	-25.2**	-30.61**	-23.77**	-19.79*	-20.39*	-23.41**	-23.7**	-13.49
3.	CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222	-9.64	-16.1*	-13.98	-9.5	-10.17	-13.58	-13.91	-2.38
4.	CoPant 98224 × CoSe 92423	-21.24**	-29.13**	-22.14**	-18.08*	-18.69*	-21.77**	-22.07**	-11.64
5.	CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222	-9.89	-14.91*	-12.76	-8.21	-8.9	-12.35	-12.69	-0.99
6.	CoPant 99213 × CoSe 92423	-18.46**	-25.42**	-18.06*	-13.79	-14.43	-17.67*	-17.99*	-7.01
7.	CoPant 94213 × CoPant 97222	-3.11	-16.5*	-14.39	-9.93	-10.6	-13.99	-14.32	-2.85
8.	CoPant 94213 × CoSe 92423	-2.1	-18**	-9.91	-5.21	-5.92	-9.48	-9.83	2.24

Note : \*, \*\*, \*\*\*- significant at 0.5, 0.01 and 0.001 probability levels, respectively.,

**Table.3** Best crosses identified on the basis of heterosis for different characters in sugarcane

	Estimation of heterosis							
	Relative heterosis	Heterobeltiosis	Standard heterosis					
			Co 1148	Co J 64	Co S 8436	CoPant 3220	Co 0238	Co S 767
<b>Germination</b>			L1× T1	L1× T1, L3 × T2	L1× T1, L3 × T2	L1× T1, L3 × T2	L1× T1, L3 × T2	L1× T1, L3 × T2
<b>Tillers</b>	L1× T1, L2 × T1	L1× T1,	L1× T1, L2 × T1, L3 × T1, L3 × T2	L1× T1, L2 × T1, L3 × T1,	L1× T1	L1× T1, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L4 × T1	L1× T1, L3 × T1	L1× T1, L2 × T1, L3 × T1
<b>NMC</b>	L3 × T1			L1× T1, L3 × T1		L1× T1, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1× T2, L1× T1, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1× T1, L3× T1
<b>Height</b>			L1× T2, L1× T1, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1×T1, L1× T2, L2 × T1, L2× T2, L3× T1, L3 × T2, L4× T1, L4 × T2	L1× T1, L1× T2, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1× T1, L1× T2, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1× T1, L1× T2, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2	L1× T1, L1× T2, L2 × T1, L2 × T2, L3 × T1, L3 × T2, L4 × T1, L4 × T2
<b>Diameter</b>								
<b>Single cane weight</b>			L1×T1	L1×T1	L1×T1			L1×T1
<b>Brix</b>								
<b>Pol</b>								
<b>Sugar</b>								
<b>Purity %</b>								
<b>CCS %</b>								
<b>Cane yield</b>				L1× T1, L3 × T1				L1× T1, L3 × T1, L4 × T2
<b>CCS yield</b>								

Notation:-

L1= CoPant 84212, L2=CoPant 98224, L3=CoPant 99213, L4= CoPant 94213, T1=CoPant 97222, T2= CoSe 92423



While exhibited significant variation for the characters like Cane Height (0.087\*), Cane Diameter (0.137\*) and Cane yield (136.437\*) among the cross. This indicates that genetic material was suitable for determining general and specific combining ability of parents and the crosses which required for heterosis estimation. The variability studies by analysis of variance however, represent a rough estimate of the variation present in the material.

For the development of hybrids it is important that a hybrid should manifest a high magnitude of heterosis for its commercial exploitation. Sugarcane is polyploid and highly heterozygous thereby high variability is expected in F<sub>1</sub>s. Since sugarcane is a vegetatively propagated crop, heterosis can be fixed and exploited in F<sub>1</sub> generation. Heterosis estimates are presented for thirteen characters in the Table 2. Results revealed that positive and significant relative heterosis and heterobeltiosis for tillers count was exhibited by hybrid CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222 and for number of number of millable canes by CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222. Hybrid CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222 was recorded with significant positive economic heterosis for germination Percent, tillers count and single cane weight over checks Co 1148, Co J 64, Co S 8436, Co S 767 and for germination Percent and tillers count over checks CoPant 3220 and Co 0238. Hybrid CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222 exhibited significant positive economic heterosis for cane height over all the six check varieties. Another hybrid, CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222 gave significant positive economic heterosis for number of millable canes and cane yield over two checks Co J 64 and Co S 767 and only for number of millable canes over checks CoPant 3220 and Co 0238. Cross, CoPant 84212 × CoSe 92423 exhibited positive and significant economic heterosis for purity Percent over check Co J 64. Heterotic response along-with *per se* performance should be taken into consideration for the selection of parental combination for hybridization (Katiyar, 1979). Crosses involved one of the parents with high *per se* performance (CoPant 84212, CoPant

98224 and CoPant 97222) gave high significant positive heterosis for tillers count, number of millable canes, germination Percent, single cane weight, cane height and purity Percent. However, in one cross combination CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222 exhibited high positive relative heterosis and heterobeltiosis for tillers count and high economic heterosis for germination Percent, tillers count and single cane weight, high x high *per se* performance were also responsible for high heterosis, indicating additive x additive type of gene interaction was involved. Yang and Chu, (1962) also reported similar results for most of the characters in sugarcane (Table 3).

From the present study it can be concluded that genetic variability exists among the studied genotypes for all the traits. Involving the genotypes from different heterotic groups in crossing program often leads to heterosis and yield stability of the new cultivars. Therefore, from the present investigation it may be concluded that the hybrids CoPant 84212 × CoPant 97222, CoPant 99213 × CoPant 97222 and CoPant 98224 × CoPant 97222 can be identified as best cross combinations and can be exploited for the improvement of various traits *viz.*, Germination Percentage, tillers count, Number of Millable Cane, Cane Height, Single Cane Weight and Cane Yield potential in sugarcane.

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