

RESEARCH NOTE

Impact of Co-operative Sugar Factories in Sugarcane Growers of South Gujarat

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INTRODUCTION

A well - known enunciation of co-operative aims has been 'better farming, better business and better living', in ascending order. This enunciation has been justified by the cooperative sugar factories. All cooperative sugar factories have been working as a nuclei for development of rural areas around their factories.

The cooperative sugar factories have their own definite objectives. Keeping these objectives in view, the cooperative sugar factories are working and provide Extension services and welfare to member sugarcane growers to increase their crop production. So, it is necessary to know as to what extent the sugar cooperatives have helped their members specially sugarcane growers to increase their knowledge and how far they have helped in convincing the farmers to adopt recommended sugarcane production technologies.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study knowledge level of sugarcane growers about recommended sugarcane production technology.
2. To study the extent of adoption of recommended sugarcane Production technology by sugarcane growers.

METHODOLOGY

In the present investigation the population for the study consisted of two groups namely member sugarcane growers and non-member sugarcane of sugar factories located in Surat, Valsad and Bharuch districts of Gujarat state. Two co-operative sugar factories were selected from each district. From each selected co-operative sugar factory, two villages were selected at random. Thus, in all twelve villages selected. Eight non-members and eight members were selected from each village making a total sample of 188 (94 members and 94 non-members) respondents by matching some personal and socio-economic characteristics. The data were collected with the help of structured schedule by personal interview. The data were classified, tabulated and analysed in the light of the objectives of the study. For measuring the impact of co-operative sugar factory, 't' value was calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of knowledge of sugarcane growers about recommended sugarcane production technology.

Data regarding knowledge of sugarcane Production technology are presented in Table 1.

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Table 1 : Level of knowledge of member and non-member Sugarcane growers about sugarcane production technology.

Level of knowledge	Sugarcane growers			
	Member (N=94)		Non-member (N=94)	
	Number	percent	Number	percent
Low (below 26 score)	2	2.13	32	34.04
Medium (27 to 46 score)	62	65.96	60	63.83
High (above 46 score)	30	31.91	2	2.13
TOTAL	94	100.00	94	100.00

The data presented in Table 1 indicate that majority (65.96 percent) of members possessed medium level of knowledge followed by 31.91 per cent of respondents who had high level of knowledge while majority (63.83 percent) of non members were found to be in the category of medium level of knowledge followed by 34.04 percent respondents with low level of knowledge.

The 't' test was applied to know whether the member and non member sugarcane growers differed significantly in respect of their knowledge regarding

sugarcane production technology. The data pertaining to this have been presented in Table 2.

Data presented in Table 2 clearly indicate that the Sugarcane growers are the members of any of the Sugar factories had significantly higher knowledge about sugarcane production growers as compared to non-member sugarcane growers. This may be only due to the extension service in transferring the sugarcane technology rendered by sugar cooperatives and the frequent contacts of members with the extension functionaries of sugar factory.

Table 2 : Comparison between member and non-member of Sugarcane growers in respect of their knowledge regarding sugarcane production technology.

Category of respondents	Number	Mean Score	Sampling Variance	't' Value
Members	94	43.35	46.79	
Non-members	94	29.50	47.61	13.83**

** Signifiacnt at 0.01 per cent level

Impact of Co-operative...

Table 3 : Extent of adoption of sugarcane production technology by Sugarcane growers.

Extent of adoption	Sugarcane growers			
	Members (N=94)		Non-member (N=94)	
	Number	percent	Number	percent
Low (0 to 19 score)	3	3.19	30	31.91
Medium (20 to 33 score)	60	63.83	62	65.96
High (above 33 score)	31	32.98	2	2.13
Total	94	100.00	94	100.00

Table 4 : Comparison between member and non-member of Sugarcane growers in respect of their extent of adoption of sugarcane production technology.

Category of respondents	Number	Mean Score	Sampling Variance	't' Value
Member	94	30.81	30.69	
Non-member	94	22.16	30.14	10.75**

** Significant at 0.01 per cent level

Extent of adoption of recommended sugarcane production technology

The data regarding the adoption of sugarcane production technology are presented in Table 3

It is apparent from the Table 3 that majority (63.83 percent) of the members fall under the category of medium level of adoption, followed by high level of adoption (32.98 percent) Whereas majority (65.96 percent) of the non-members fall under the medium level of adoption, followed by low level of adoption (31.91 percent).

The data presented in Table 4 indicate significant difference in the adoption of sugarcane production technology between member and non-member sugarcane growers.

Hence, it can be said that adoption level of members was higher than that of non-members.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion emerging from this study is that the sugarcane growers who was the members of sugar factory had higher knowledge and higher adoption of recommended sugarcane production technology as compared to non-member sugarcane growers. Thus cooperative sugar factories of south gujarat play a partial role in increasing the sugarcane production of their members by increasing knowledge and adoption which ultimately leads towards betterment of the farming community of South Gujarat area.