

ADOPTION OF RATOON MANAGEMENT PRACTICES BY THE SUGARCANE GROWERS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Navsari district of South Gujarat to know the adoption of ratoon management practices by the sugarcane growers. The sample of the study was 60 sugarcane growers. The finding revealed that majority of farmers had medium level of adoption regarding ratoon management in sugarcane. The variables viz; age were negative and significant association between respondents level of adoption. Annual income and mass media exposure were positive and significant relationship between respondents level of adoption. Education, Social participation and Farming experience were highly significant association between respondents level of adoption of ratoon management in sugarcane.

Keywords : ratoon management practices, adoption, sugarcane growers

INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.) is an important commercial crop of the world and is cultivated in about seventy five countries, the leading countries being India, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Thailand. India occupies the second rank in production of sugarcane in the world. The area under sugarcane in India is 5.06 million hectares during the year 2013-14 and cane production of 342.20 million tonnes and productivity is 69.37 Metric tonnes per ha. Sugar production 2013-2014 year is estimated to be around 26.6 million tonnes. India's annual consumption of sugar is around 28.00 million tonnes. In Gujarat, sugarcane covers about 1901 hundred ha. area with 13763 hundred Metric tonnes productions (Directorate of Agriculture Gujarat State). Sugarcane is cultivated in almost all the districts of south Gujarat state. Ratooning of cane is very essential for increasing the benefit to the farmer. Ratooning saves expenses as land preparation, planting material cost, seed treatment cost and planting expenses. For this proper management of ratoon crop is necessary. Under the circumstances, with view to know the actual level of adoption of ratoon management practices at farmer's level, it was planned to conduct a study on adoption of ratoon management practices by the farmers.

OBJECTIVE

To know the adoption of ratoon management practices by the sugarcane growers

METHODOLOGY

Being major sugarcane growing district of South Gujarat, Navsari district was randomly selected for the present investigation. The District comprises of six Talukas, among which Jalalpor, Gandevi and Chikhali talukas were randomly selected for the study. From each selected taluka two villages were selected randomly with maximum number of sugarcane growers. In each of the selected villages farmers were selected according to simple random sampling to form 60 respondents as a sample size for the study. For the purpose of measuring level of adoption of ratoon management practices by the sugarcane grower's structural scale was developed. To find out the relationship between independents and dependents variables, Correlation of coefficient (r) test was applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of adoption

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to the level adoption about ratoon management practices in sugarcane n=60

Sr. No.	Adoption level	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	14	23.33
2	Medium	34	56.66
3	High	12	20.00

The result in the Table 1 postulated that clear majority of respondents (56.66 per cent) had medium level of adoption of ratoon management practices of sugarcane, whereas 23.33 per cent and 20.00 per cent of sugarcane growers possessed low and high level of adoption, respectively. The result is pointed out that majority (56.66 per cent) of the sugarcane growers had medium level of adoption about ratoon management practices in sugarcane.

Relationship between profile of the sugarcane growers and their level of adoption about ratoon management practices in sugarcane

The association between the selected characteristics of sugarcane growers viz, age, education, land holding, size of family, annual income, mass media exposure, social participation and farming experience and level of adoption were worked out with help of coefficient of correlation. The findings were present in Table-2.

Table 2: Relationship between selected characteristics and level of adoption

n=60

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation-Coefficient ('r' value)
X ₁	Age	-0.207*
X ₂	Education	0.0714**
X ₃	Land holding	0.0641 NS
X ₄	Size of the family	0.128 NS
X ₅	Annual income	0.228*
X ₆	Mass media exposure	0.276*
X ₇	Social participation	0.262**
X ₈	Farming experience	0.290**

NS= non-significant

* = significant at 0.05 level

**=significant at 0.01 level

The data manifest in Table 2 revealed that the variables such as age (-0.207*) were negative and significant association between respondents level of adoption. Education (0.0714**) was highly significant association between respondents level of adoption. Size of land holding (0.0641 NS) and Size of family (0.128 NS) were non-significant relationship between respondents level of adoption. Annual income (0.228*) and mass media exposure (0.276*) were positive and significant relationship between respondents level of adoption. Social participation (0.262**) and farming experience (0.290**) were highly significant association between respondents level of adoption of ratoon management in sugarcane.

CONCLUSION

Majority of farmers had medium level of adoption regarding ratoon management in sugarcane. The variables viz; age were negative and significant association between respondents level of adoption. Annual income and mass media exposure were positive and significant relationship between respondents level of adoption. Education, Social participation and Farming experience were highly significant association between respondents level of adoption of ratoon management in sugarcane.

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