

Constraints Faced by Sugarcane Growers in Adoption of Improved Technology

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was finding out the constraints and to determine the suggestions for solving the problem faced by the sugarcane growers regarding adoption of improved technology in the villages of Navsari district of Gujarat. Majority of sugarcane growers faced constraints of high cost of farm inputs followed by shortage of labours, unavailability of plant protection appliances, lack of knowledge about disease control, fluctuation in the price, unavailability of inputs in time, respectively. Valuable suggestions given by sugarcane growers are supply of production inputs at subsidized rate, establish village information centre or kiosk in each village, the produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate, easy availability of plant protection appliances, respectively.

Keywords: Constraints, Suggestions, Adoption of improved technology

INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane is one of the important commercial cash crop cultivated in almost all country of the world including India. Sugarcane juice is used for making sugar, molasses, jaggery and 'khandsari'. Moreover, the leaves of sugarcane are also used as an excellent greenmanure and useful as mulch. In Gujarat, sugarcane covers about 1901 hundred ha. Area with 13763 hundred MT productions (Directorate of Agriculture Gujarat State). Sugarcane is cultivated in almost all the districts of south Gujarat state. However, there is still a wide gap between the production potential and the actual production realized by the sugarcane growers. This may be due to partial adoption of recommended packages of packages of practices by the sugarcane growers. This partial adoption is due to constraints faced by sugarcane growers, hence, the present study was therefore undertaken to find out the constraints in adoption of recommended sugarcane production technology.

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To find out constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of improved technology for sugarcane crop
- (ii) To seek the suggestions made by sugarcane growers

to overcome the constraints in adopting the improved cultivation practices.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was undertaken in Navsari district which comes under jurisdiction of Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari. This district is comprised of five talukas, all taluka were selected for study. From each taluka two villages were selected, so, total 10 villages were randomly selected. From each selected village, 10 farmers were randomly selected. Hence, total sample size was 100 farmers. The dates were collected in the light of objectives of the study with help of well structured pretested Gujarati version interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by sugarcane growers

Constraints in adoption of new technology never end. However they can be minimized. The respondents were requested to express the constraints faced by sugarcane growers in adoption of improved sugarcane cultivation practices. Frequency and percentage for each constraint were calculated and on that basis of that, the constraints were ranked and presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Constraints faced by sugarcane growers in adoption of improved sugarcane cultivation practices

n = 100

Sr. No.	Constraints	No.	Per cent	Rank
1	High cost of farm inputs	90	90.00	I
2	Shortage of labours	86	86.00	II
3	Unavailability of plant protection appliance	76	76.00	III
4	Lack of knowledge about disease control	68	68.00	IV
5	Fluctuation in the price	60	60.00	V
6	Unavailability of inputs in time	54	54.00	VI
7	Financial constraints	50	50.00	VII
8	Heavy risk due to failure of monsoon rains	48	48.00	VIII
9	Information not available in time	37	37.00	IX
10	Unavailability of drought tolerant varieties	22	22.00	XI
11	Market facility is not available in nearby village	20	20.00	XII

As seen from the Table 1 majority of sugarcane growers faced constraints of high cost of farm inputs (90.00 per cent) followed by shortage of labours (86.00 per cent), unavailability of plant protection appliances (76.00 per cent). More than half of the respondents faced constraints like lack of knowledge about disease control (68.00 per cent), fluctuation in the price (60.00 per cent), unavailability of inputs in time (54.00 per cent). Financial constraints (50.00 per cent), heavy risk due to failure of monsoon rains (48.00 per cent), information not available in time (37.00 per cent), unavailability of drought tolerant varieties (22.00 per cent) and market facility is not available nearby village (20.00 per cent) were also the constraints faced by sugarcane growers.

Suggestions offered by sugarcane growers

Table 2: Suggestions offered by sugarcane growers to overcome constraints faced by them n = 100

Sr. No.	Suggestions	No.	Per cent	Rank
1	Supply of production inputs at subsidize rate	90	90.00	I
2	Establish village information centre or kiosk in each village	65	65.00	III
3	The produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate	54	54.00	IV

4	Easy availability of plant protection appliances	48	48.00	V
5	Agricultural inputs should be available in time	43	43.00	VI
6	Training should be given for improved sugarcane cultivation practices	41	41.00	VII
7	Technical knowledge of insecticides and fungicides should be provided	21	21.00	IX
8	Market facility should be available at village level	16	16.00	X

It can be concluded from the Table 2 that the sugarcane growers suggested supply of production inputs at subsidize rate (90.00 per cent), establish village information centre or kiosk in each village (65.00 per cent), the produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate (54.00 per cent), easy availability of plant protection appliances (48.00 per cent), agricultural inputs should be available in time (43.00 per cent), training should be given for improved sugarcane cultivation practices (41.00 per cent), Technical knowledge of insecticides and fungicides should be provided (21.00 per cent) and market facility should be available at village level (16.00 per cent).

CONCLUSION

Constraints of sugarcane growers regarding adoption of improved technology were high cost of farm inputs followed by shortage of labours, unavailability of plant protection appliances, lack of knowledge about disease control, fluctuation in the price, unavailability of inputs in time, respectively. Suggestions of sugarcane growers to overcome the constraints were supply of production inputs at subsidized rate, establish village information centre or kiosk in each village, the produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate, easy availability of plant protection appliances, respectively.

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