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A study on varietal preferences of Sugarcane growers in flood affected area

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Abstract

The study was conducted during the year 2019-20 in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state. The present investigation “A study on varietal preference of Sugarcane growers in flood affected area” was conducted in Karveer and Shirol tahsil of Kolhapur district. Seven villages from each tahsil and 10 respondents from each village were selected. Data were collected by personally interviewing 140 Sugarcane growers with the help of specially designed interview schedule. Collected data were analyzed with the help of suitable statistical methods the analysis of the result showed that farmers preferred mostly three varieties namely Co-86032, CoM-0265 and Co-10001 among them majority Co-86032 (82.85%) preferred.

Keywords: Varietal preference, flood management, Sugarcane

Introduction

The Sugarcane is a major cash crop of Maharashtra. Sugarcane occupies a place of pride in the agricultural economy of Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, Sugarcane is cultivated over an area of 1.16 m ha with production of about 92.44 m tones during 2018-19 (DAC and FW 2019). Sugarcane changed the face of rural area in Maharashtra. Kolhapur district is famous for sugarcane cultivation. Weather and climatic conditions of Kolhapur district are very much favorable for cane production and also sugar recovery. In Kolhapur Sugarcane is cultivated over an area of 149280 ha with production of about 12491750 tones and average yield is 83.68 t ha⁻¹ during 2018-19 (DAC and FW 2019). Thus, there is ample scope for improvement of cane and sugar productivity in this state. Although many reasons are there for low productivity, one of the important factors that affect productivity is decreased due to flood.

Flood is a natural phenomenon, which occurs due to prolonged high intensity of rain. Floods are usual phenomena in north and eastern India, but during the years 2005 and 2006 in July and August, the flood situation has been experienced in upper Krishna Basin of Kolhapur region. Flood situation has become disastrous during the years 2005 and 2006 in later part of July and early August in upper Krishna basin. About 10.00 per cent loss of sugarcane crop is recorded due to the heavy rainfall and flood conditions secured in the monsoon months of July/August in Maharashtra during last seven to eight years (2005 to 2012). According to the officials, 40.00 per cent of the total estimated area of Sugarcane comes under flood-affected areas of Kolhapur and Sangli. “The total estimated area of sugarcane for the year 2019-2020 was around 8.43 lakh hectares,” said DI Gaikwad, Joint Director (Development), Sugar Commissionerate. As per the State Sugar Commissioner office, the estimated sugarcane for the year 2019-20 for production of sugar was 632.25 lakh tones, while last year it was 952lakh tones, which was 319.25 lakh tones less than the previous year.

It is seen that some of the released varieties shown more tolerance while some varieties shown less tolerance in the flood situation. Therefore, it is necessary to study the varietal preferences of the farmers regarding the recommended Sugarcane varieties in flood affected area. So, the study is undertaken considering the following objectives.

Methodology

The present study was undertaken in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state on the basis of most flood affected area under Sugarcane crop on the bank of panchganga and krishna river. The two tahsils namely karveer and Shirol having maximum flood affected area of Sugarcane. From each tahsil 7 villages were selected, from each village 10 respondents were selected. Data were collected by personally interviewing 140 Sugarcane growers with the help of specially designed interview schedule.

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The same was analyzed and presented in the following tables.

Result and Discussion

1. Varietal preference

It refers to the preferences given by the farmers to different varieties to be cultivated in flood affected area.

Table 1: Classification of respondents according to their varietal preferences for flood affected area.

Sr. No.	Varietal preference	Frequency (N=140) Percentage (%)	
		Yes	No
1	Co-740	00(00)	140(100)
2	Co-7527	00(00)	140(100)
3	Co-7219	00(00)	140(100)
4	Co-8014	00(00)	140(100)
5	Co-86032	116(82.85)	24(17.15)
6	Co-94012	00(00)	140(100)
7	CoM-0265	98(70.00)	42(30.00)
8	Co-92005	00(00)	140(100)
9	C0-9805	00(00)	140(100)
10	Co-671	00(00)	140(100)
11	Co-8011	00(00)	140(100)
12	Co-10001	82(58.57)	58(41.42)

It is evident (Table 1) that the farmers preferred mostly three varieties in the flood affected area of the Kolhapur district namely Co-86032, CoM-0265 and C0-10001 among them majority Co-86032 (82.85%) followed by Co-0265 (70.00%) and C0-10001 (58.57%) respectively.

2. Constraints faced by the Sugarcane growers during flood management

Constraints refer to the difficulties or causes which prohibit farmers to adopt recommended cultivation practices of Sugarcane growers.

Table 2: Constraints of farmers during flood management practices

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondent (N = 140)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	Lack of tolerant variety for standing water in flood situation	127	90.71	I
2	Late harvesting of Sugarcane crop by the Sugarcane factory in flood affected area	121	86.42	II
3	Application of plant protection measures is very difficult after flood situation	106	75.71	III
4	Binding of logged canes after flood is very difficult	97	69.28	IV
5	Adsali Sugarcane planting is not possible due to the heavy rains and flood	81	57.85	V
6	Suru Sugarcane planting gets damaged due to less height in flood affected area	74	52.85	VI
7	Lack of guidance regarding the preparation of Sugarcane seedlings in polythene bags	54	38.57	VII

It was observed from table 2 that, majority (90.71%) of the Sugarcane growers were stated Lack of tolerant variety for standing water in flood situation followed by Late harvesting of Sugarcane crop by the Sugarcane factory in flood affected area (86.42%). While, 75.71% of the respondents faced the problem of Application of plant protection measures is very difficult after flood. 69.28% of the respondents faced the problem of binding of logged canes after flood situation is

very difficult, 57.85% of the respondents faced the problem of adsali Sugarcane planting is not possible due to the heavy rains and flood. Whereas, 52.85% respondents faced the problem of suru Sugarcane planting gets damaged due to less height in flood affected area and 38.57% respondents faced the problem of lack of guidance regarding the preparation of Sugarcane seedlings in polythene bags.

Conclusion

From the present research work it can be concluded that farmers preferred mostly three varieties namely Co-86032, Co-0265 and C0-10001 among them majority Co-86032 (82.85%) followed by Co-0265 (70.00%) and C0-10001 (58.57%) respectively.

Majority (90.71%) of the Sugarcane growers were given constraint that lack of tolerant variety for standing water in flood situation followed by late harvesting of sugarcane crop by the sugarcane factory in flood affected area (86.42%).

Recommendation

As 90.14 per cent of the Sugarcane cultivators are given a constraint about the lack of tolerant variety of Sugarcane for standing water in flood situation, it is recommended that a suitable variety may be developed by the Regional Sugarcane Research station, Padegaon.

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