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Designing Training Programmes for Sugarcane Growers

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Abstract

Sugarcane is one of the important commercial led industrial crop in India.Sugar industry in India plays a vital role towards socio-economic development of the rural areas. India is the largest producer of sugarcane, second largest producer of sugar after Brazil and the largest consumer of sugar in the world. From its juice, sugar, gur, alcohol etc. are produced. After the extraction of the juice the fibrous mass left behind is used for making paper and sound insulating board. In villages it is also used as fuel. With the fastest increasing population, the sugar requirement in the country will have to be raised. Most of the sugarcane growers are still practising primitive technologies. Considering the significance of sugarcane cultivation, an attempt is made to design training programmes for sugarcane growers to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane. The study was taken up at Cuddalore, one of the sugarcane predominant districts in Tamil Nadu State. A sample size of one hundred and twenty growers were selected based on proportionate random sampling method. This study revealed that majority of the sugarcane growers preferred training before cropping season in their own village for a period of one day duration. The respondents preferred training once in a year and liked to have peripatetic type of training.

Key words: Training programmes and sugarcane growers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane is an important commercial crop and it serves as the main source of sugar(80%) globally and holds a prominent position as a cash crop. It is one of the main crops of earning foreign exchange(Shukla et.al., 2017). Global production of sugarcane in 2017 was 1.84

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billion tonnes, with Brazil producing 41% of the world total, India producing 17% of the total, and China and Thailand producing about 6% each. Worldwide average yield of sugarcane crops in 2016 was 70.6 tonnes per hectare, led by Peru with 112 tonnes per hectare and Zambia with 103 (FAOSTAT, 2017). Sugarcane is cultivated in an area of 4.95 million hectares in India producing 352.163 million tonnes with a productivity of 71.09 tonnes per hectare and in Tamil Nadu, it occupies 0.257 million hectares producing 26.497 million tonnes with a productivity of 102.998 tonnes per hectare (Statistical Year Book India, 2018).

In India the sugar industry is the second largest agro-based industry, next only to textiles, in the country. There are 435 sugar mills installed which utilize around 40-50 % of the cane produced manufacturing around 15 million tons of sugar. About 5 lakh workmen are directly employed by the industry besides a host of others gaining employment in industries that utilize by-products of sugar industry as raw material. Sugarcane also supports two important rural and cottage industries, viz. Gur (Jaggery) and Khandsari industries, which together produce about 10 million tons of sweeteners (Gur and Khandsari sugar) using around 50-55 % of the cane produced in the country.

Recurring surpluses and deficits in the production of sugarcane and mass consumption have become a serious concern of Indian Sugar Industry. It is important that the productivity of sugarcane has to be increased for meeting the increasing requirement of sugar consumption in the country.Most of the sugarcane growers are still practising primitive technologies. Considering the significance of sugarcane cultivation, an attempt is made to design training programmes for sugarcane growers to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. Panruti taluk was purposively selected since it has the largest area under sugarcane cultivation in Cuddalore district. A sample of 120 sugarcane growers were selected from six revenue villages based on proportionate random sampling method. Data were collected with the help of a well – structured

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and pre – tested interview schedule. The collected data were properly analysed using statistical procedures and the results are tabulated.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Season of Training

The season of training is one of the important determining factors in the success of any training. The data collected in this regard are presented in the Table 1

Table 1. Preference of respondents towards season of training(n=120)

S. No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Before cropping season	72	60.00
2.	During cropping season	20	16.66
3.	After cropping season	28	23.34
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

It could be seen from Table 1 that majority of the respondents (60.00 per cent) preferred training before cropping season and (23.34 per cent) of the respondents preferred training after cropping season. Only (16.66 per cent) of the respondents wanted to have training during cropping season. It may be inferred that majority of the respondents wanted training before cropping season. It might be due to the reason that the training offered before cropping season would help the farmers to gather the necessary technical details and adopt the same in their farms. However, (23.34 per cent) of the respondents wanted to have training after cropping season. This may be probably due to the fear of forgetting the information, if training is offered in advance.

2. Venue of training

Results on preference of the respondents regarding the venue of training are presented in Table 2

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Table 2. Preference of respondents towards venue of training(n=120)

S. No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Village	36	30.50
2.	Progressive farmers field	15	12.50
3.	Research station	7	5.02
4.	Farmers training centre	4	3.33
5.	Local schools	10	8.33
6.	KVK	30	25.33
7.	Panchayat union office	16	13.33
8.	Others	2	1.66
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

It could be observed from Table 2 that nearly one-third of the respondents (30.50 per cent) preferred their own village as venue of training, followed by KVK (25.33 per cent), Panchayat union office (13.33 per cent), progressive farmers field (12.50 per cent), local schools (8.33 per cent), research station (5.02 per cent), Farmers Training Centre (3.33 per cent) and others (1.66 per cent). It may be inferred that majority of the respondents preferred to have their own village as the venue of training. It is understandable that if the training is conducted in their village itself, it would enhance majority of the farmers to take part in the training programme without spending much of the time. Only few respondents wanted to be trained at research station.

3. Type of training

Results on preference of the respondents regarding type of training are presented in Table 3

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Table 3. Preference of respondents towards type of training(n=120)

S. No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Peripatetic training	80	66.66
2.	Institutional training	40	33.34
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

It could be noted from the Table 3 that nearly two-third of the respondents (66.66 per cent) preferred peripatetic training, whereas only one-third (33.34 per cent) of the respondents preferred institutional training. This might be due to the fact that they could attend the trainings of very short duration which wouldgive the farmers an opportunity to visit progressive farms and without any hindrance to their routine work.

4. Frequency of training

Results on preference of the respondents regarding frequency of training are presented in Table 4

Table 4. Preference of respondents towards frequency of training (n=120)

S. No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Once in a month	2	1.66
2.	Once in 2 months	6	5.00
3.	Once in 6 months	10	8.36
4.	Once in a year	35	29.16
5.	Once in 2 years	28	23.33
6.	Once in 3 years	22	18.33
7.	One in life time	17	14.16
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

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The Table 4shows that more than one-fourth (29.16 per cent) of the sugarcane growers preferred to have training once in a year followed by (23.33 per cent) of the sugarcane growers preferred to have once in two years. Less than two-fifth of the sugarcane growers (18.33 per cent) preferred training once in three years. Only a negligible proportion of the Sugarcane growers preferred training once in life time (14.16 per cent), once in 6 months (8.36 per cent), once in 2 months (5.00 per cent), once in a month (1.66 per cent) respectively. If, the training are conducted quite often, the farmers would find it difficult to participate in the programme due to lack of time, lack of conveyance, personal commitments etc. Moreover, sugarcane is a long duration crop. Hence, they might have thought that it would be enough if training conducted once in a year.

5. Duration of training

Duration of training is an important factor as any other component of training. The duration prescribed for any training should effectively cover the subject matter and the days should be to the possible minimum so that the sugarcane growers could attend the training without much difficulty and gain all the required knowledge. Hence the optimum number of days for training as expressed by the respondents are furnished in Table 5

Table 5. Preference of respondents towards duration of training(n=120)

S. No	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	One day	50	41.67
2.	Two days	22	18.33
3.	Three days	37	30.83
4.	Four days	4	3.33
5.	One week	7	5.83
6.	One month	0	0.00
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

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A glance at the Table 5 reveals that duration of one day was preferred by (41.67 per cent) of the respondents, followed by three days (30.83 per cent) and two days (18.33 per cent) respectively. Further, it could be noted that (5.83 per cent) of the respondents preferred the duration of one week. Only a meagre proportion of the respondents preferred the duration of four days (3.33 per cent). None of the respondents (0.00 per cent) not preferred one month duration of training. Hence it would be inferred that majority of the respondents preferred one day training. This might be due to the fact the farmers can spend only one day without disturbing their routine activities much.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study revealed that majority of the sugarcane growers preferred training before cropping season in their own village for a period of one day duration. The respondents preferred training once in a year and liked to have peripatetic type of training.

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