

3. SUGAR DEPARTMENT

Sugarcane is one of the important Agro Based Industrial Crop in Tamil Nadu. This crop offers major scope for the Agriculturist to sustain their income and improve their standard of living. To increase the production and productivity in sugarcane, usage of optimum water and critical inputs like inorganic fertilizers, plant protection chemicals through drip and fertigation and by adopting all other technological interventions are advocated.

In Tamil Nadu, sugarcane is cultivated in an area of 3.50 L.Ha by about 3 lakh farmers. The State stood at 2nd in productivity of sugarcane at all India level and contributes approximately 7-9 percent of the National Sugar Production. During 2013-14 sugar season, 3.27 L.Ha area was covered under sugarcane crop as per the fourth estimate and the estimated sugarcane production is 317.60 L.MT with a productivity of 97 MT/ Ha. Upto 30.06.2014, 128.08 L.MT of cane crushed through Co-operative, Public sector and Private Sugar Mills during the current sugar season and 14.14 L.MT of sugarcane is expected to be crushed for the remaining period of 2013-14 crushing season. For the season 2014-15, the estimated sugarcane production is 200 L.MT of which 55-60% will be crushed by the sugar mills.

In Tamil Nadu at present there are 46 Sugar Mills, of which 16 Sugar Mills are in Co-operative Sector, 3 Sugar Mills in Public Sector and 27 Sugar Mills in Private Sector. Out of 46 sugar mills Madura Sugars (Madurai District) a public sector sugar mill and Arunachalam sugar mill (Tiruvanamalai District) and Empee sugar mills (Tirunelveli District) are not functioning at present. Only 43 sugar mills are functioning now. The Name of the Sugar Mills, its

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the State Advised Price of Rs.2,650/- inclusive of Rs.100/- per MT as transport charges for the 2013-14 crushing season.

The Government of Tamil Nadu with the aim to augment sugarcane production and to achieve 100% capacity utilization by the sugar mills is implementing Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative method of cultivation. This method involves production of single budded seedlings using shade nets, installation of Drip system for efficient use of available water for irrigation and fertigation to enhance farm productivity.

During the year 2013-14, the Government has announced Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative Scheme to cover an area of 20,000 Ha. in which 7,000 Ha. have to be covered with subsidy, 13,000 Ha without subsidy and also 400 shade net units are to be distributed with subsidy. Due to poor monsoon and depletion of underground water, 4,299 Ha have been covered with subsidy, 1,337 Ha. covered without subsidy under SSI and 393 Nos. of shade net units had been erected.

For the year 2014-15, under the Budget speech, the Government has announced coverage of Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative scheme in 5,000 Ha. Out of which 2,000 Ha. is being implemented by the Department of sugar through co-operative and public sector sugar mills and 3,000 Ha. by the Department of Agriculture through Private sugar mills. The critical inputs are proposed to be supplied by the agriculture department to the sugar mills in advance.

To enhance soil fertility and to encourage soil micro flora, the organic farming methods like growing of green manure crops viz. Sesbania, Daincha and application of

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location, year of establishment, installed capacity are given in Table.

The past two years performance and estimate for 2013-14 under area cultivated, registered, cane crushed, sugar produced and recovery percentage are given below:

Crushing season (Oct.- Sep.)	Cane area cultivated (L.Ha.)	Cane production (L.MT)	Productivity MT/Ha	Cane area registered (L.Ha.)	Cane crushed (L.MT)	Sugar Production (L.MT)	Recovery %
2011-12	3.46	385.76	111	2.75	254.55	23.79	9.35
2012-13	3.93	396.82	100	2.81	214.57	19.06	8.88
2013-14 (Estimated)	3.27	317.60	97	2.18	142.22	12.80	9.00

Every year, the Government of India announces the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) on all India basis and the Government of Tamil Nadu announces State Advised Price (SAP) at State level, to encourage sugarcane growers. The sugarcane price fixation is done after considering the cost of cultivation of sugarcane, input cost, sugar stock, market price of sugar and other related factors. The Fair and Remunerative Price fixed by Government of India is Rs.2,100/- per MT for the sugar season 2013-14 linked to 9.5% recovery with an incentive of Rs.22.10 per MT for every 0.1% increase in recovery. Considering the increased cost of cultivation due to increased fertilizer and other input cost besides labour scarcity at times of agricultural operations, the Government of Tamil Nadu have announced

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Vermi-compost, Bio fertilizers and adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management are being practiced among the farmers in Tamil Nadu. The value added vermi-compost is produced from the press mud obtained from the sugar mills and distributed to the farmers for increasing sugarcane productivity. The farmers are encouraged to take up production of vermi-compost, bio inputs and organic manure at village level to enrich soil fertility so as to increase the productivity of Sugarcane.

To promote SSI method of cultivation, Organic Farming and Integrated Nutrient Management, awareness campaigns are conducted at village level.

The Sugar Mills in association with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and other Sugarcane Research Stations have introduced promising high yielding, drought and pest resistance varieties like CoC.24, Co.99004, Co.99006, Co.94012, Co.Si.7 etc. to improve production and productivity of the sugarcane. The existing ruling varieties cultivated are Co.86032, CoC.22, and CoV.94102.

To ensure easy movement of harvested cane from grower's field to factory, link roads are laid by utilizing sugarcane cess fund. It helps both the farmers and the sugar mills for timely arrival of fresh cane to the Mills and helps in improving sugar recovery.

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