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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE REGISTERED AND NON- REGISTERED CANE GROWERS IN AMARAVATHY COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS- A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in 2012-13 in Amaravathy cooperative sugar mills, Udumalpet block, Tirupur District that has high area and production of sugarcane in Tamil Nadu with 150 registered and 150 non-registered cane growers to assess the adoption level of recommended technologies. The constraint experienced by the respondents in the sugarcane cultivation has been analysed. The comparative result presented.

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INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane occupies a prominent position on the agricultural map of India, covering large areas in sub-tropics and tropics. It is the sole raw material for the largest agro-processing industry in the rural sector, wherein 6 million growers cultivate this crop. Besides, the industry also provides employment to half a million people in the rural sector. In 2012-13, there were 526 sugar mills in the country. [Ameena Premnath \(2011\)](#) found that majority of the respondents faced problem of irregular supply of electricity for irrigation. [Wasnik \(2003\)](#) identified “pest and diseases” as one of the major constraint expressed by the sugarcane cultivation. [Balamurugan,V \(2006\)](#) indicated that the Lack of transport facilities are common cause for delayed reach of sugarcane to the sugar factory and also for the poor loading of sugarcane in the tractor or wagons. [Poswal et al., \(2005\)](#) studied the adoption of practices of sugarcane among three categories.

He reported that all the farmers experienced the constraint of lack of technical guidance followed by unconvincing merit.

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[Punitha \(2005\)](#) indicated that nearly half of the sugarcane farmers had medium level of adoption of pesticides. Vast majority of sugarcane farmers adopted pre-emergence herbicides

The present study was undertaken with the following objective.

- To assess the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting registered and non-registered farming.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in 2012-13 confined to the jurisdiction or area of operation of Amaravathy Cooperative Sugar Mills, Krishnapuram of Udumalpet block, Tirupur District. The mill is situated in Krishnapuram village about 14 Km from Udumalpet on Palani –Udumalpet main road that has high area and production of sugarcane in Tamil Nadu with 150 registered and 150 non-registered cane growers to assess the adoption level of recommended technologies.

Constraints

The data collected on the constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation have been analyzed and presented in this section. The constraint faced by the registered and non-registered cane growers are divided into five categories namely communication constraints, economic constraints, managerial constraints, bio-physical constraints and infra-structural constraints.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Communication constraints

Results on communication constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation are presented in Table.1.

Table 1 Communication constraints experienced by the respondents

S. No.	Communication constraints	Registered cane growers (n=150)			Non Registered cane growers (n=150)		
		No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
1.	Unable to contact the extension agencies at the time of application of technologies	25	16.7	III	76	50.67	IV
2.	Unable to attend the trainings on sugarcane technologies	64	42.67	I	83	55.33	II
3.	Distortion of technical information	23	15.33	IV	44	29.33	V
4.	Unable to get precise information from sugar factory	6	4	V	99	66	I
5.	Not reminded upon the technologies at the time of actual adoption	32	21.33	II	79	52.67	III

*- Multiple response

From the Table.1, the descending order in the rank of the constraints for the registered cane growers is ‘Unable to attend the trainings on sugarcane technologies’, ‘Not reminded upon the technologies at the time of actual adoption’, ‘Unable to contact the extension agencies at the time of application of technologies’, ‘Distortion of technical information’ and ‘Unable to get precise information from sugar factory’. And the descending order in the rank of the constraints for the non-registered cane growers is ‘Unable to get precise information from sugar factory’, ‘Unable to attend the trainings on sugarcane technologies’, ‘Not reminded upon the technologies at the time of actual adoption’, ‘Unable to contact the extension agencies at the time of application of technologies’ and ‘Distortion of technical information’.

It could be observed that of the five communication constraints, ‘Unable to attend the trainings on sugarcane technologies’ occupied the top rank among the registered cane growers whereas the same constraint occupied the second rank in case of nonregistered cane growers. This might be due to performance of multiple roles by the sugarcane cultivators. In case of the registered cane growers, ‘Not reminded upon the technologies at the time of actual adoption’ secured second rank, whereas the same constraint occupied the third rank in case of non registered cane growers. ‘Unable to contact the extension agencies at the time of application of technologies’

occupied the third rank in case of registered cane growers, whereas the same constraint occupied the fourth rank in case of non registered cane growers. The fourth major constraint expressed by the registered cane growers was ‘Distortion of technical information’ whereas it occupied the fifth rank with respect to the non registered cane growers. ‘Unable to get precise information from sugar factory’ is the major constraint among the non registered cane growers and occupied the first position in constraint as they will not be getting any information from the sugar factory as they have not registered whereas for registered cane growers it is not difficult at all to get information about the sugar factory.

Economic Constraints

Results on the economic constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation are presented in Table.2.

Table.2. Economic constraints experienced by the respondents

Sl.No.	Economic constraints	Registered cane growers (n=150)			Non Registered cane growers (n=150)		
		No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
1.	High cost of inputs	138	92	II	143	95.33	II
2.	High rate of interest for credit	51	34	IV	107	71.33	III
3.	High cost of labour	150	100	I	150	100	I
4.	Delay in sanction of crop loan in banks	59	39.33	III	67	44.67	IV
5.	Delay in getting crop insurance money	44	29.33	V	34	22.67	V

*- Multiple response

The descending order in the rank of the constraints for the registered and non-registered cane growers is ‘High cost of labour’, ‘High cost of inputs’, ‘High rate of interest for credit’, ‘Delay in sanction of crop loan in banks’ and ‘Delay in getting crop insurance money’.

The data in Table 2 revealed that of the third economic constraints, the ‘High cost of labour’ occupied the first rank in case of both registered and non registered cane growers, as the farm needs more labour to carry on agricultural operations and was considered as the major constraint by the cane growers. The constraint ‘High cost of inputs’ occupied the second rank in both the cases as the cost of agricultural inputs are going on increasing every year, which might be the possible reason for considering this as the second major constraint.

This finding is in line with the findings of [Poswel et al. \(2005\)](#), who reported that high cost of inputs is the major constraint among the farmers. In case of registered cane growers, ‘Delay in sanction of crop loan in banks’ occupied the third rank, whereas in case of nonregistered cane growers the same constraint occupied the fourth rank. ‘High rate of interest for credit’ occupied the fourth among all the registered cane growers and the third in the nonregistered cane growers. The ‘Delay in getting crop insurance money’ occupied the fifth rank among both the registered and nonregistered cane growers as getting crop insurance money is not too difficult as it is completely connected with the bank loan.

Managerial constraints

Results on the managerial constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation are presented in Table.3.

Table 3 Managerial constraints experienced by the respondents

S. No.	Managerial constraints	Registered cane growers (n=150)			Non Registered cane growers (n=150)		
		No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
1.	Poor out-turn by labourers	98	65.33	I	107	71.33	II
2.	Non-cooperation of neighbouring farmers in irrigation, drainage and application of pesticides	45	30	III	62	41.33	III
3.	Delayed cutting orders	42	28	IV	0	0	IV
4.	Non-availability of labourers	81	54	II	115	76.67	I

*- Multiple response

The descending order of the registered cane growers with respect to the managerial constraints is as follows. Poor out-turn by labourers, Non-availability of labourers, Non-cooperation of neighbouring farmers in irrigation, drainage and application of pesticides and Delayed cutting orders, whereas the descending order of the non-registered cane growers with the respect to this constraint is Non-availability of labourers, Poor out-turn by labourers, Non-cooperation of neighbouring farmers in irrigation, drainage and application of pesticides and Delayed cutting orders

From Table 3, it could be observed that ‘Poor out-turn by labourers’ was considered as the major constraint by the registered cane growers whereas the same constraint is considered only in the second rank. It is also observed that the ‘Non-availability of labourers’ occupied the first rank by nonregistered cane growers and second rank by registered cane growers as labourers could not get better wages in other non-agricultural operations. Both the registered and non-registered cane growers awarded third rank to the constraint ‘Non-cooperation of neighbouring farmers in irrigation, drainage and application of pesticides’. ‘Delayed cutting orders’ occupied the fourth rank for registered cane growers as the cane registered is within the crushing capacity utilization of the sugar mills and the labourers are imported by the sugarcane officials and regulated to the cane fields according to the seniority. Whereas the same constraint occupied the fourth rank for the nonregistered cane growers has nothing to do with the cutting orders of the mill.

Bio-physical constraints

Results on the bio-physical constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation are presented in Table.4.

Table.4 Bio-physical constraints experienced by the respondents

S. No.	Bio-physical constraints	Registered cane growers (n=150)			Non Registered cane growers (n=150)		
		No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
1.	Occurrence of heavy weed growth	97	64.67	I	88	58.67	I
2.	Drought problem	63	42	II	42	28	II
3.	Pests and diseases problems	37	24.67	III	34	22.67	III
4.	Crop lodging	33	22	IV	10	6.667	IV
5.	Saline and alkaline problem soils	0	0	V	0	0	V

*- Multiple response

From the data in Table 4, it could be observed that the ranking order of Bio-physical constraints expressed by the registered and nonregistered cane growers was similar. It could be observed that ‘Occurrence of heavy weed growth’ was expressed as the major constraint by both registered and nonregistered cane growers. The ‘Drought problem’ occupied the second rank by both registered and nonregistered cane growers as the rain failed and water for irrigation was fully not available for cane irrigation. It is observed that the ‘Pests and diseases problems’ was one of the major constraint by both the registered and nonregistered cane growers as expressed by Wasnik (2003) in his findings. ‘Crop lodging’ secured fourth rank by the registered and nonregistered cane growers as nature of clay ioam soil which results in soil compaction might be responsible for the crop lodging. The constraint ‘Saline and alkaline problem soils’ secured the fifth rank as this problem never existed in the research area and was not experienced by both registered and nonregistered cane growers.

Infra-structural constraints

Results on the infra-structural constraints experienced by the respondents in sugarcane cultivation are presented in Table.5.

Table.5 Infra-structural constraints experienced by the respondents

S. No.	Infra-structural constraints	Registered cane growers (n=150)			Non Registered cane growers (n=150)		
		No	%	Rank	No	%	Rank
1.	Lack of transport facilities for transfer of inputs/ harvested produce	42	28	III	55	36.67	V
2.	Poor maintenance of roads	27	18	IV	79	52.67	II
3.	Lack of road facilities	22	14.67	V	85	56.67	I
4.	Poor maintenance of irrigation channels	59	39.33	II	69	46	IV
5.	Lack of adequate machineries	92	61.33	I	77	51.33	III

*- Multiple response

From the Table 5, the following observations were made. ‘Lack of adequate machineries’ occupied first rank by registered cane growers whereas the same constraint was awarded the third rank by nonregistered cane growers. The constraints, ‘Poor maintenance of roads’ and ‘Lack of transport facility for transfer of inputs or harvested produce’ followed rank four and three by the registered cane growers whereas the same occupied the second and five rank by nonregistered cane growers. ‘Lack of road facilities’ occupied the fifth rank as the condition of the road to the mill crushing area is comparatively good and easily accessible whereas it was ranked as First rank by nonregistered cane growers as they felt the poor condition of the village roads complicating their transport operations to different places other than the mill crushing area.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that the major constraints experienced by the registered cane growers in sugarcane cultivation were Unable to attend the trainings on sugarcane technologies, High cost of labour; Poor out-turn by labourers, Occurrence of heavy weed growth, Lack of adequate machineries and the major constraints experienced by the non-registered cane growers in sugarcane cultivation were Unable to get precise information

from sugar factory, High cost of labour, Non-availability of labourers, Occurrence of heavy weed growth and Lack of road facilities

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