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Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.aygrt.isrj.org

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PROBLEMS OF SUGARCANE GROWERS AND HIRED LABOURERS AFTER CLOSED DOWN THE GOVERNMENT SUGAR MILL IN PANDIYARAJAPURAM, MADURAI DISTRICT

T. S. K. Dhanam[1] and P. Natarajamurthy[2]

1Ph. D Scholar in Economics, Centre for Youth Development and Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

2Assistant Professor, Centre for Youth Development and Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli.

ABSTRACT

India is the major sugar producing country in the world, the first three being Russia, Brazil and Cuba. India's share of total production of sugarcane in the World is 37 per cent But the production of sugarcane is only 15 tonnes per acre whereas in Java it is 56 tonnes and in Hawaii it is 52 tonnes i.e. almost four times than India. Indian sugar industry contributes 15 per cent of global sugar production. While, its share in global sugar consumption is around 13.4 per cent. Sugar industry occupies an important place among organized industries in India. Sugar industry, one of the major agro-based industries in India, has been instrumental in resource mobilization, employment generation, income generation and creating social infrastructure in rural area. Indeed, sugar industry has facilitated and accelerated pace of rural industrialization. More than 4.50 crore farmers are engaged in sugarcane cultivation and about 5 lakh rural people have got direct employment in the industry.

KEYWORDS :Hired Labourers , Sugarcane Growers , major sugar producing .

INTRODUCTION:

Traditionally, Sugarcane has always been considered a water-guzzling crop. Where there is no water, sugarcane cannot be planted. The requirement of water in irrigated sugarcane plantations by approximately 75 per cent and are basically in the nature of good practices as they encourage the use of existing resources in more efficient ways. Sugarcane is the main source of sugar in Asia and Europe. Sugarcane is grown primarily in the tropical and sub-tropical zones of the hemisphere. Sugarcane is one

of the most significant commercial/ cash crops grown by farmers in countries of the south. Sugarcane cropping is generally admitted to be resource intensive. Only those farmers who have ready access to cash or credit, irrigation and water supply, fertilizer and pesticides can farm sugarcane. The sugarcane plant requires steady irrigation for its growing period of 18 months to 24 months1. Sugar is produced in around 122 countries across the world. India has 566 sugar mills in the country, of which 56 per cent are co-operative sector, 34 per cent private sector and the remaining 10 per cent are public sector. There are nine states in India, where sugarcane is grown on a large extent of area. Sugarcane crop yield about 50 tons of cane per acre from which about 5 tons of sugar is extracted2. These processing units are located in 80 major districts in India and a large number of units are in Maharashtra (142 in the co-operative sector and 12 in the private sector during 2008-09) and Uttar Pradesh (28 in co-operative sectors, 64 in private sectors and 22 in public sectors at the end 2005-06) There are around 43 sugar mills are in operation in Tamil Nadu (15 in co-operative sectors, 26 in Private sectors and 2 in Public sectors), while 3 mills viz. Madurantakam Co-operative Sugar Mill, Madura Sugars and Arunachalam Sugar Mills have stopped their functioning.

Madurai District has one Public sector sugar mill and one Co-operative sugar mill operated well till 2002. But, after that due to inadequate raw materials, payment delays to the farmers were the reasons behind for closing down the Public sector sugar mill in the year 2002. Rice, Millet, Pulses, Sugarcane and Cotton are the main crops growing in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu, India. To overcome the poor management practices, Tamil Nadu agricultural university in partnership with the World Bank and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), provided training on 'precision farming' for 3000 farmers between 2007 and 2010. The poor practices addressed included groundwater depletion through use of surface food irrigation and ridge and furrow irrigation, escalating cost of inputs and a lack of labour which is a major constraint in Indian Agriculture.

OBJECTIVE

To study the Problems of sugarcane Growers and hired labours after closed down the Government Sugar Mill in Pandiyarajapuram, Madurai District.

METHODOLOGY

In Tamil Nadu, totally three Government sugar mills were well functioned till the year 2000. They are Arigner Anna Sugar Mill in Thanjavur, Eraiyur Sugar Mill in Peramballur and Madura Sugar Mill in Madurai District. But, the Madura Sugar Mill was closed on 2002 because of the problem of payments to the farmers, which, will lead to affect the growers, employees, hired labours and other dependents. The sugar mill got the ISO certificate on 1985, located main places between Dindugal and Madurai District in the National Highway Road, which made the transport cost minimum. These were the supportive factors for the farmers. Among the farmers the question raise why the Government still didn't take any effort to restart the mill? Since, the researcher selects the area for the study. The study concentrate on primary source of data collected through interview schedule. The researcher selected 30 samples associated with the mill in the year 2015.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In the analysis and Interpretation part the researcher analysis the problem of the farmers through collected primary data. The researcher had four important table ie., Sugarcane cultivated farmers shifted their cropping pattern details, Problems faced by sugarcane growers after closed down the industry, also compare the before and after cultivable pattern of sugarcane through Paired Sample

t-test and Sugarcane cultivated farmers Financial assistance, get the loan amount and their interest rate through cross tabulation. These are all details given in this part.

Table - 1
Sugarcane Cultivated Farmers Shifted Details

S. No	Category of Respondents	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Shifted to Paddy	4	13
2.	Shifted to Millets	11	37
3.	Shifted to Vegetable Plants	6	20
4.	Uncultivable land holders	5	17
5.	Leased out	1	3
6.	Sugarcane Cultivated Farmers	3	10
	Total	**30**	**100**

Source: Computed from primary data.

The above table shows the present cropping pattern of sugarcane cultivated farmer's after mill was closed down. 70 per cent of the respondents are shifted their cultivable pattern to Paddy, Millets and other Vegetable plants, 17 per cent of respondents are holding their land uncultivable, 3 per cent of farmers fully transferred leased out to other farmers and remaining 10 per cent of farmers alone still continue the sugarcane cultivation among 30 respondents respectively. These 10 per cent farmers belong to the category of large farmers. Since, they are able to continue sugarcane and supplied to the Naitonal Cooperative sugar mill in Alanganallur, Madurai District. They are also faced some problem in the way of Transport cost ie., the farmers after cut the sugarcane within 8-12 hours reach the mill then only the farmers earn full return their investment. It may be delay the weightage of sugarcane is reduced. Because, the mill fixed rate of sugarcane on the basis of Juice content. It will affect the farmers profit and his also unsatisfiably cultivated their sugarcane. Albeit, produce sugarcane because of it is total profit, fixed rate and its cost of cultivation is low but this condition applicable only whenever stable input cost.

Table -2
Problem Faced by Sugarcane Cultivated Farmers

S. No	Problem of Sugarcane Growers	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Labour Shortage	8	27
2.	Power	4	13
3.	Lack of Water	6	20
4.	Insects	3	10
5.	Government industry closed	4	13
6.	Settlement of NCSM*	3	10
7.	Labour Shortage & Power	1	3
8.	Insect & Mill Closed	1	3
	Total	**30**	**100**

Note: * National Cooperative Sugar Mill
Source: Computed from primary data.

The above table finds out the problem faced by sugarcane cultivated farmers after closed down the mill. Before closed down the industry all the farmers cultivated sugarcane crop alone. It will lead to create the employment opportunities in the mill and agricultural farmers. They are better living condition. But, after closed down the industry many farmers are permanently migrated to other District and sell their land. Besides, create the problems of labour shortages, power, lack of water, insects, Government mill is not function, settlement of amount by the National Cooperative sugar mill. These are all the problems identified through the collected interview schedule. Among 30 respondents 27 per cent farmers faced the problem of labour shortages, 20 per cent of farmers are the lack of water, 13 per cent of respondents got the inadequate power supply and 40 per cent of farmers are Government mill is not function. These are major problem identified through the study.

Table-3
Cultivable Pattern
Paired Sample t-test

Cultivable Changes	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean (Total)	Std. Deviation (Total)	t	df	Sig
Before Sugarcane Cultivation	1.00	.000	-.759	.435	-9.381	28	.000
After Sugarcane Cultivation	1.76	.435					

Source: Computed from primary data.

The above table reveals that cultivable pattern of sugarcane before and after. There is direct relationship between sugarcane and sugar. Before the industry functioning many farmers are cultivated sugarcane and supplied to the industry. Therefore, the both growers and industries are beneficiaries as well as other ancillary units. But, after the industries closed down all the dependent units are affected it will directly affected the sugar production in Tamil Nadu, India. Before the period of sugarcane cultivation the standard deviation is .000 and after the sugarcane cultivation .435 SD. Therefore, after the industry closed down many changes occur in the agricultural farmers living condition.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

(1)Before the Industry closed down farmers, hired labourers and mill workers and other factors are directly and indirectly benefit. But, now they are faced many problem.

(2)10 per cent of farmers alone still cultivated the sugarcane and supplied to the National Cooperative Sugar Mill, Alanganallur, 17 per cent of farmers keep their land uncultivable, 3 per cent of farmers leased out their land and remaining 70 per cent of farmers are shifted their cultivable pattern of sugarcane.

(3)In the study area 90 per cent of farmers depended the Madura sugar mill to cultivate the sugarcane because, of this sugarcane crop there is no problem then compare the other crops. Similarly, Sugarcane is fixed price, no higher transport cost, availability of hired labours, and suitable climatic condition for sugarcane cultivation. But, after closed down the industry they are dissatisfied their cultivable pattern of sugarcane. Suppose, the Government rejuvenate the mill they are again live better condition. The

farmers and Mill workers are direct beneficiaries but indirectly it will improve the sugarcane and sugar production economically. In the way in which create employment opportunity, increase the ancillary units production and increase the export of our country.

SUGGESTIONS:

(1)The Government should adopt sick sugar industry.
(2)The transport cost and beta cost must be bear to the mill.
(3)The Government provides the bore wells at subsidized rate.
(4)To create awareness among the farmers about drought and water resistant of sugarcane.
(5)To increase the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) at reasonable rate of input cost.
(6)The sugar mill is correctly settling their payment to the farmers.

CONCLUSION:

India's domestic sugar supply is expected to be critically dependent on sugarcane and sugar availability. In the sugarcane production are expected to fluctuate considerably from year to year depending on variations in climatic conditions, the vulnerability of areas cultivated under rain fed conditions and changes in returns from competing crops apart from these factors, future growth in sugar production is expected to dependent on higher sugarcane average, better case recovery rate, more economical scale of operation and higher price realizations.

The research and development effort in sugarcane need to focus primarily toward evolving resistant varieties of sugarcane, provide quality seeds, varieties resistant to water logging, drought etc., higher sugarcane and sugar production could result in India again becoming a net exporter of sugar. In spite of this the research and development focus in another aspect of sugarcane cultivated farmers and hired labours in India.

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258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005,Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
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