

(iii) Two ways of increasing the production of seedlings have been suggested viz., starting more nurseries by the Government and giving adequate training to private nursery men to raise seedlings on scientific lines.

(iv) The importance of periodical surveys, the nearness of production centres to seed-nut centres and of availability of adequate facilities has been brought out.

(v) The target of production of seedlings at each centre should be fixed at an easily manageable figure, say, 10,000 to 20,000.

(vi) The help of other agencies like Co-operative Sales Societies, Panchayat Boards etc., should be requisitioned to effect the distribution.

### Development of Cane Varieties in Madras State and Maximisation of Sugar Production \*

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The sugar industry in the State is under expansion and is reaching a stage of self sufficiency. Under the present level of per capita consumption and with further expansion of the factories, the State will be in a position to export sugar to other countries. For steady progress of the industry, scientific planning of varietal and cultural schedules, and controlled harvest are essential. The industry in general, shows a tendency for achieving quick profits to the detriment of continued progress in Development. This led to clash of interests between the factory occupiers and the cane suppliers. In this clash, price of jaggery holds the balance of power; with low price for gur the factory occupier can dictate to the cane supplier; with high price for gur, the cane

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supplier keeps off from the factory. Therefore, more time and energy are being spent in balancing this power than in helping the scientists to play their proper role in planning for progress.

After Sugarcane Liaison Farms were started, correct assessment on the performances of new varieties was carried out. By cultivation of early varieties, the cane grower loses nearly 20% in yield while the factory occupier gains to similar extent. The two factors, price and incentive, play an important role in balancing this position.

That the sugar recovery percent in the State is necessarily low as compared to that in other States is incorrect. The cultivation of Co. 419 which is high in yield and lack of planning by the varieties and the indifference of the cultivators to sugar content in cane are the main reasons. The trials carried out in the four Liaison Farms, proved beyond doubt that there are good potentialities for high recoveries. The sugar content in cane as delivered from the Liaison Farm, Kulitalai is high as compared to that in ryots' cane. In this area, Co. 419 is recording very low pol percent cane as compared to the same variety in other areas. That the fault lies in the cultural practices and not with the soil or climate is now demonstrated by the Liaison Farm.

The role played by time of planting, time of harvest, manuring have all been preliminarily assessed by the Research Stations and the Liaison Farms and the Department is ready to play its full role in planning for higher recoveries and sugar production in the State.

In the periodical sugar recovery curve of the factories of the State, raising the first arm of the curve is easy and can be immediately achieved both by varietal and cultural schedules. The second arm of the curve cannot be so easily improved and more fundamental research on deterioration of cane is required.

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