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Research Papers



PROBLEMS OF SUGAR INDUSTRIES IN MALSHIRAS TAHASIL:- A GEOGRAPHICAL CASE STUDY

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Abstract

Malshiras is very famous for sugar in the Solapur district of Maharashtra State. Co-operative sector is dominant here and they operate Sugar industry in this tahsil. It is found that, sugar factories playing important role in the overall socio-economic development of this area for the past Four decades. The industry has achieved spectacular growth owing to the conductive environment in the Tahsil. The aim of this research is to find the problems before sugar industry in the Malshirastahsil. It has become a movement and contributed significantly to the industrial development of the Tahsil. In the recent past this well recognized industry is faced with various grave problems like price of by-products, lacking of healthy varieties of seeds, acute problem of cane cutter, shortage of sugarcane, increase in cost of sugar production, limits to development of irrigation facilities, extension of crushing season, delay in sanctioning loans, problem of recovery and so on. Therefore there is an urgent need to take review of these problems and identify remedies thereon for the protection of thousands of farmer dependent on the industry.

Keywords: Sugar industry, co-operative sector.

INTRODUCTION:

Malshiras is well known for its irrigation development for agriculture and sugar industry development. Malshiras is the first in Solapur district where canal irrigation facilities developed before independence (1930). Therefore, first private sugar factory in Solapur district was established in Malshiras at Malinagar in 1932. One more private sugar factory started in 1943 at Shripur. After independence two more sugar factories were added in co operative sector. At present there are five sugar factories in Malshiras.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY:-

The present study is based on secondary data like books, Journals and unpublished documents are collected and agricultural statistical information of Maharashtra State. Socio-economic review of Solapur district.District census handbook, statistical abstract of sugar commissioner office Pune, Vasantdada Sugar institute bulletin etc.

OBJECTIVES:-

To study the problems of sugar industries in the Malshras.

STUDY REGION:-

Malshiras is one of the eleven tahsils in the Solapur districts situated on the western part of the district, it is extended between 170 36' to180 1' North latitudes and 740 42' East to 750 13' East longitude. It is bounded on the north by Poona district, on the west by Satara district, on the south by Sangli district, Sangolatahsil and on the east by Madha and Pandharpurtahsil of Solapurdistrct. Malshirastahsil as a whole is monotonously underlain by Deccan trap basaltic lava flows, which in turn covered by thin mantle of soil. These lava flows on account of weathering give rise to undulating topography. The climate of the region is agreeable and free form extremes of hot and cold, except hot months of March, April and May. The monsoon rain covers the region from mid June to the end of September. There are two peaks of rainfall in the region. The first peak is in June (206.37 mm) whereas second is in Septemper (280.93 mm). The rainfall throughout the region is scanty and spread unevenly over the region.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:-

INCREASE IN COST OF SUGAR PRODUCTION:-

The cost of sugar production increases every year. And farmers are demanding more prices for sugarcane through their organization. Increasing prices of diesel increases the cost of intercultural, labour charges increasing day by day. Therefore, it is quite difficult to fix price of sugarcane. At the same time price of other raw material required for sugar production increased. There is always a fluctuation in the price of sugar. These things hamper the growth of sugar industry.

This problem will remain in future also. Therefore, it is necessary to decide price of sugarcane at least of five year period. Which can helpful to make planning for reducing the cost of production of sugar and helpful to farmers to reduce the cost of production of sugarcane?

PRICE OF BYE-PRODUCTS:-

Sugar factories in Malshiras through Bye-product manufacturing units developed certain product like rectified spirit, Acetic Acid, Acetone, liquire, Ethanol etc. These are the contributing to income sources of sugar industry. For manufacturing these products sugar factories have made huge investments but fluctuating price in the market is one of the major obstacle for sugar factories. This further creates limits to generate additional income.

LACKING OF HEALTHY VARIETIES OF SEEDS:-

Seed farms of improved varieties are developed in various parts of country. Like coimbtore in Tamil-Nadu and Padegaon in Satara district in Maharashtra are some of them. The sugar factory management insists on high recovery seeds. while farmers are interested in varieties have high weight . In order to get healthy seeds sugar factories should take initiative in this regard they should established sugarcane seeds farms and provide good quality seeds to their farmers, so that production of sugarcane increased. Under the guidance of agricultural or cane development officer.

ACUTE PROBLEM OF CANE CUTTER:-

Sugar factories in Maharashtra state facing acute problem of availability of sugarcane cutters. Majority of them are from the under developed Marathwada region migrating towards the sugar factories in western Maharashtra at the time of crushing season. Last five years their number is decreasing because irrigation facilities are developing in their region. The migration for six month has affected the education of their children. The new educated generation of these workers is not ready for this type of work. Number of sugar factories increasing fast. Therefore, there is acute problem of sugarcane cutters. Their wages increased after every three years. Local people from this region are not ready for this type of works. However sugarcane cutting machines are developed and purchased by some sugar factories but their number is less, the size of sugarcane farm is small, therefore use of such machines is difficult, and the price of machines is heavy.

SHORTAGE OF SUGARCANE:-

Number of sugar factories increasing and sugar factories have increased their crushing capacity considerably. Therefore, the shortage of sugarcane is huge problem in the region. Availability of

sugarcane depends on area under sugarcane cultivation. Geographical area of the region is same; there is no much scope to increase area under sugarcane. Per hectare production deceasing slowly, and on the contrary demand of sugarcane is increasing. Therefore, it is but natural that there will be acute problem of sugar cane supply to sugar factories. This cycle is again related to the price given by sugar factories. This unhealthy cycle of sugarcane production is continuous since the beginning of sugar industry.

LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN THE STUDY REGION:-

Number of sugar factories increasing very fast, at the same time sugar factories increasing their crushing capacities. Therefore, the requirement of sugarcane is more but there is a natural certain limit for the development of irrigation facilities in the region. Ground water level in the region is declining very fast. Due to irregular supply of electricity, lift irrigation schemes are not working properly. Canal irrigation system in northern and southern parts is weal developed, but water scarcity at the time of drought condition hampered the sugarcane cultivation. There is also irregular supply of water through canals in summer season.

DELAY IN SANCTIONING LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:-

Every year sugar factories takes loans from different financial institution for its development and regular payments against the production of sugar. Due to fluctuating market of sugar they cannot keep the repayment scheduled. Therefore, there is a delay in sanctioning loan from financial institutions, which hamper the progress of sugar industry.

PROBLEM OF RECOVERY OF ADVANCES GIVEN TO CANE CUTTERS:-

Leaders of cane cutters are taking advances from sugar factory and also from tractors and trucks owners against cane cutting and transportation. But at the time of harvesting season they are not joining to the sugar factories and also to the owners of tractors and trucks. Some time they are joining other sugar factories. Huge money amount of sugar factories and owners of trucks and tractors is blocked with these people. There is no judicious way for recovery, existing laws not permitting sugar factories to take legal action against them and forcefully recovery creates problems before sugar factories. And recovery of such a huge amount is not possible because these people having very less land holding and that of unirrigated land.

RECOVERY OF ADVANCES FROM SUGARCANE PRODUCING FARMERS:-

Farmers are also taking advances for sugarcane seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, digging wells and tube wells, lift irrigation and pipelines, for inter-culture. But at the time of harvesting it is found that they have already given sugarcane to other sugar factories. Sometimes these advances are used for other purposes like family functions, marriages, purchase of two and four wheeler vehicles. At the same time they are taking loans from financial institutions simultaneously. Therefore, it is quite difficult for sugar factory to recover it. Such a indebtedness of farmers developing mental stress. Huge amount of sugar factories is blocked in this way.

DEVELOPMENT OF DRAINAGE WATER IN SUGARCANE FARMS:-

Development of drainage facilities in sugarcane farm decreases the water logging and salinity problems. Due to flow irrigation system excess water is given to sugarcane which creates the problem of water logging and salinity, proper drainage systems in the field drains the excess water to small streams and adjoins rivers.

CONCLUSION:-

Sugar factories have played important role in development of Malshirastahsil in Solapur district. Last four-five years co-operative Sugar industry is facing the various numbers of problems. If these problems are not solved in the time to time, so very existence of Sugar industry would be danger in future.

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