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REVIEW OF RESEARCH



RATIO BETWEEN AGRICULTURE CREDIT APPLIED AND THE AMOUNT SANCTIONED BY THE BANKS



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ABSTRACT

he sugarcane cultivators may apply to banks or PACS for a required amount of agriculture credit. All these institutions may not grant full loan applied for. The financial institutions sanction loans as per the norms laid down by the apex bodies of the concerned institutions.

The survey revealed that 73 percent of the Bhusnoor Sugar Factory farmers applied for loan for less than Rs.50,000, 15 percent of them applied for loan in between Rs.50,000 and Rs.1 lakh, 4 percent of the farmers asked Rs.1 Lakh and Rs.1.5 lakh and 8 percent of the farmers found to have asked for a loan amount exceeding Rs.1.5 lakh. On an average, the Aland taluka farmers availed the loans to the tune of 80 percent of the actual amount applied for. The rang (minimum and maximum amount) of loan applied was Rs.15,000 and Rs.3,00,000.

It is evident that 69 percent of the farmers from Renuka Sugar Factory. applied for loan of rupees less than 50,000, 10 percent of them asked for between Rs.50,000 and Rs.1 lakh, 16 percent of them were in between Rs.1 lakh Rs.1.5 lakh and 5 percent of the farmers required for more than Rs.1.5 lakh. The loan requirement of the farmers was observed to be between Rs.25,000 and Rs.2.5 lakh. A notable point was that the lending institutions sanctioned cent percent loans to all the farmers.

KEYWORDS: financial institutions, farmers, Guidance Received

INTRODUCTION:

1. Factors Preventing Farmers from Visiting Banks and PACS

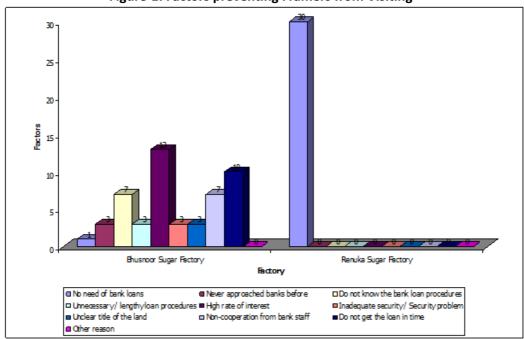
It was a common phenomenon that the Indian farmers prefer to visit local moneylenders because of easy and quick availability of loans. But these moneylenders charge very high rate of interest and exploiting the poor and illiterate farmers. Looking at this problem, Government of India and Reserve Bank of India introduced various agriculture loan schemes for farmers through various financial institutions. Apart from all these efforts, sizable group of farmers do not come forward to take agriculture loan from legally approved institutions. In order to ascertain the factors that have prevented sugarcane growers from visiting banks and PACS, nine possible reasons were identified and allowed the farmers to give their views.

Table-1: Factors preventing Framers from Visiting

S. No.	Factors Preventing	Bhusnoor Sugar Factory	Renuka Sugar Factory
i.	No need of bank loans	1	30
ii.	Never approached banks before	3	0
ii i.	Do not know the bank loan	7	0
	procedures		
iv.	Unnecessary / lengthy loan	3	0
	procedures		
v.	High rate of interest	13	0
vi.	Inadequate security / Security	3	0
	problem		
vii.	Unclear title of the land	3	0
viii.	Non-cooperation from bank staff	7	0
ix.	Do not get the loan in time	10	0
X	Other reason	0	0

Source: Field Survey

Figure-1: Factors preventing Framers from Visiting



As far as the farmers of the Bhusnoor Sugar Factory were concerned (Table 1), 7 percent of the farmers felt that they were not in need of bank loan and 3 percent of them never approached banks before, 7 percent of the farmers did not know bank loan procedure, 3 percent of them felt that bank loan procedures were time consuming and lengthy, 13 percent felt that lending rate of interest was high, 3 percent of them could not get loan due to inadequate security, the same number of farmers could not apply for loan because of unclear title of lands, 7 percent of the farmers opined that they did not get co-operation from the bank employees and 10 percent of farmers applied for loan but did not get in time.

As far as the Renuka Sugar Factory farmers was concerned; 30 percent of the farmers expressed that

they were not in need of bank loans and it is cleared that 30 percent of the farmers invested their own savings for sugarcane cultivation. It is also evident that those who applied for loans have got full amount.

1.DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION AND GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM CONCERNED PERSONS

Every now and then one or the other changes that have been taking place in the field of sugarcane cultivation, production, marketing etc. In case of cultivation, it may be the introduction of new sugarcane seeds, cultivation methods, use of fertilizers, pesticides etc. or maybe the introduction of new schemes of irrigation, loans, insurance, etc. The farmers should get information about these things from time to time from the concerned mills. Presently there are three linking mechanisms in force through which sugarcane growers receive information and guidance viz., the sugar factory, slip boys (appointed by the factory who convey message to the farmers of their jurisdiction or village) and from the Agriculture Officers of Government Departments.

In order to ascertain how far these links are effectively and efficiently working and providing guidance to the needy farmers in their region, the sugarcane growers were asked to give their opinions.

Table-2: Degree of cooperation and guidance received from sugar mills, slip (field) boys and government

S. No.	Agency	Bhusnoor Su	igar Factory	Renuka Sugar Factory		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
i.	Sugar Factory	4.	57	100	0	
ii.	Slip Boys/ Field Boys	0	100	100	0	
iii.	Govt. Agriculture Department	3	97	57	43	

Source: Field Survey

The farmers of Bhusnoor Sugar Factory have expressed (Table 2) that 43 percent of them received cooperation and guidance from sugar factory, 3 percent received co-operation from the Government Agriculture Department and none of them received any type of guidance from slip boys who were specially appointed to provide information and to extend helping hand to the farmers.

The farmers of Renuka Sugar Factory have opined in a favourable way' towards all caretakers. All the farmers were found to have received guidance from sugar factory as well as from slip boys, and 57 percent of them sought help from Government Agriculture Department while cultivating sugarcane in their fields.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE FACTORIES

Most of the sugar mills in India provide many services to their member farmers in which two services play a vital role viz., pre-harvest supply of basic materials and post-harvest transportation. In order to ascertain the types of transportation used by the farmers, amount of co-operation received form the sugar factory and the degree of trust that the farmers had in the materials supplied by the mills, the farmers of the selected units were sought their views and the farmers survey revealed the following facts:

3.1 Transportation: It is observed that the sugarcane was transported from the fields to the factory either by the farmers' own vehicles or hired vehicles or with the help of sugar factory's transportation service.

Table-3: Type of Transportation Used by the Farmers

	₩ ▲	-	•			
S. No.	Type of Transportation	Bhusnoor St	ıgar Factory	Renuka Sugar Factory		
3. 140.		Yes	No	Yes	No	
i.	Own vehicle	0	100	20	80	
ii.	Hired vehicle	0	100	0	100	
iii.	Sugar factor's transport service	100	0	80	20	

Source: Field Survey

A large number of farmers (Table 3) were observed to have made use of factory's transportation service because many farmers did not have their own vehicles and they did not want to hire vehicles at high rent. In such circumstances, only the alternative left to the farmers was to make use of factory's transportation service.

Table-4: Degree of co-operation received from sugar factories

S.No.	Variable	Bhusnoor Sugar Factory		Renuka Sugar Factory.	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
i.	Do they come in time to pickup sugarcane?	93	7	100	0
ii.	Do they cooperate with you?	97	3	100	0
iii.	Do they ask some advance from you	60	40	0	100

Source: Field Survey

The survey revealed (Table 4) that all the farmers of Bhusnoor Sugar Factory made use of available factory's transportation facility; 93 percent reported that the cane cutting team with their vehicles reached the field in time, 97 percent agreed that factory's cane cutting team co-operated with them, 60 percent of the farmers were unhappy that cane cutting contractors asked some advances.

The farmers of Renuka Sugar Factory. have disclosed different views; 20 percent of the farmers made their own arrangements to transport sugarcane and the rest 80 percent opted for factory's transportation service. All those who opted for factory transportation facility have expressed that the cane cutting team was punctual and extended their co-operation. None of them said that the cane cutting contractors asked some advance to do work properly.

3.2 Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides:

In India almost all sugar mills are providing suitable seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the member farmers. Sugar mills buy them in bulk and distribute to the interested farmers at a discounted rates. Both farmers and mills enjoy the benefits of bulk buying and quality materials. It is observed that many times the materials provided by the factory management failed to yield good results in farmers' fields. That is how many farmers did not come forward to take them even at subsidised rates.

In order to ascertain whether the farmers of the selected units have had bitter experience in this regard and to ascertain the degree of confidence shown by the farmers in such basic materials, the farmers' views were sought.

Table-5: Degree of Confidence Shown by the Farmers in Materials Supplied by the sugar Factories

S.No.	Materials Supplied	Bhusnoor Sug	gar Factory	Renuka Sugar Factory		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
i.	Seeds	97	3	57	43	
ii.	Fertilizers	97	3	30	70	
iii.	Pesticides	90	10	83	17	
Average		94.6	5.4	56.4	43.4	

Source: Field Survey

The opinion survey revealed (Table 5) that 97 percent of the farmers of the Bhusnoor Sugar Factory were observed to have shown trust in seeds and fertilizers supplied by the mill and 90 percent shown trust in pesticides. The farmers of Renuka Sugar Factory. were observed to have shown less confidence in seeds (57%) and fertilizers (30%) but more trust in pesticides (83%) provided by the factory.

4 FACTORIES INTERACTION WITH FARMERS

The special feature of sugar industry is that the relation between the sugarcane growers and the factory is always well knit. Both of them should work for reciprocal benefits because the benefits are interrelated and progress is correlated. Hence, the sugar factories must take care of sugarcane growers by providing materials and information as and when required. In order to improve the relation between the farmers and the factory, the managements of the mills must arrange farmers' meetings, seminars and workshops, get together, festivals, etc., and also impart the knowledge required about the cane cultivation by arranging study tours and conducting field experiments, etc.

In order to analyse the degree of relation between the factory and the farmers and the level of care taking attitude of the selected units, Vitepossible parameters have been identified and the same were asked to the farmers.

Table-6: Degree of sugar factories interaction with farmers

S.No.	Type of interaction	Bhusnoor S	ugar Factory	Renuka Sugar Factory.		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
i.	Farmers Meetings	80	20	83	17	
ii.	Study Tours	0	100	3	97	
iii.	Field Experiments	0	100	17	83	
iv.	Seminars/workshops	30	70	0	100	
v.	Festivals/Get Together	30	40	0	100	

Source: Field Survey

Bhusnoor Sugar Factory's farmers (80%) have agreed (Table 6) that the factory's management conducted meetings for farmers from time to time, 30 percent of the farmers were called for seminars and workshops, which were organised by the factory's management and 60 percent of the farmers have attended the get together and festivals held in the factory's premises but the mill's management never arranged any type of study tours and field experiments for its farmers.

The farmers (83%) of Renuka Sugar Factory. have agreed that the mill conducted meetings for farmers regularly, 3 percent of them have enjoyed study tours and 17 percent of them have got training under the field experiments schemes. None of them told whether the factory arranged seminars, workshops, festivals and get together, etc.

5 NEW TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES IN SUGARCANE CULTIVATION

The techniques and technologies of sugarcane cultivation are changing every day. Sophisticated hybrid seeds and improved plantation methods have already entered in the global market. Because of inherent problems of agriculture, Indian farmers cannot adopt and adapt with those techniques and technologies within short span in their fields. There are seven common problems in sugarcane cultivation, which do not allow the farmers to go for or adopt new cultivation techniques and technologies. In this segment of investigation, an attempt has been made to ascertain the actual problems of farmers, which act as constraints in adopting new techniques and technologies in sugarcane cultivation of selected units.

Table-7: Constraints in Adopting New Techniques and Technologies in Sugarcane Cultivation

		Bhusnoor Sugar Factory		Renuka Sugar	
S.No.	Type of Constraints			Factory	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
i.	More Labour	43	57	73	27
ii.	Limited Land	93	7	60	40
iii.	High cost	100	0	83	17
iv.	Non-Availability of Materials	77	23	0	100
v.	Non-Availability of Technical Guidance	50	50	0	100
vi.	Lack of Co-operation from	40	60	0	100
vii.	Lack of co-operation from slip Boys /	20	80	0	100
	Field Boys	20			100

Source: Field Survey

The opinion survey revealed (Table 7) that 43 percent of the farmers of the Bhusnoor Sugar Factory were observed to have not shown any interest in new technology which demanded more labour, 93 percent have felt that it was not suitable for marginal and small farmers who have a limited land and all of them accepted that the adoption of new technology increases the cost due to additional investments, 77 percent of them have not shown any interest because of non-availability of required materials, 50 percent have felt that they may not get proper guidance from concerned agencies, 40 percent of them felt that the sugar mills did not extend cooperation, and 20 percent of the farmers were reluctant because of non-availability of co-operation from slip boys.

The farmers of Renuka Sugar Factory. confined themselves with only three reasons; 73 percent of the farmers have felt that new technology needs more labour, 60 percent of them told that limited land factor was the main hurdles and 83 percent of them estimated that new technology means additional cost and additional investments. None of them specified any other reasons.

CONCLUSION:

The farmers are vital role players in agro-based production units, hence only the consolidated results of financial, cost and technical performance of such units cannot be considered as total performance, unless the performance of key role players is added with such performance. Based on this statement, an attempt has been made in this chapter to analyse profiles and problems of sugarcane growers of selected units. The primary data relating to the farmers have been collected through a pre-tested structured questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of three parts viz., sugarcane growers' personal profile, agriculture profile and problems faced by the sugarcane growers.

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