

9. SCHEME FOR TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON SUGARCANE

The Technology Mission on Sugarcane is a State Plan Scheme which aims to increase area, production, productivity of sugarcane to meet domestic demand of the country and to bring reduction in cost of cultivation and pesticides consumption for enhancing the competitiveness in the Global market.

The objectives of the scheme would be:-

1. To achieve the desired growth in area, productivity, production and recovery of Sugarcane in the state.
2. To increase the income of cane growers and sustainability of sugarcane.
3. To develop linkages with Sugar Mills, research centers and other organizations for collaborative exchange of information and material.
4. Enhancing productivity of ratoon sugarcane.
5. To disseminate the information/ technologies to the cane growers.
6. To provide training to cane growers at regional and State levels.
7. To maintain varietal balance of Sugarcane varieties.
8. To achieve desired sugarcane productivity through seed programme.

The sugarcane scenario in the country and also in Haryana during the year 2008-09 has not been satisfactory. The area under sugarcane in Haryana has declined by about 35% compared to that of previous year. The production has also drastically declined resulting in closure of most of the sugar mills much earlier than their peak recovery crushing in March-April, thus suffering huge losses.

The reduction in sugarcane area in Haryana has been because of shift in large cane area towards paddy. In the paddy-wheat cropping system sugarcane faces a stiff challenge from these crops as both these crops are short duration (4-5 months) against sugarcane being 2 year crop. Paddy and wheat also enjoyed substantial MSP by Govt. of India and assured marketing, whereas sugarcane is highly labour intensive and has staggered harvesting system. Also, the cultivation of wheat and paddy is largely mechanized, whereas, sugarcane cultivation is highly labour intensive and is not mechanized. The labour problem is becoming acute by the day as the migratory labour prefers urban jobs over agriculture jobs and least, the sugarcane operations.

It is the need of the hour to provide assistance to the farmers in the shape of giving assistance on seed and motivating the farmers to plant sugarcane with ring pit method of plantations, rising of foundation seed nurseries, mulching of sugarcane crop, multiple ratooning and organizing the training camps. To achieve this target, a technical programme of Rs. 550.00 lac has been prepared for implementing the programme of mission during 2017-18.