

Drip irrigation technology followed by the sugarcane growers

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was studied to investigate the suitability of drip irrigation technology in sugarcane crop. The study showed that sugarcane growers were completely by adopting the distance between two ridges 25 to 30 cm (Single eye bud) in paired rows method. Sugarcane growers adopted chemical reasons and biological reasons of clogging of emitters. Majority of sugarcane growers (93.33 %) faced the constraints viz., higher initial cost for installation of drip irrigation unit followed by cracking and clogging of emitters (90.83 %), damage due to rats/rodents (81.66 %) . Mostly the sugarcane growers suggested needs to availability of drip irrigation unit in low initial cost (94.16 %). 91.66 per cent Sugarcane growers suggested the needs of technical knowledge about remedies against the clogging of emitters.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Drip irrigation, Sugarcane

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Drip irrigation in sugarcane is a relatively new innovative technology that can conserve energy and increase profits (Singh *et al.*, 2010). Thus, drip irrigation may help to solve three of the most important problems of irrigated sugarcane-water scarcity, rising pumping (energy) costs and farm profits (Singh, 2001). Drip irrigation is defined as the precise, slow and frequent application through point or line source emitters on or below the soil surface at a small operating (20-200kPa) and at a low discharge rate (0.6 to 20 LPH), resulting in partial wetting surface.

Under the services at College Development Block, the extension personnel are engaged in the transfer of agril. and allied innovations at the farms of the farmers by using the various and suitable extension teaching methods. Hence, to study of drip irrigation technology followed by the sugarcane growers are taken. The present study was designed with the following objectives to study the extent of knowledge and adoption of drip irrigation technology followed by the sugarcane growers to study the constraints faced by the sugarcane growers for adoption of drip irrigation technology and to obtain the suggestions from the farmers for efficient use of drip irrigation technology in sugarcane.

■ METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the College Development Block situated in Hatkanangle, Radhanagari and Bhudharghar

tahsils of Kolhapur district. In all 12 villages from college development block were selected randomly. From these selected villages, 10 farmers from each village were selected randomly. The farmers were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule personally. In all 120 farmers were interviewed for this study.

The data were tabulated and processed through the primary and secondary tables. The statistical tools like frequency, percentages, and means of the averages was used for interpreting the data and inferences were drawn.

■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data regarding a study of drip irrigation technology followed by the sugarcane growers.

Knowledge and adoption of drip irrigation technology :

Knowledge and adoption regarding drip irrigation technology by sugarcane growers of Kolhapur district are shown in Table 1.

Knowledge :

The data from the Table 1 reveal that almost all the sugarcane growers had knowledge about paired rows method, Alternate rows method, lateral fitting, clogging of emitters (physical reasons/remedies, chemical reasons and biological reason/remedies) and care and maintenance of drip irrigation