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Constraints faced by jaggery producers regarding production of quality jaggery in western Maharashtra

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Abstract

India is the pioneer in preparation of jaggery from sugarcane juice. In India, the jaggery and khandsari industries are just as significant as the sugar sector. During 2020-21, India produced more than 300 MMT of sugarcane, of which roughly, 80 per cent was used to make white sugar, 11.29 per cent was used to make jaggery and khandsari, and 8.80 per cent was used to make cane juice, seed cane for the following harvest, and so on. Sugarcane recovery in India varies from 8.89 to 11.26 per cent, whereas jaggery recovery varies from 10.13 per cent depending on sugarcane type, sugarcane quality, soil texture, irrigation infrastructure, and time of cane crushing, among other factors. However, jaggery producers from western Maharashtra had faced lot of problems regarding production of quality jaggery, therefore this study conducted purposefully in respected area.

This study on adoption of jaggery production technology by the sugarcane growers and their marketing behaviour was conducted in part of western Maharashtra viz. Kolhapur, Sangali, Satara and Pune districts are leading jaggery units and production in Maharashtra. Present research study carried out with sample size of 240 of the jaggery producing sugarcane growers. Data was collected on personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of jaggery producers by using ex-post facto research design of social research. The collected data were collected from the respondents by personally interviewing with the help of present and well- structured interview schedule.

Keywords: Constraints faced by jaggery producers, problems in production of jaggery and suggestion given by jaggery producers, jaggery production

Introduction

In India, the jaggery industry is well developed and one of the largest businesses after textiles industry. It creates jobs in rural areas and contributes significantly to the economy. Sugarcane juice is used to make jaggery, which is commonly used in families, restaurants, and sweetmeat shops. It has industrial applications in its raw form. It is also used as a sugar substitute in rural areas. Jaggery production is simple and does not require a huge investment. Jaggery is a traditional Indian substance that is widely used in everyday cuisine preparations. It is a rural industry that can be found in sugar cane-growing areas such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Bihar, among others.

Jaggery is a highly nutritious and wholesome food that is commonly used as a sweetener by both rural and urban populations. It is made up of 80–85 per cent sucrose and 5–15 per cent reducing sugars. Proteins, lipids, vitamins (B-complex and folic acid), and minerals are all found in jaggery (calcium, iron, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, and traces of zinc, copper, etc., which are not present in sugar). When compared to khandsari, jaggery is a healthier option. It includes 0.6 per cent to 1.0 per cent minerals, with iron (11 mg), calcium (0.4 per cent), magnesium, and phosphorus being the most essential (0.045 per cent). Jaggery also has reducing sugars like glucose and fructose (10-15%), protein (0.25%), and fat (0.5%) (0.05%). The consumption of jaggery on a daily basis may help people live longer.

Maharashtra's (specifically Kolhapur) jaggery is well renowned for its high quality and therapeutic advantages, which is in high demand on worldwide markets. Farmers in certain districts viz., Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, and Pune are well versed in the preparation of jaggery. They prefer to focus on the preparation and marketing of the product as a value-added activity. However, the jaggery sector in western Maharashtra is currently experiencing a number of issues. Therefore this study was conducted to find out the constraints faced by jaggery producers regarding quality jaggery production.

Methodology

For the present study, 240 respondent jaggery producers were selected from Kolhapur, Sangali Satara and Pune districts of western Maharashtra purposively based on having highest numbers of jaggery units and production in Maharashtra, respondents were selected by simple random sampling method. Ex-post facto design of social research was used for study. Collection of the data from the respondents was

complete by personally interviewing with the help of structured interview schedule.

Research Findings

1. Constraints encountered by the jaggery producers

The data were collected on the constraints faced by the jaggery producers in production of quality jaggery has been analyzed and findings are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Constraints faced by the jaggery producing sugarcane growers regarding production of quality jaggery

Sr. No.	Production Constraints	Respondents (N=240)		
		Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Prices of raw materials	232	96.66	I
2.	Unavailability of unskilled and skilled labour for jaggery unit	225	93.75	II
3.	Storage and facility for fresh jaggery	220	91.66	III
4.	Malpractices in jaggery production	210	87.50	IV
5.	Electricity problems	200	83.33	V
6.	Less demand for coloured jaggery and jaggery powder	190	79.16	VI
7.	High wages of labour	186	77.50	VII
8.	High initiation cost of jaggery unit	184	76.66	VIII
9.	No Research & Development for product development and value-addition of <i>Gur</i> products in the manufacturers units	182	75.83	IX
10	Pest and diseases incidents observed in CO- 92005 variety	180	75.00	X
11	Lack of Training and its facilities for jaggery processing	178	74.17	XI
12	Premature flowering of sugarcane	177	73.75	XII
13.	Complex process of Licensing	160	66.67	XIII

It was observed from table 1. that, 96.66 per cent jaggery producing sugarcane growers reported that prices of raw material for jaggery production has its rank I, followed by with II rank, 93.75 per cent jaggery producers faced the problem of unavailability of unskilled and skilled labour for jaggery unit during the period of jaggery production. Storage and facility for fresh jaggery (91.66 %) this was the major constraint had faced by jaggery producers has III rank, 87.50 per cent of jaggery producers reported malpractices in jaggery production has rank IV, 83.33 per cent of the respondents faced the problem of irregular and lacking supply of electricity with V rank, 79.16 per cent of jaggery producers reported that less demand for coloured jaggery and jaggery powder of rank VI, on VII position 77.50 per cent of respondents reported high wages of labour, 76.66 per cent jaggery producers reported that high initiation cost for jaggery unit with rank VIII, at IX position, 75.83 per cent jaggery

producers reported no research and Development for product development and value-addition of *Gur* products in the manufacturers units, 75.00 per cent jaggery producers reported that, pest and diseases incidents observed in CO-92005 variety with rank X and 74.17 per cent farmers reported that Lack of Training and its facilities for jaggery processing rank XI. The problems about premature flowering of sugarcane and complex process of Licensing 73.75 per cent and 66.67 per cent reported by the jaggery producer with rank XII and XIII respectively.

2. Suggestions given by jaggery producers to overcome constraints

Suggestions were invited from the jaggery producing sugarcane growers to overcome constraints faced them. The suggestions help to eliminate problems and made jaggery production as more profitable agro-enterprise.

Table 2: Suggestions given by jaggery producers to overcome constraints

Sr. No.	Suggestions regarding production	Respondents (N=240)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Research & Development should be done for product development and value-addition of <i>Gur</i> products in the manufacturers units	180	75.00
2.	Need to create awareness about nutritional value of brown coloured jaggery and jaggery products	170	70.83
3.	Training for jaggery producers should be given every year about jaggery production.	165	68.75
4.	Give training about grading, export level production of jaggery and procedure of export	142	59.17
5.	Introduce highly resistance variety to pest and diseases also give a high production	140	58.33
6.	Government should implement cluster scheme.	135	56.25

It was observed from table 2, research & development should be done for product development and value-addition of *Gur* products in the manufacturers units (75.00 %). Need to create awareness about nutritional value of brown coloured jaggery and jaggery products (70.83%), Training for jaggery producers should be given every year about jaggery production. (68.75 %), Give training about grading, export level production of jaggery and procedure of export (59.17 %), introduce highly resistance variety to pest and diseases

also give a high production (58.33 per cent) and Government should implement cluster scheme. (56.25 %) rank wise respectively.

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