

POST HARVEST STALING LOSSES IN SUGARCANE

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Post harvesting losses means after harvesting of sugarcane; it is the serious problem for the sugar industry. The cane supply system has some serious drawback and this adversely affect growers and sugar industry, the cut to crush delay in cane supply to mills the one of the major factor to keep down the sugar recovery and weight.

There are two types of losses:-

Losses in Cane Weight

- The sugarcane loss the weight due to the evaporation of the water from the cut portion of the cane and cause the staling.
- This is a great loss to cane grower as he loses considerable yield of his area.
- After three/four days he may lose as much as 5 to 8 percent of cane weight depending upon cane variety and the season

Loss in Sugar Recovery

- This loss occurs due to chemical changes in cane juice.
- Due to staling bacteria gradually invert the sucrose to non sugars.
- Losses may be faced to the extent of 0.25 units per day
- As the cut and crush time is extended sugars are subject to complex enzymatic changes to dextran that cause serious clarification problems in process house.
- Staling losses are aggravated under poor hygienic conditions of a sugar factory.

HOW TO AVOID THE POST HARVESTING LOSSES.

AGRONOMICAL CONTROL.

- To cultivate the improved and high sucrose varieties.
- Cultivate the high tolerant temperature and water stress varieties.
- The sugarcane should be free from disease and pest.

CONTROL IN FIELD.

- Reduced the time interval between cut to crush.
- The mature cane should harvested and avoid the immature supply of cane.
- Harvested cane must be covered with trash.
- Harvested cane stored in shed and sprinkle water on it.
- Use the bactericide to killing the bacteria producing dextran.
- Supply the tops trash free cane to mills.
- The harvested cane load in truck/ trolley and cover with Tarpal.

PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME.

- The mills should have to chalk out the indent programme according to their capacity.
- For improving the recovery it is necessary to procure the cane from the nearest area of the mills.
- For better recovery results, avoid to lift cane from far areas.
- Cane should be lifted directly from the field not to be cane field Dikkhas.
- 3-4 days dumped cane at cane field dikkhas mostly staling.
- Practice to procure dumped cane at dikkhas should be avoided.
- We should convey the message to growers not harvest without indent.
- In Cane programme after the due date indent should be cancelled.

CANE PAYMENT & INCENTIVES.

- Payment of cane should be on quality basis.
- If the quality of cane upto the standard recovery the mills should give the incentives to growers for encouraging.

HAULAGE CONTROL

- The cane should be lift on small transport like as camel cart, tractor cart (TC), small trolleys and trucks.
- After the harvesting the cane supply within 24 hours on small transport.
- If the heavy transport the cane should be reach in mills within 40 hours.

CONTROL IN SIDE FACTORY

- Minimize the losses in factory.
- Adopt the new production technologies.
- The mills should improve their milling efficiency for extraction of juice maximally.
- The mills should improve their process house efficiency.
- Take the measures to control bacteria in Mill House /Process House.

Post harvesting losses should be decreased if we take above measure.
