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Research Highlights

Sugarcane seed health improvement through participatory approach coupled with technological interventions for faster dissemination of quality seed of important varieties: A story of success at ICAR-SBI Regional Centre, Karnal

The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute's Regional Centre, Karnal's integration of seed health improvement technologies viz., tissue culture, sett treatment device, settling production technology; connecting progressive farmers with seed production activity and establishment of linkage with the seed buyers had significant impact on the delivery of quality seed material of improved sugarcane varieties in the region. The highlights are presented hereunder.

Enhancing seed health of breeder seed using meristem culture, sett treatment device and settling raising: The tissue culture plantlets of important sub-tropical sugarcane varieties viz., Co 0118, Co 0238, Co 05011 were brought from ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore (2016-17 onwards) at rooting stage and after hardening were field transplanted as nucleus seed. Later, a tissue culture laboratory with a production capacity of 50,000 plantlets per annum was established at ICAR-SBI Regional Centre, Karnal in the year 2022. The tissue culture plantlets of Co 0118, Co 0238, Co 15023 and Co 17018 are being produced and raised at nucleus seed crop. Using the seed cane from this crop, every year 25-30 thousand settlings are being generated augmenting latest technologies viz., Quatro Sugarcane Single Bud Cutter, sett treatment device and plant growth chamber facility.



Seed Production plot at ICAR-SBI Regional Centre, Karnal

Participatory seed production (FPSP) in association with the progressive farmers: The progressive farmers located nearby the ICAR-SBI Regional Centre, Karnal were attached with the seed production activity at Karnal Centre in year 2016-17 by providing them quality seed of released

varieties in demand. The details of seed sale from FPSP activity are given in the table.

Linkages with the Sugar mills and Government agencies involved in seed production: MoU's were signed with firms/stakeholders towards seed health improvement. Twelve firms-Uttam Sugar Mills, Ltd, Uttarakhand; M/s Superior Food Grains Ltd, Shamli, UP; M/s Rana Sugars Ltd, Amritsar, Punjab; M/s Rana Ranjeet Singh Farm, Uttarakhand; M/s BCML unit Kumbhi; M/s DCM Shriram Sugars, UP; M/s BCML unit Gularia; M/s Avadh Sugar & Energy Ltd unit Seohara; M/s Avadh Sugar & Energy Ltd unit Hargaon; M/s Mawana Sugars, Mawana, UP; M/s Sugarfed, Haryana and M/s Sugarfed, Punjab signed MoUs with ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore for providing quality seed of improved released varieties of regional centre, Karnal in bulk quantity to these firms. A revenue worth Rs 17.5 lakhs was generated from these MoU's.

Successful seed licensing of variety Co 17018 (First ever in sugarcane crop in India): The seed production and sale license of variety Co 17018 was awarded to six sugar mills viz., M/s Mawana Sugars Pvt Ltd, Mawana, Meerut; M/s Uttam Sugars Mill Ltd unit Barkatpur, Bijnor, UP; M/s Rana Sugar Mill Ltd Buttar Seviyan, Amritsar, Punjab; M/s Avadh Sugars and Energy Pvt Ltd unit Seohara, Bijnor, UP; M/s PBS Foods Sugar Pvt Ltd, Chandpur, Bijnor, UP; and M/s Piccadilly Agro Industries Pvt Ltd, Bhadson, Karnal, Haryana. A revenue worth Rs 3.6 lakhs was generated from this activity.

Sale of single bud setts: A total of 10198957 numbers of single bud setts of varieties Co 15023 (9776933), Co 17018 (338999), Co 16030 (49090), Co 0238 (18860), Co 0118 (10575), Co 13035 (2500) and Co 12029 (2000) were produced and sold.

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Seed Production and Revenue Generation

Year	Seed Production in quintals				Revenue in Rs.			
	On Farm	FPSP Farm	Total	FPSP share %	On farm	FPSP activity	Total Revenue	FPSP share %
2017-18	2626	9339.8	11965.37	78.06	860471	186796	1047267	17.84
2018-19	3847	13077.54	16924.27	77.27	1300368	261551	1561919	16.75
2019-20	3283	31034.55	34318.02	90.43	1116380	620691	1737071	35.73
2020-21	3426	26648.97	30074.77	88.61	1191516	532979	1724495	30.91
2021-22	2448	10471.62	12919.79	81.05	886238	232447	1118685	20.78
2022-23	3099	22908.07	26007.10	88.08	1314160	458162	1772322	25.85
2023-24	2997	20252.10	23249.19	87.11	1271078	586575	1857653	31.58
2024-25	1612	19273.78	20886.36	92.28	701301	908772	1610073	56.44
2025 Autumn	806	2826.40	3632.68	77.80	351956	142321	494277	40.44
Total	24145	155832.83	179977.55	86.58	8993467	3930294	12923761	30.41
Average	3323	17315	20638	83.90	856068	436699	1292767	30.70

Sale of Settlings: A total of 673891 number of settlings worth Rs 15 lakhs, of varieties Co 0118 (205323), Co 0238 (73383), Co 12029 (26580), Co13035 (3800), Co 15023 (364480) etc were produced and sold/ utilized for breeder seed production at the Centre or at FPSP farms.

Sale of tissue culture plantlets: A total of 10033 tissue culture plantlets of variety Co 15023 (330), Co 0118 (500) and Co 17018 (9203) worth Rs 100330 was sold to various stakeholders including farmers and sugar mills.

Sale of mother culture flasks: A total of 49 mother flasks of varieties Co 0118, Co 15023 and Co 17018 worth Rs 2.45 lakhs were sold to the sugar mills for the production of tissue culture plantlets of these varieties towards the faster multiplication of their healthy seed.

Impact of the initiative on seed production at ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal centre : The integration of seed health improvement technologies viz., tissue culture, Sett treatment device, settling production technology; connecting progressive farmers with seed production activity and establishment of linkage with the seed buyers for assured supply of quality seed generated a good impact on the delivery of quality seed material of improved sugarcane varieties in the region. The benefit to the seed farmer was to the extent of 25% higher yield (due to higher production and complete weighment of fresh biomass including tops and trash) and reduced cost of cultivation (harvesting and transport cost was saved as it was borne by the seed purchasing firms. The benefits accrued to the Institute were in terms of high-quality healthy seed production and rapid dissemination of important varieties, high revenue generation (nearly Rs 210 lakhs) from all the activities related to quality seed production.

Variety-wise seed production of ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal at FPSP farms from season 2017-18 to autumn 2025.

Year	Co 0238	Co 0118	Co 05011	Co 12029	Co 13035	Co 15023	Co 16030	Co 17018	Total
2017-18	5569.92	3693.98	75.00	-	-	-	-	-	9338.90
2018-19	3094.00	9786.05	-	197.49	-	-	-	-	13077.54
2019-20	26322.65	4614.90	-	97.00	-	-	-	-	31034.55
2020-21	13850.24	7942.07	-	449.95	-	4406.71	-	-	26648.97
2021-22	4788.10	5208.72	-	61.90	412.90	-	-	-	10471.62
2022-23	1022.00	10526.54	-	-	-	11359.54	-	-	22908.08
2023-24	-	12874.75	-	-	680.60	6696.75	-	-	20252.10
2024-25	-	16950.09	666.35	-	109.30	1174.00	374.04	-	19273.78
Autumn 2025	-	1474.11	-	-	-	-	300.60	1071.70	2846.41
Total	54646.91	73071.21	741.35	806.34	1202.80	23637.00	674.64	1071.70	155852

The rapid dissemination of quality seed material of major sugarcane varieties such as Co 0238 (54,647 quintals), Co 0118 (73,071 quintals), and Co 15023 (23,637 quintals) has significantly contributed to improved sugarcane productivity, across the region.

Focused initiatives at ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal, aimed at producing healthy, high-quality seed and the sustained

development of superior varieties have strengthened farmers' confidence and had enhanced their income. These efforts have helped the centre establish a strong reputation as a trusted source of improved planting material among sugarcane growers and sugar industries across subtropical India.

Ravinder Kumar, M.R. Meena, Pooja, & M.L. Chhabra
ICAR- Sugarcane Breeding Institute Regional Centre, Karnal

Outreach

World Soil Day Celebrations

The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI), Coimbatore, celebrated World Soil Day- 2025 on December 2, 2025 at Manalurpettai, Kallakurichi District, TN, partnering with Bannari Amman Sugars Ltd. (BASL), Unit V, Tirukoilur. Dr. V. Kasthuri Thilagam, Senior Scientist, ICAR-SBI, outlined the history and significance of World Soil Day and highlighted the 2025 theme: "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities" and demonstrated representative soil sampling and Soil Health Card usage.

Dr. A. Vennila, Principal Scientist, delivered a key lecture on Soil Health Management, emphasizing soil organic matter's vital role and practical on-farm strategies to enhance it through resource mobilization. Dr. C. Palaniswami, Principal Scientist, stressed adopting sustainable sugarcane production practices for long-term benefits.

Four outstanding farmers received the 'Best Farmer Awards' for exemplary sustainable soil health management in sugarcane: Mr. V. Palani, Mr. P. Kirubakaran, Mr. P. Anbu and Mr. K. Kathavarayan from Mr. T. Shanmugasundharan, Vice President of BASL.

(Cane Development) at BASL, showcased Bannari bioproducts (organic inputs) to boost soil health and yields. Farmers interacted with ICAR-SBI scientists on trash decomposition, intercropping, drip fertigation, and integrated nutrient management. Around 120 participants, including farmers from Tiruvannamalai and Tirukoilur participated.



Participants of World Soil Day Celebrations

One - day training programme on mechanization in sugarcane farming

ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, collaborated with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dharmapuri, to organize a one-day Scientist-Farmer Interaction Meet on Mechanization and Integrated Crop Management in Sugarcane. Held on December 24, 2025, at ICAR-KVK, Pappalapatti, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu, the event was organized under the Development and Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC). Dr. M. A. Vennila, Programme Coordinator at KVK, Dharmapuri, in her address, highlighted key challenges for sugarcane farmers, such as labour shortages and rising cultivation costs.

Dr. A. Annadurai, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and training coordinator, discussed the latest sugarcane varieties from ICAR-SBI, recommending those suited to the Dharmapuri region. Dr. K. Kannan, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) & Head of Crop Production, focused on boosting productivity amid escalating costs. He elaborated on integrated crop management practices and soil health maintenance for sustainable cultivation. Dr. T. Arumuganathan, Principal Scientist (Farm Machinery),



Interactive session

Brochures on intercropping in sugarcane for soil improvement and soil-water sampling methods were distributed to all farmers and cane officials. Soil Health Cards, detailing nutrient status and fertilizer recommendations for achieving 125 t/ha sugarcane yield, were handed out by Mr. R. Srihari, Vice President of BASL Unit V. Dr. S. Mohan, AGM

explained the importance of mechanization, covering available implements, their usage, and maintenance. Dr. R. Arunkumar, Principal Scientist (Plant Physiology), shared insights on crop growth and productivity. An interactive session followed, where farmers raised field-level issues like subsurface drip irrigation demonstrations, small harvesters for fragmented holdings, manual sett planting tools, and harvesting cost reduction. The event drew thirty progressive sugarcane farmers from and around Papparpatti village.



Training on Mechanization at Dharmapuri

Farmers witness the livestreaming of launch of Pradhan Manthri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and participate in awareness campaign

The launch event for the *Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana* (PM-DDKY) and the Mission for *Aatmanirbharta* (self-sufficiency) in Pulses, with a combined budget allocation of ₹35,440 crore, was broadcast on October 11, 2025 at the Centenary Seminar Hall of ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore for the benefit of farmers in the region.

In conjunction with the livestream, an awareness campaign was conducted at the institute to educate farmers about various aspects of farming. Shri. Amman K. Arjunan, MLA for Coimbatore North, inaugurated the campaign and engaged with farmers assembled to watch the Prime Minister's address. At the inauguration, Shri. Amman K. Arjunan expressed gratitude to the institute for the opportunity

to interact with local progressive farmers. He praised the institute's 114-year legacy of providing improved sugarcane varieties to the farming community and urged farmers to maximize the benefits of schemes such as the National Mission on Natural Farming and the PM *Krishi Sinchayee Yojana*.

Presiding over the event, Dr. P Govindaraj, Director of the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, emphasized the advantages of the newly launched initiatives by the honourable PM as well as programmes like the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and those aimed at strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Earlier, Dr. D. Puthira Prathap, Principal Scientist & Head of Extension, welcomed attendees and noted that more than 330 farmers were participating in the event.

The campaign featured lectures and demonstrations by experts from State Department of Agriculture, ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on topics such as intercropping pulses with sugarcane, agricultural mechanization, plant variety protection and farmers' rights, the PMDDKY and other farmer-focused initiatives, improved cotton cultivation techniques, government schemes available to Tamil Nadu farmers, and natural farming. Dr. S. Alarmelu, Principal Scientist & Head, Breeding, delivered the vote of thanks at the close of the event.



Shri Amman K.Arjunan, MLA, Coimbatore North, speaking at the Awareness Campaign on PM-DDKY in ICAR-SBI



A section of the participants at the PM-DDKY awareness campaign

Trainings and Exposure Visits conducted

- Institute organized a training programme on Training on 'Maximizing Sugarcane Productivity (TMSP-2025) for the sugarcane farmers of Kottayam, Kerala on 25 November 2025.
- Two one- day training programmes on “Sugarcane production“ were organised at SNJ Sugars & Distilleries Ltd, Pennadam unit and Thugili unit, Tamil Nadu for farmers on 4th December 2025 & 5th December 2025.



Farmers from Kottayam, Kerala (TMSP-2025)

- Institute organized a one-day training programme on improving sugarcane productivity for the sugarcane farmers of Modakurichi, Erode district, TN on 2.12.2025.



Trainees from Erode district, TN

- A six- day training programme for the farmers of UP was organised by ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal during 15-20 December 2025 for 20 sugarcane farmers.

Events Organized by/at the Institute

114th Foundation day celebrations of ICAR-SBI

The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI), Coimbatore, celebrated its 114th Foundation Day on October 23, 2025. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), New Delhi, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

In his Foundation Day address, Dr. Kumar commended the Institute for upholding its legacy over a century, noting that more than 80% of India's sugarcane area is cultivated with its

- A one- day farmers' training on Sugarcane Production Technology was organised at ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal, under ATMA, Project Director, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) on 22 December 2025.



Trainees from Uttarakhand at ICAR-SBIRC, Karnal; 22.12.25

Participation in Exhibition

- Institute participated in the Exhibition organized as part of South India Natural Farming Summit – 2025, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, during 19-21 November 2025 by putting up two stalls and won the 'Best Stall Award'.



ICAR-SBI stall at South India Natural Farming Summit-2025

Academics

- Thirty students completed their three / six months project work (13) and internship (17) in various sections at ICAR-SBI.

“Co” varieties. Drawing parallels with CSIR's Aroma Mission, which harnessed wild marigold (*Tagetes minuta*) potential, he urged sugarcane scientists to transform emerging challenges into growth opportunities. He encouraged exploring the highly active circadian rhythm and biological clock in sugarcane, for superior varieties. Highlighting future prospects, he emphasized bio-plastics, bio-energy, and the broader bio-economy's role in boosting India's GDP, calling on the Institute to align with this evolving landscape. Dr. Raman Thangavelu, Director of the National Research Institute for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi, praised ICAR-SBI's nationwide impact on sugarcane varietal improvement. He identified challenges like high harvesting costs, low ratoon yields, and

pest-disease attacks reducing acreage in Tamil Nadu, stressing timely interventions. In his Presidential address, Dr. P. Govindaraj, Director of ICAR-SBI, reflected on the Institute's enduring contributions. He highlighted releasing mid-late maturing variety Co 17018 for the Northeast Zone, completing 400 crosses in the National Hybridization Garden,

and supplying 3,000 tonnes of quality seed material to farmers nationwide. Earlier, the Chief Guest presented Foundation Day Certificates of Appreciation and released Institute publications.

Over 300 attendees, including serving and retired ICAR-SBI staff, participated.

The following staff of ICAR-SBI received **Certificates of appreciation** during the Foundation Day celebration.

Dr.T.Rajula Shanthi, PS	Principal Scientist category
Dr.P.Geetha, SS	Senior Scientist category
Sh.K.Selvamuthu, TO, and Mrs.Nici Ashok, TO	Technical category
Smt.N.Priyadharsini, UDC Smt.S.K.Anumalaviga, UDC	Administrative Category
Smt.R.Velumani, SSS. Smt.P.Seema, SSS	Supporting staff Category
Sh.M.Shobhanbabu, SSS	
Smt.M.Nagamani, SSS	



Chairperson, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board speaks

- All staff of the institute and sugarcane farmers (200 nos) from nearby villages participated in the live webcast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's event arranged w.r.t. "21st release of the PM-KISAN scheme" as well as inauguration of "South India Natural Farming Summit -2025" on 19-11-2025 in CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore. During this occasion, special lectures on Central and State schemes for farmers and Natural farming in Sugarcane were delivered by Shri Mohammad Tareeq, Agricultural Officer, Thondamuthur and Dr P.Geetha, respectively, for the benefit of farmers.



Livestreaming of Hon'ble PM's event; 19 November 2025

Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week

- Vigilance Awareness week was observed from 27.10.2025 to 02.11.2025 at the Institute. The activities are detailed below:
 - Slogan Sharing Activity:** Staff members/ Contractual staff/ Staff children of the Institute were encouraged to share meaningful and creative slogans on the theme "Vigilance-Our Shared responsibility".

- Altogether, 59 slogans were shared by staff members throughout the week.
- Integrity pledge* was administered by the Director of this Institute to the staff members on 27.10.2025 and the same activity was followed at Regional/Research Centres.
- E-pledge:* Altogether, 122 staff members have taken e-pledge in the CVC portal
- Essay competition for staff members and contractual staff* on current theme "Vigilance-Our Shared responsibility" was conducted in English and Tamil on 28.10.2025 at ICAR-SBI. Altogether, 21 staff participated in the competitions.
- Essay competition for School Students* on theme "Vigilance-Our Shared responsibility" was conducted in Tamil language on 28.10.2025 at ICAR-SBI, Altogether, 10 School Children from Shah Fulchand Virchand Government Higher Secondary School, Seeranaickenpalayam, Coimbatore participated.
- Sensitization programme for Bidders/Stake holders/Vendors* was conducted on 29.10.2025. 11 Bidders/stakeholders attended the programme.
- A *Sensitization Programme* was conducted on 31.10.2025 for the Staff Members & contractual staff of the Institute. Dr. S. Jayaprasadam IRS., Additional Director General, DGGI, Coimbatore Zonal Unit, Coimbatore delivered a talk on "Vigilance- Our Shared responsibility" and vigilance related matters during the programme. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions conducted during the Vigilance Awareness Week.



Vigilance Awareness Pledge



Dr. S. Jayaprasadam IRS., with the Prize winners of Vigilance Awareness Week Competitions



ICAR-SBI participated in the Scientific Advisory Committee of ICAR-KVK (MYRADA), Erode district and offered suggestions related to improving the income of sugarcane farmers in the district on 30.12.2025. The KVK had implemented two of ICAR-SBI's recommendations that were finalized during the previous Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting.



ICAR-SBI publications being handed over to the Head of ICAR-KVK, Erode

Awareness Campaign for Tribal farmers



Awareness Campaign for tribal farmers



An awareness campaign for the tribal farmers of Sadvayal tribal settlement in Coimbatore district, TN, was conducted on 19 November 2025. The farmers were made aware of the government schemes available for tribal farmers and were provided farm tools and other inputs.

International deputation



Dr.P.Govindaraj, Director, visited Sugarcane Research Institute, Nanning, China as a member of high-level delegation of Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) during 17-21 November 2025 and participated in SRI annual sugarcane workshop held in Nanning, China.

Awards and Recognitions



ICAR-SBI received the 'Best Knowledge Partner Award' & 'Best Exhibition Stall Award' during South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 held in CODISSIA trade fair ground on 19th November 2025, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.



'Best Exhibition Stall' recognition for ICAR-SBI at South India Natural Farming Summit - 2025

Promotion/ Transfer /Resignation/Retirement



Sh. R. Gopalakrishnan, Skilled Support Staff promoted to the post of Technician w.e.f. 10.12.2025.



Dr. Ravi Kiran K.T., Scientist (Genetics & Plant Breeding) transferred from ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute - Regional Station, Lucknow and joined at ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore on 06.10.2025



Dr. Aravindan S., Scientist (Plant Pathology) transferred from ICAR-National Institute of Seed Science & Technology-Regional Station, Bengaluru and joined at ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore on 09.10.2025.



Sh. Sharique Buhuzaiifa, Technical Trainee, ICAR-SBI-RC, Kannur transferred to ICAR-SBI-RC, Karnal w.e.f. 31.10.2025



Sh. R. Lakshmanan, Technical Officer transferred from ICAR-Central Potato Research Station, Ooty and joined at ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore on 01.12.2025



Sh. T. Rajendran, Skilled Support Staff retired on Superannuation on 31.10.2025



Sh. Om Parkash, Skilled Support Staff, ICAR-SBI-RC, Karnal retired on Superannuation on 31.10.2025



Sh. Bijin S.J., Technical Trainee resigned from the post w.e.f. 04.11.2025



Sh. M. Selvam, Skilled Support Staff retired on Superannuation on 30.11.2025



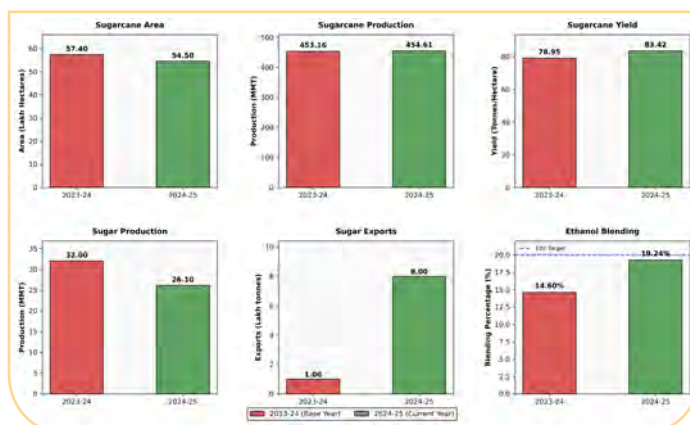
Smt. T. Lakshmi, Skilled Support Staff retired on Superannuation on 30.11.2025

India's Sugar Sector- A Comparative Analysis: 2023-24 Vs 2024-25

India's sugar sector demonstrated contrasting dynamics during 2024-25, characterized by enhanced productivity despite area contraction and strategic policy realignments favoring ethanol production. Sugarcane cultivation area declined from 57.40 lakh hectares in 2023-24 to 54.5 lakh hectares in 2024-25 (See figure), representing a 5.1% reduction primarily concentrated in Maharashtra (14.37 to 11.67 lakh ha) and Haryana (0.88 to 0.72 lakh ha). Despite this area contraction, total sugarcane production marginally increased to 454.6 million metric tonnes (MMT) from 453.2 MMT, propelled by significant yield improvements from 78.9 to 83.4 tonnes per hectare (+5.7%), reflecting recovery from El Niño impacts, improved southwest monsoon distribution, and adoption of high-yielding varieties across major producing states.

Sugar production witnessed a deliberate decline from 32.0 MMT to 26.1 MMT (Source: ISMA, USDA FAS India Sugar Annual 2025), down 18.4%, not due to inadequate feedstock but resulting from government policy prioritizing for ethanol diversion under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. This strategic reduction occurred alongside recovering sugar recovery rates stabilizing around 10.3%, though remaining below the 10.5% achieved in 2022-23 due to lingering varietal transitions and delayed crushing schedules in several states. Trade dynamics transformed dramatically, with sugar exports surging from a constrained 1.00 Lakh tonnes to 8.00 Lakh tonnes following government approval of limited export quotas, primarily destined for Tanzania, UAE, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Djibouti, signaling India's cautious re-entry into global markets after prolonged export restrictions imposed during the 2023-24 supply crisis.

The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme emerged as the sector's standout achievement, with blending percentages surging from 14.60% in Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2023-24 to 19.24% during ESY 2024-25 (November 2024-October 2025) (<https://www.ppac.gov.in>), approaching the ambitious E20 target five years ahead of the revised 2025-26 deadline and substantially contributing to India's energy security.



Comprehensive Performance Comparison - India Sugar Sector (2023-24 vs 2024-25). Data Sources: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (PIB Release ID: 2203206, December 2025), Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC).

Vinayaka and P Murali

Heritage CORNER

Incidence of Pyrilla in Sugarcane 108 Years ago!

Relative immunity of varieties of sugarcane from the attack of the cane leaf-hopper, *Pyrilla aberrans*.

No.	Name of variety	Presence of the leaf-hopper	REMARKS
1	Khari, thin	Hopper present in large numbers.	The first six varieties were very seriously affected and thus formed the basis of comparison. Careful and continuous observations regarding the presence of the leaf-hopper showed that the broad-leaved varieties were more liable to attack than the thin, short-leaved varieties of cane such as Aghol, Kuswar, etc.
2	Kaji, thin black	do.	
3	Samsara, thick	do.	
4	Purple coloured, thick without bloom,	do.	
5	White Sanna, thick	do.	
6	Wine coloured, thick	do.	
7	Numali	do.	Hoppers very few.
8	Red Mauritius	do.	
9	White Mauritius	do.	
10	Nid Pauda	do.	
11	Dhauia, thin	do.	
12	Kuswar	do.	
13	Aghol	do.	
14	Hemja	do.	
15	Aranagarh, thin, small	do.	
16	Munoo, large	Few.	
17	Wansi, thin	Few.	Hoppers very few.
18	Wansi, thin	Few.	
19	Santna, thick	Hoppers very few.	
20	Bathi	Hoppers very few.	
21	Sitta Kubba	few.	
22	Paunda	Hoppers very few.	
23	Hali	do.	
24	Zana	Hoppers many.	
25	Purple coloured	Hoppers many.	
26	Red Mauritius	do.	
27	Burli	Hoppers few.	

Thick varieties like Samsara, White Senna, Numali, Red Mauritius and Paunda had been the worst sufferers of Pyrilla incidence in Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, Bihar during 1917.

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