

1. Introduction

The research work on sugarcane was initiated at Agricultural Research Station, Vyara (Dist.: Surat now Tapi) in the year 1934 and subsequently it was transferred to Navsari at Regional Sugarcane Research Station in 1968-69. Earlier, there were two Regional Sugarcane Research Stations at Navsari and Thasara and Main Sugarcane Research Station at Kodinar in the State up to April-2004. Thereafter, Regional Sugarcane Research Station, Navsari was upgraded as Main Sugarcane Research Station (MSRS). Under Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, MSRS initiated research and extension work on sugarcane in various aspects like on crop improvement, crop production and crop protection.

All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Sugarcane, ICAR has sanctioned one sub centre at Navsari since 1971-72 to carry out the research work in the discipline of Agronomy, Plant Breeding, Agricultural Entomology and Plant Pathology. This center has also been associated with SBI, Coimbatore under fluff supply programme from 1982-83.

Main Sugarcane Research Station so far released 23 (13 endorsed + 10 release through fluff supply programme) improved Sugarcane varieties for general cultivation in the region, made more than 50 recommendations of production and protection technologies of sugarcane, which is evident by gradually increasing productivity of the sugarcane crop in the state. Research Station is produces about 500 tonnes of Breeder seed every year of improved and ruling varieties of sugarcane. Tissue culture unit of the research station is produces 200000 to 300000 tissue culture plantlets every year. These tissue culture plantlets used for breeder seed production at university farms and also distributed to the farmers for quality seed production. Research Station also carries out various extension activities to disseminate sugarcane cultivation technologies in the state viz., Front Line Demonstrations, Farmers Day, Field Day, Farmers fairs, exhibitions, on campus and off campus training, collaborative training with cooperative sugar factories of the state, public institutions and state government, Diagnostic team visit and capacity building of officers of state agriculture department by imparting need based trainings and providing latest sugarcane literature.