

## Sugarcane Cultivation in Kolhapur District

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**Abstract:** Agriculture plays a very significant role in the economic development in India. Where 70% of the population is directly or indirectly depends on agriculture for their survival. Cropping pattern is an important aspect of geographical studies particularly related to agricultural geography. The growth of population leads to change in cropping pattern. This paper an attempt is made to analysis the changes in sugarcane cultivation of Kolhapur district. In the last two decades (1990-91 and 2010-2011) In 1990-91, out of the total agriculture area 66.06% of agriculture land was under food crops, decrease to 58.49% because remaining agriculture shifted to commercial crops like sugarcane and vegetables etc. The sugar and production of the district has changed towards commercialization due to use of irrigation, implementation, fertilizer consumption transport, communication, market facilities etc.

**Keyword-** Sugarcane production and cropping pattern

### Introduction-

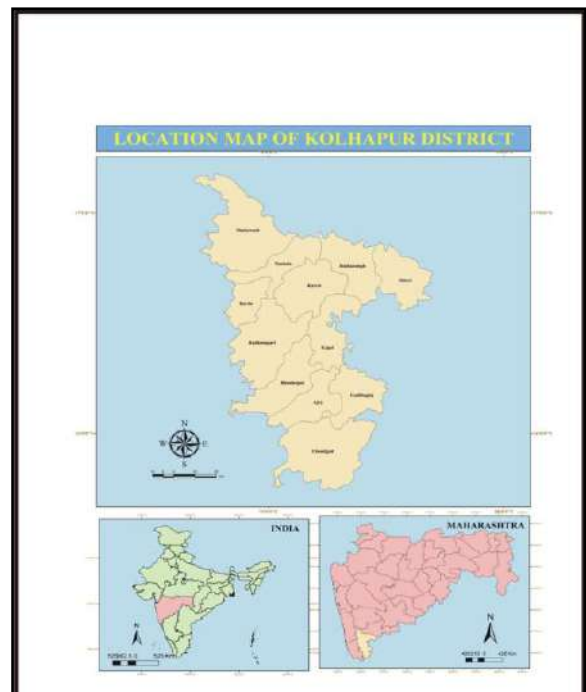
Sugarcane is main commercial crop in Kolhapur district. Kolhapur region is most concentrated sugarcane growing area in Maharashtra state because of favourable soil and agro-ecological condition of the region. Present paper deals with the study of sugarcane cultivation as an important part of crop production in Kolhapur district with its spatial and temporal feature and an evaluation of its impact on crop productivity too. Kolhapur is top three sugarcane producing district in the state. The nature of cropping pattern in considered as an important factor in determining the growth prospects for agriculture.

**Objective-** To highlight the sugarcane cultivation changes in Kolhapur district.

**The Region-** The Kolhapur district is one of the southernmost districts of Maharashtra state. The district's courtiers a total area of 7,685 sq. kms. It lies between 16° 0' 0"N to 17° 0' 0" North latitude and 74° 0' 0" to 75° 0' 0" East longitude. The length of the district south to north is 160 Kms. and east to west is 60 Kms. The Sahyadri ranges to the west and Warna river to the north, the river Krishna and Belgaum district to the south and east, forms the natural boundaries of the district. The region receives average rainfall 1900 mm.

### Methodology:

The study is based on data collected from primary and secondary sources. The collected data from different sources were processed and represented by employing different statistical and quantitative techniques like percentage change. Most of secondary sources of data collected from reports published by institutions like Directorate of Economics and statistics, Department of agriculture and co-operation, Ministry of agriculture, Government of India, National sample survey, State Statistical Abstracts, Gazetteer of Kolhapur district etc. in region. The significant decrease is noted in these tehsils where sugarcane has replaced this crop and in remaining two tehsils. Panhala and Hatkanangale decrease because some farmers are grown vegetables.



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**Table 1.1 (A)**  
**Sugarcane cultivation (area under different crops (1991-2011))**

1991			2011			percentage difference (increase/decrease)
Crop	Area in hect.	% of gross cropped area	Crop	Area in hect.	% of gross cropped area	
Sugarcane	118547	36.22	Sugarcane	108669	18.69	-17.53

Source-Socio-Economic review,1991-2011

The major observed in Hatkanangale and Kagal tehsil is the increased irrigation facilities caused shifting the farmer from jowar cultivation to sugarcane cultivation.

Sugarcane seem to be dominant. Among the irrigated crop these crop together share about 9.14 % area.

The proportion of irrigated land under this crop has decreased by 6.68 %. Table-1.1(B).Bhudargad have decreases area under total foodgrain.

**Sugarcane:**

Sugarcane is one of the major crops of India. This country is one of the significant producers of sugarcane in the world. Kolhapur has the largest surface area under sugarcane and its production is also the highest in the Maharashtra.Sugarcane a premier cash crop has occupied 18.69 % of total cropped area (10.43 lakh hectares in Maharashtra) and uses 72.05 % of gross area irrigated, while ranking first among all irrigated crops.

**Table 1.1 (B)**  
**Sugarcane cultivation (irrigated area under different crops (1991-2011))**

1991			2011			percentage difference(increase/decrease)
Crop	Area in hect.	% of gross cropped area	Crop	Area in hect.	% of gross cropped area	
Sugarcane	69802	71.80	Sugarcane	108669	72.05	0.24

Source-Socio-Economic review,1991-2011

Relatively significant (above 12 %) of cultivated area under sugarcane is confined to the Karvir, Shirol, and Hatkanangale. This is the area where irrigation facilities and supply are comparatively more developed. Besides the fertile alluvial tracts. Vicinity of sugar factories and market, well developed network of transportation, suitability of moisture and temperature condition and other contributory factors which have stimulated the extension of cane cultivation in this part of the region.By contrast low proportion (below 6%) is noted in the northern and Ajra, Bhudargad, Shahuwadi and Gadhinglaj which can be well attributed to the poor irrigation facilities, less fertile soil(alkaline soil) and moisture deficiency in these part.

The spatial distribution however is uneven and largely controlled by physiographic condition, nature and mode of irrigation and human response to it. In particular the highest percentage of irrigated area under this crop is found in Karvir and Shirol. It is mainly because most of irrigated area available in the tehsils.

High proportion (above12 %) of irrigated area under this crop is observed in Karvir , Shirol and Hatkanangale. Mainly due to the increase in perennial (lift) source of irrigation and also increase well irrigation.The moderate percentage (6 % to 12 %) of the irrigated area under this crop is observed in Gaganbavada ,Panhala, Chandgad, Kagal, Radhanagari tehsils. The insignificant area under cane cultivation is noted in the Shahuwadi tehsil located to north western part of region. The seasonal source of water (well) seem to have been responsible for them. Nevertheless the spatial distribution of sugarcane is largely related to perennial source of irrigation. The low percentage (below 6 %) of this crop is observed in Gadhinglaj, Ajra, Shahuwadi and Bhudargad. Temporal change of sugarcane crop in Gaganbavada because high rainfall and atmosphere is not good for vegetables cultivation in this area, so sugarcane crop is dominant crop in this tehsil. The moderate change in Kagal, Panhala, Hatkanangale, Radhanagari, Shirol, Karvir,Ajra and Gadhinglaj,Shahuwadi. Chandgad and Bhudargad is low cultivation of sugarcane crop.Harvesting machinery used for the sugarcane cutting in Kolhapur region. on the contrary notable decrease (below 6 %) is observed mainly in Bhudargad, Shahuwadi and Ajra tehsil. Though it is a traditional cane cultivation area of region, recently farmers prefer other irrigated crops like rice, wheat and

fruit and vegetables etc.

As per the change in proportion of sugarcane crop in irrigated area the concern region experience 0.24 % increase.(Table-1.1(B)).As a whole above 12 % increase has been observation Karvir ,Hatkanangale and Shirol tehsils which show the increase tendency of sugarcane cropping in irrigated area.. The increase is also found in Gaganbavada, Panhala, Chandgad, Kagal and Radhanagari, tehsils. On the contrary Gadhinglaj, Bhudargad, Shahuwadi and Ajra tehsils observed decrease in proportion on of sugarcane cropping in irrigated area.

The temporal change of sugarcane crop in Gaganbavada because high rainfall and atmosphere is not good for vegetables cultivation in this area. The moderate change in Kagal. Low cultivation of sugarcane crop in Panhala, Hatkanangale, Radhanagari, Shirol, Karvir, Ajra,Gadhinglaj,Shahuwadi ,Chandgad and Bhudargad.

#### Conclusion:

This paper an attempt is made to analysis the changes in sugarcane cultivationof Kolhapur district. In the last two decades (1990-91 and 2010-11) the situation of irrigated sugarcane cultivation in the district was drastic change because increase in transport, irrigation facilities, market facilities, fertilizer consumption etc. The diversified nature of cropping pattern of the Kolhapur district has increased the cropping intensity of the land. The district exhibits a mixed cropping pattern. Kolhapur district holds a leading rank in respect of rice and sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry. The laterite soil in Gaganbavada, Panhala, Radhanagari and Shahuwadi tehsils are conducive for raising hill millets. Sugarcane and vegetable are grown where irrigation facilities are available. The eastern taluka of Hatkanangale and Shirol focus on sugarcane, groundnut and jawar together with fruits and vegetables cultivation

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