New Publication – An Inventory of Farmers’ Practices for Inclusive Development in Sugarcane Production System

(A reference book of farmers’ low cost practices in sugarcane production system for researchers, cane development personnel, extension functionaries, students, academicians and farmers)

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Publisher : The Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore- 641 007, India
Year of publication : 2014
Price : Rs. 390 (Inclusive of packing and forwarding charges)

In the present era of Information and Communication Technology, we have gained a lot of knowledge on technological advancement but at the same time we are losing our valuable traditional wisdom. Throughout the history of Indian agriculture, the contribution of farmers to agricultural innovations and technology development and dissemination has been very significant. Farmers' innovations and their practices are useful not only for scientific technology development, but also for sustainable agriculture. Participatory technology development highly emphasises the incorporation of farmers’ concern while developing modern farm technologies. A researcher can develop need based farm technologies only if he understands the prevailing local practices and identifies the factors would accelerate the adoption process. Keeping these points in view, an effort was made to document the farmers' practices in sugarcane production system. The programme was initiated with the sole objective of documenting the traditional knowledge in sugarcane cultivation. But over a period, we realised that there are several innovations, entrepreneurial and unique practices at the grassroot level, which can be brought into public domain for inclusive development in sugarcane production system. Thus, we could document 40 case studies in this book. Each practice is discussed with its background, description of the practice, scope and utility, cost involved and with available supporting reviews. All the cases were documented at field level with appropriate visuals and photographs. This book contains 142 colour photographs. The farmers profile from whom the practices were documented has also been furnished as an annexure which enhances the authenticity of the information. Further useful information about sugarcane varieties suitable for Tamil Nadu, package of practices, information on sugarcane institutes, sugarcane machinery producers and dealers, sugarcane statistics and district wise list of sugar mill are suffixed in the annexure.

Purpose of the publication

The farmers in one area may not know and / or are not familiar with the practices being followed in another area. The benefit of these best practices is localised and does not reach all those who need it. An authentic documentation of such practices by extension personnel for dissemination to others is the need of the hour. By virtue of promoting modern technologies the farmer's practices are gradually disappearing. With the passage of time, unless a concise effort is made to document the valuable practices, it will be lost forever and cannot be regained in future at any cost.
Who will benefit from the publication?

This publication will serve as a valuable reference for various stakeholders in sugarcane and allied sectors. It makes available the best practices being followed by farmers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to the entire sugarcane farming community in India. It will also be a reference for Research and Development (R&D) personnel to develop demand-driven and need & location specific technologies in participatory mode in Sugarcane production system. Further, it will be useful for sugar factory personnel and development functionaries to aware the farmers practices in different agro eco system. It will be useful for academicians for the purpose of blending the farmers’ practices with formal education curriculum of sugarcane.

How to get the copies of the book

Copies can be obtained

1. By cash : from Library, SBI, Coimbatore
2. By post from the Director, SBI by sending a DD (Rs. 390) drawn in favour of “Director, Sugarcane Breeding Institute” on any nationalised bank in Coimbatore. (The price Rs. 390 is inclusive of packing and forwarding charges).
3. For further details you may contact 0422-2472621-219; or the first author’s mail id karpsicar@gmail.com, Mobile - 9865261886