TAMIL NADU

Sugarcane Breeding Institute's two cane varieties recognised

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ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute's two cane varieties recently won the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding award. A release from the Institute said the cane varieties Co 6304 and Co 86032 won the recognition for its contribution to sugarcane farming in the country.

Quoting the Institute's director Bakshi Ram, the release said both the canes were landmark varieties that created significant impact on the livelihood of farmers. The variety Co 6304, released in 1973, was very popular in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. During the period, it occupied 85 per cent of the area in Tamil Nadu and played a key role in making the State a top sugarcane-cultivating State.

The variety Co 86032 was instrumental in making the State achieve maximum sugarcane yield per unit area. Released in 2000, it covered 70 per cent of the area in the State and over 50 per cent in Maharashtra, Karnataka and major area in Gujarat, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

At present, 99 per cent of the area under sugarcane in the country was occupied by varieties developed by the ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, the release added.