



**Seed fluff and Defuzzed seed**

True seed harvested from sugarcane flowers commonly known as fluff or fuzz' is the basic material for selection and development of new improved varieties. The natural climatic conditions around Coimbatore were found to be most ideal for profuse flowering and seed setting without any cost on artificial equipment.

Ever since its inception in 1912, sustained breeding programmes helped for evolving better commercial clones for the entire country through Coimbatore canes which extended throughout the globe for commercial or breeding use. The strong breeding work of the institute has resulted in steady increase of sugarcane area, production, productivity and sugar recovery in the country and offers a great opportunity for commercialization of sugarcane seed fluff.

A revival of demand for proven Coimbatore canes as well as botanical seed i.e. fluff/fuzz has arisen from various sugarcane growing countries especially African countries. The exchange of true seed offers means to obtain genes of choice. Sharing the true seed (fluff/ fuzz) from crosses done between parents of choice at ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore with countries in dire need of sugarcane fluff opens new avenues in sugarcane research abroad as well as revenue generation.

As envisaged by global bodies like FAO/IPGRI (1993) and sugarcane breeding stations in various countries either fluff or defuzzed seed can become a marketable input. The movement of seed might provide a safer, more extensive and rapid alternative to vegetative material. Our well-organized breeding programmes would open new vistas for marketing of true seed.

Seed Technology Laboratory, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore has got the proven techniques and technologies for handling sugarcane true seed viz., seed processing, testing for germination, seed storage, packing and transport. Defuzzing is practiced to improve the handling of fluff in sowing. Disinfection becomes easier. Through reduction of weight and principally volume the storage and transport becomes easier. 1000 seed weight ranges from 0.5 to 2.5 g.

The golden opportunity for generating income/resources from marketing our true seed globally through our well-organized breeding programmes at ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore would open new vistas. The resurgence of plea for proven Coimbatore canes as well as botanical seed i.e., fluff/fuzz from many sugarcane growing countries especially from Africa can be fulfilled utilizing our well-knit breeding programmes and tailor-made seed technological solutions. Now ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore has got the proven techniques and technologies for handling sugarcane true seed viz., seed processing, testing for germination, seed storage as well as seed marketing through transport.

As envisaged by global bodies like FAO/IBGRI and sugarcane breeding stations in various countries either fluff or defuzzed seed is a marketable input giving impetus to sugarcane breeding programmes in many countries where huge demand for sugarcane true seed exists for initiating variety development plans.

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