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## SUGAR FACTORIES AND CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL INPUTS IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT



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### ABSTRACT:

The change in the cropping pattern and the application of modern methods of cultivation have increased demand for various agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, insecticides and other types of the agricultural inputs and equipments, has increased the number of supplying agencies. We shall now turn to the aspect of changes in the supply agencies.

### KEYWORDS

*method of farming, agricultural inputs.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Previously, a number of farmers were using home made inputs and the traditional equipments. The main reason was that the financial condition of the farmers was not enough to afford the purchase of the agricultural inputs and modern equipments from outside. In addition, it was due to the ignorance and doubts of farmers about the quality of these inputs. They had no knowledge of the application of the improved seeds and equipments. Hence the farmers were using home-made seeds, manure and traditional equipments. Sometimes, they used to purchase some agricultural implements or hire them from other farmers.

## Scope:

In the above research the study covers only the co-operative sugar factories in Solapur district. The information about the research is limited in between 1995-96 to 2010-11.

## Methodology:

The study is based on Primary Data. Primary Data have collected from 239 farmers of sugarcane cultivators through questionnaires. The growth performance indicators have studied for 15 years.

## OBJECTIVE:

To study the contribution of sugar industry in changes of agricultural inputs and equipments in Solapur district.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table 1 indicates the changes in the supply agencies of agricultural inputs and implements as also the tendency of the cultivators to purchase from various supply agencies after the establishment of the sugar factories.

Table No. 1

Classification of Surveyed Families of Cultivators according to their purchase of agricultural inputs and equipments from various Supply Agencies (1995-96) and after (2010-11) the establishment of the Sugar Factories

Item	Before and after the establishment of the Sugar Factories	Type of Supply Agencies									Total
		Home made	Co-op Society	Home made and Co-op Society	Market	Sugar Factory	Society and Sugar Factory	Society And Panchyat Samiti	Society P. Samiti Sugar factory	Non users	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pesticides	Before	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	233	239
	After	-	(2.51)	-	-	67	15	7	12	7	124
Seeds	Before	60	39	15	5	-	-	-	-	120	239
	After	(25.10)	(16.31)	(6.28)	(6.28)	-	-	-	-	(50.28)	(100)
Fertilizers	Before	25	9	11	85	1	36	11	15	46	239
	After	(10.46)	(3.76)	(4.60)	(35.56)	(0.42)	(15.06)	(4.60)	(6.28)	(19.24)	(100)
Tractor	Before	31	15	6	6	-	-	-	-	181	239
	After	(12.97)	(8.28)	(2.51)	(2.51)	-	-	-	-	(75.73)	(100)
Tractor	Before	10	11	5	87	1	87	11	15	12	239
	After	(4.17)	(4.69)	(2.09)	(36.41)	(0.42)	(36.41)	(4.60)	(6.28)	(5.02)	(100)
Tractor	Before	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	225	239
	After	(5.02)	-	-	(0.84)	-	-	-	-	(94.14)	(100)
Tractor	Before	38	-	-	87	8	-	-	-	106	239
	After	(15.89)	-	-	(36.40)	(3.35)	-	-	-	(44.35)	(100)

Bracketed figures indicate percentages of unbracketed figures in column 3 to 11 to the total in the last column. Source - Compiled by the Researcher

### 1. Pesticides and Insecticides :

Previously, the use of pesticide and insecticides was much less. From the table it is clear that farmers were purchasing them only from co-operative credit societies. After the establishment of the sugar factories, the use of this input and also the number of supply agencies have increased. People started purchasing them from the market, Panchyat Samiti and sugar factories.

### 2. Seeds :

Before the establishment of the sugar factories, 39 farmers were purchasing seeds from co-operative credit societies and 60 farmers were using home-made seeds; for instance, seeds of Jawar, Bajara and wheat, etc. After the establishment of the sugar factories, the percentage of home-made seed-users declined from 25.10 per cent to 10.46 per cent and the proportion of the purchasers from co-operative credit societies declined from 16.31 per cent to 3.76 per cent. The farmers have started purchasing these inputs from the market. The increased income of farmers and available of improved seeds which they could not get from the societies have enabled them to purchase the seeds from the market.

### 3. Fertilizers and Manures :

From Table 1, it is seen that 12.97 per cent and 8.28 per cent of the farmers surveyed depended on credit societies and home-made fertilizers and manures respectively before the establishment of the

sugar factories. These percentages have declined to 4.17 per cent and 4.69 per cent respectively. Now, some farmers have started purchasing the inputs from the market, sugar factories and Panchyat Samiti.

#### 4.Tractors :

Prior to the establishment of the sugar factories, the farmers were dependent only on the private tractors. Now, they can hire them from the big farmers. Previously, only 5.02 per cent of the farmers were using their own tractors for cultivating land. At the second point of time it is found that 15.89 per cent of the farmers have their own tractors and 36.40 per cent of the farmers hire them from the market.

#### CONCLUSION:

We can conclude that after the establishment of the sugar factories, the farmers have been turning more and more towards modern methods of agriculture. Thus, it can be definitely said that with adequate provision of irrigation and credit facilities, a larger number of farmers will adopt modern methods of agriculture which will lead to increased agricultural productivity.

The adoption of modern methods has created demand for the agricultural inputs like improved variety of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements like iron ploughs, harrows, tractors, oil engines, electric motors and so on. The increased demand for these inputs and agricultural implements has induced the opening of a large number of supply agencies.

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