

Validation of Early Maturing Sugarcane Clones for Yield and Juice Quality Traits

ABSTRACT

The present investigation in sugarcane (*Saccharum* spp. hybrids) was carried out to evaluate and validate the performance of early duration clones for cane yield and quality characters at sugarcane Research Station (TNAU) Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. Observations were recorded for number of tillers (x1000/ha), cane length (cm), cane diameter (cm), single cane weight (kg), cane yield (t/ha) Brix (%), sucrose (%), Purity (%), CCS (%) and sugar yield (t/ha). Overall performance of field trial, the clone, CoC 11336 was found to be best for cane yield and its contributing traits like number of millable canes, cane length, cane diameter and single cane weight over the check CoA 92081. The same clone CoC 11336 was found to be top performer for CCS yield. The test clone CoA 12321 was the next entry for cane yield, quality and its contributing traits. The clone CoV 12356 was found to be better for quality traits viz., brix %, sucrose %, CCS % and purity % over the check variety CoA 92081. Hence, these three early clones could be tested for the confirmation of the results for better cane yield and juice quality under different agro climatic locations for release of new sugarcane variety.

Key Words: *Sugarcane, Early maturing clone, cane yield and sugar yield*

1. INTRODUCTION

“Sugarcane (*Saccharum* spp. hybrids) is one of the major agricultural cash crops next to cotton in India grown extensively. It acts as a major industrial cash crop, having potential to be a key crop in bio factory evolution as it produces high yield of valuable products like sugar, ethanol, bio-fibres, waxes, bio-plastic and biofuel” [1].

“Globally sugarcane is cultivated in an area of 25.97 million hectares producing 1.84 billion tons with the productivity of 70.85 t ha⁻¹” [2]. “India is next only to Brazil with respect to cane area. In India, it was cultivated in an area of 5130.75 thousand hectares with the production of 383892 thousand tonnes with average productivity of 78.24 tonnes per hectare” [3].

“Varietal development in the sugarcane is a key factor to solve the problems of the sugar industries with respect to diversifying the gene pool of improved varieties for increasing both the cane yield and sugar yield. Hence, breeding programmes are aiming at development of cultivars with an early maturity along with high sugar content is one of the main objectives as demanded by sugar industries” [4]. “Early duration varieties have advantages to both the growers and sugar industries. They provide an efficient and reliable means of achieving increased sugar yields at the beginning of the season, save the raw material required for a given crop cycle and allow earlier commencement of the harvesting and the processing season, and ensure profitability” [5,6,7].

“The early maturing sugarcane varieties are cultivated in December- January months and come first for harvesting in the beginning of crushing season. The influence of season is less pronounced on early maturing varieties than the late planted varieties. Cultivation of early maturing clones facilitates higher sugar recovery and yield. Hence it is imperative to identify new sugarcane varieties to replace the deteriorating commercial varieties through which the overall productivity could be stabilized. Therefore, to meet the immediate need of sugarcane farmers and sugar factory, there is a need of more number of early maturing, high sugar varieties having high tonnage, good ratooning ability to meet the challenges for improving sugar recovery, especially during the beginning of the crushing season. Hence, the present study was made to identify the early maturing clones with sustained high cane yield and CCS yield for variety release” [6].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Experimental Materials and site

The field experiment was conducted at Sugarcane Research Station (TNAU), Cuddalore, India (latitude; 11° 46' North; longitude: 79° 46' East; altitude: 4.60 m MSL). The experimental materials consist of seven test clones viz.,

CoA12321, CoA12322, CoA12323, CoOr 12346 and CoV 12356, CoC 12336 and CoC 11336 and three check varieties (Co 6907, CoC 01061 and CoA 92081). The test clones and checks were planted in Randomized Block Design with two replications. The plot size was six rows of five meter length spaced at 120 cm with a seed rate of twelve buds per meter. Recommended agronomic practices, need based pest and disease management practices were carried out uniformly for raising good crop.

2. 2.Data Collection and Analysis

The data recorded during the entire cropping period of study was comprised of the yield and quality characters. "Observations on number of tillers (x1000/ha), number of millable canes (NMC), cane length (cm), cane diameter (cm), single cane weight (kg), cane yield (t/ha), brix (%), sucrose (%), purity (%), CCS (%) and CCS yield (t/ha). Among these parameters, data on number of tillers (x1000/ha) was recorded at 120th days after planting (DAP), while all other parameters were recorded at harvest. For quality analysis, the cane samples were taken from each test clone and juice was extracted by power crusher and analysed for brix (%) and sucrose (%) as per the method" suggested by [8]. "Sucrose percent was calculated as per Schmitz's tables. CCS% was calculated as per the following formula, $CCS\% = (\text{Sucrose \%} - 0.4 (\text{Brix \%} - \text{Sucrose \%})) \times 0.75$. Then, the CCS yield was determined based on CCS percent and cane yield. All the collected data were statistically analysed by standard statistical method" described by Panse and Sukhatme [9].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the present study revealed that all the characters showed significant difference among the treatment mean squares (Table1). The results revealed that there was an ample scope for selecting a better genotype. The variation in cane yield and yield components among the sugarcane clones may be attributed due to their differences in genetic makeup. Mean data of different yield and quality contributing traits were furnished in Table 2 and they are categorically described as follows,

Number of tillers (x 1000/ha) at 120 DAP:

For this trait, number of tillers ranged from 137.28 (CoC 01061) to 120.65 (CoA 92081). The check variety CoC 01061 recorded highest tiller counts (137.28/ha) followed by test clone CoC 11336 (132.51/ha). None of the test clones were recorded higher number of tillers per hectare. Tillering potential of a clone ultimately increase the cane yield and number of millable cane. This finding is analogous with Rakesh *et al.* [10].

Number of millable cane (x 1000/ha) at harvest:

Number of millable canes (NMC) were varied from 100.22 (CoA 92081) to 125.87 (CoC 01061). None of the clones recorded significantly higher number of millable cane during harvest over the best standard CoC 01061 (125.87 /ha). Among the test clones, the test clone CoC 11336 recorded higher NMC (123.27/ha) followed by the CoOr 12346 (117.62/ha) and CoC 12336 (115.52 /ha). Number of millable cane directly influences cane yield as it is the combined interaction of the germination and tillering potential the clone [11].

Cane length (cm):

Height of a cane contributes materially towards final cane yield. According to Jackson and MC Rae [12] under good growing condition, individual seedling clones may produce up to about 200 cm cane length can be selected for next generation. In this trait, the highest cane length was recorded by CoC 11336 (301.45 cm) and shortest cane length by check variety Co 6907 (264.87 cm). Three test clones viz., CoC 11336 (301.45 cm), CoA 12321 (297.53 cm) and CoA 12322 (295.62 cm) recorded superior performance over the best standard CoC 01061 (282.45 cm). The similar research findings were already reported by [13,14].

Cane diameter (cm):

In this trial, the cane diameter ranged from 2.35 cm (CoC 01061) to 2.95 cm (CoV 12356). All the test clones were recorded numerically superior performance than the best standard CoA 92081 (2.73 cm) except two test clones and they are equivalent performance with best checks for cane diameter. Canes that grow tall and thin may be more prone to lodging; the tall clones with thick stalked canes that resist lodging may have great potential to be the high yielding varieties in future. Stalk

diameter is an important yield contributing character and large stalk diameter would enhance the acceptability of varieties from commercial point of view [15].

Single cane weight (kg):

Single cane weight is the product of its length and girth, contributes substantially towards final cane yield. The results on single cane weight in the study, was ranged from 1.03 kg (CoC 01061) to 1.65 kg (CoC 11336). All the clones were recorded numerically superior performance over the best standard CoA 92081 (1.37kg). The similar kind of result was already reported by [16].

Cane Yield (t/ha):

Cane yield is an important parameter to find out the economic potential of a clone. It is the combination of functions like environmental responses and genetic potential of a genotype. High cane yielding varieties showed best environmental response and hence revealed good performance of cane yield as compared to the other varieties [17]. Therefore, the evolution of high yielding clones are urgently needed it may increase the cane yield per unit area. In the present study, the highest cane yield was recorded by CoC 11336 (134.45 t/ha) and minimum in Co 6907 (101.65 t/ha). All the clones were recorded numerically superior performance over the best standard CoA 92081 (112.85t/ha.). The similar kind research works were already reported by [18,19].

Juice Quality Traits

Brix% at Harvest:

Brix per cent (Total Soluble Solids) plays an important role in determining the sugar recovery per cent of the sugarcane. In the present study, the brix per cent was varied from 21.14 (CoV 12356) to 19.60 (CoC 12336). The test clone CoV 12356 (21.25%) recorded superior performance over the best check CoC 01061, which recorded 20.95%. Among the seven test clones, only two clones namely CoV 12356 (21.25 %) and CoA 12323 (21.10%) recorded higher brix value over the checks. These results are in agreement with the findings of [20, 21], who studied a number of sugarcane varieties and found different levels of Brix Per cent.

Sucrose per cent at harvest:

The sucrose per cent is useful in deciding the quality of sugarcane and it influences the sugar recovery and sugar production in sugar mills. In this trial, sucrose per cent at harvest was ranged from 16.85(Co 6907) to 17.85(CoV 12356). The test clone CoV 12356 (17.85%) recorded superior performance over the best standard CoC 01061(17.61%). The test clone CoV 12356 recorded highest sucrose per cent (17.85) followed by the clone CoOr 12346 (17.72%) over standard CoC 01061, which recorded 17.61%.The results are almost same as reported by [22].

CCS per cent at harvest:

Commercial cane sugar (CCS) per cent is the best tool for breeders and millers for identification of high quality genotypes. The CCS per cent of the present investigation ranged from 12.10 (Co 6907) to 12.96(CoV 12356). The three test clones viz., CoV 12356 (12.96 %), CoOr 12346 (12.80 %) and CoC 11336 (12.77%) recorded numerically superior performance over the best standard CoC01061 (12.75 %). The similar reports have already reportedby [23].

Purity per cent at harvest:

The purity per cent in the present study varied from 88.17 (Co 6907) to 90.67 (CoV 12356). Only two clonesCoV 12356 (90.67 %) and CoA 12323 (90.52%) recorded superior performance over the best standard CoC 01061 (90.47 %). This discussion shows a close conciseness with [23, 24].

CCSYield (t/ha):

In this study, Commercial cane sugar (CCS)yield ranged from 12.30 t/ha (Co 6907) to 15.73 t/ha (CoA 12322). All the test clones were recorded numerically superior performance than the best standard CoA 92081(13.04t/ha). In AVT, the test clone CoC 11336 recorded higher CCS yield (16.62t/ha) followed by the clone CoC 10336 (15.83t/ha) and CoA 11323 (14.98t/ha) over the best standard CoC 01061(14.15t/ha).This discussion shows a close succinctness with those of [25]. The higher CCS yield of clones may be attributed to relatively more average cane yield and subsequent commercial cane sugar percentage. Thevarieties capable of giving higher cane yields and fairly good recovery leading to higher sugar production in unit area [26, 27].

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of the present study, it could be concluded that the test clones, CoC 11336 and CoA 12321 were found to be best for yield and quality contributing traits *viz.*, number of millable canes, cane length, cane diameter and single cane weight, sucrose per cent and CCS yield over the best check variety CoA 92081. Hence, these two clones namely CoC 11336 and CoA 12321 could be promoted for the confirmation trials for cane yield and sugar yield under different agro climatic conditions for variety release.

Disclaimer (Artificial intelligence)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (Chat GPT, COPILOT, *etc*) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

REFERENCES

1. Balwant Kumar. Glimpses of sugarcane varietal screening and improvement at Pusa, Bihar. *Acta Scientific Agriculture*. 2020;4(3):01-12.
2. FAO. FAOSTAT. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy; 2017. Available: <http://www.fao.org/faostat>.
3. India stat. Online database; 2018. Available: <https://www.indiaagristat.com>
4. Das PK, Rarida AK, Nayak N, Mahapatra SS, Jena BC. Path coefficient, regression and Discrimination functions in sugarcane. *Indian Sugar*. 1997;47(1):31-34.
5. Singh PR, Gupta MR. Sugarcane management strategy for early maturing varieties for higher productivity in U.P. *Indian Sugar*. 1999;48(12):983-989.
6. Muchow RC, Rabertson MJ, Wood AW. Growth of sugarcane under high input conditions in tropical Australia. Sucrose accumulation and commercial yield. *Field Crops Res*. Submitted; 1996.
7. Singh RK, Singh GP. Effect of sampling time on efficacy of selection for quality traits in sugarcane. *Sugar Cane*. 1998; 3:13–17.
8. Meade, CP, Chen JCP. Cane sugar hand book, 10th Edn. John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1977. New York.

9. Panse VG, Sukhatme PV. Statistical methods for Agricultural Workers. 1978. ICAR, New Delhi.
10. Rakesh G, Eswara Reddy G, Swapna NP, Jalender NP, Swathi Y, Prabhakar Reddy T, Vijay Kumar M. Estimation of Genetic Parameters in Early Maturing Sugarcane Clones for Yield and Quality Traits. J. Experimental Agric. Inter. 2020; 42(5): 115-121.
11. Ganapathy S, Purushothaman RS. Evaluation of Early Maturing Sugarcane Clones for Yield, Quality and Its Contributing Traits in East Coast Zone of Tamil Nadu. Inter. J. Plant Soil. Sci. 2022. 34 (20), 575-581.
12. Jackson P, Mc Rae TA. Selection of sugarcane clones in small plots- Effects of plot size and selection criteria. Crop Science. 2001. 41: 315- 322.
13. Pooja Dhansu, Nandwal AS, Surender Kumar, Mehar Chand, Babita Rani, Neeraj Kulshreshtha. Comparative evaluation of growth, yield and yield attributing traits in sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) under different soil moisture regimes. Indian J. Agric. Sciences. 2022;92(8): 942–946.
14. Ganapathy S, Ravichandran V, Purushothaman RS. Evaluation of promising sugarcane clones for cane yield, sugar yield and resistance to red rot disease in zonal varietal trial. Trends in Biosciences. 2017; 10 (15): 2686-2689.
15. Ganapathy S, Ravichandran V, Jayakumar J. Yield, Quality and disease resistance of sugarcane clones. A Field Evaluation. J. Experimental Agric. Int. 2024; 46(5): 40-46.
16. Sabitha N, Prasada Rao K. Promising high yielding and sucrose rich early maturing sugarcane clones for Andhra Pradesh. Sugar Journal 2008 – 39th Annual convention of SISSTA. 2008; 11- 14.
17. Ganapathy S, Purushothaman RS. (2017). Performance of Promising Early Maturing Sugarcane Clones for Yield and Quality Traits during Varietal Development Process. Electronic J. Pl. Breed. 2017. 8(1): 279- 282.
18. Chitkaladevi T, Bharathalakshmi, M, Kumara BGS, Nagarjuna D. Performance of new promising early maturing sugarcane genotypes under graded levels of nitrogen. Inter. J. Agric. Sciences. 14 (11); 2022: 11872-11873. <https://bioinfopublication.org/pages/jouarchive.php?id=BPJ0000217>

19. Elayaraja K, Shanthi RM. Identification of principal traits for ratooning ability associated with cane yield and juice quality in sugarcane genotypes from advanced varietal evaluation trials. *J. Sugarcane Research*, 2021; 11, 66-73.
20. Hapase RS, Talekar SD, Repale J, Moudale RB. Sugar productivity assessment of early maturing sugarcane genotypes in Peninsular India. *Sugar J.* 2013. 43rd Annual Convention of SISSTA. 29-33.
21. Ghodke SK, Nimbalkar RU, Nalawade SV, Bhilare RL. Application of organic and inorganic fertilizer in sugarcane for maintenance of soil health and sugarcane productivity. *Inter. J Agriculture Sci.* 2023; 15 (7); 12473-12475.
22. Nirmodh Prabha. Evaluation of Early Group of Sugarcane Genotypes for Yield and quality Traits. *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci.* 2021; 10 (02): 648-652.
23. Sadras Bhavana M, Vijay Kumar G, Madhu Bindu S, Reddy DVV, Chiranjeevi K. Assessment of Quality Parameters in Different Clones of Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.). *Int. J. Environment Climate Change.* 2022; 12(11): 3524-3530.
24. Ganapathy S, Ravichandran V. Evaluation and Identification of promising sugarcane clones for yield, quality, and resistance to red rot suitable for India's East coast zone. *Int. J. Agric. Sci.* 2022; 14(12): 11991-11994.
25. Arati Yadav B, Kongawad Y, Kadlag AD, Baligar Veena. Evaluation of advanced sugarcane clones for cane yield and quality traits in plant and ratoon crops. *Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding*, 2022; 13(4): 1250-1259.
26. Ganapathy S, Jayakumar J. Evaluation of Sugarcane (*Saccharum spp.* hybrids) Clones for Yield, Quality, and Its Contributing Traits. *J. Experimental Agric. Inter.* 2023. 45 (7): 113-118.
27. Ganapathy S, Ladha R, Purushothaman RS, Ravichandran V, Karunakaran V, Jayakumar J, Appunu C. CoC 25 - An early maturing high-yielding and red rot-resistant sugarcane variety suitable for the East Coast Zone of India. *J. Environ. Biol.* 2024; 45(5): 586-594. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22438/jeb/45/5/MRN-5346>

Table 1. Mean square values and their significance from ANOVA for cane yield and quality traits

Source of Variation	df	Mean square values										
		No. Of tillers	NMC	Stalk length	Stalk diameter	Single cane wt.	Cane Yield	Brix %	Sucrose %	Purity %	CCS %	CCSr Yield.
Variety	09	325.45	319.75	421.21	0.07	0.102	394.01	0.61	0.27	3.02	0.46	8.96
Error	17	107.17	105.13	111.90	0.01	0.011	47.99	0.07	0.07	1.33	0.04	0.97
Total	28	523.35	398.04	561.69	0.08	0.122	448.12	0.68	0.35	4.35	0.59	9.25

Table 2. Mean performance of early maturing sugarcane clones for yield and quality traits

S.No.	Clone	No. of tillers (x1000/ha)	NMC (x1000/ha)	Cane Length (cm)	Cane Diameter (cm)	Single Cane Wt. (kg)	Cane Yield (t/ha)	Brix (%)	Sucrose (%)	CCS (%)	Purity (%)	CCS yield(t/ha).
1.	CoA 12321	127.85	111.65	297.53	2.85	1.55	130.37	20.65	17.61	12.63	90.10	16.46
2	CoA 12322	123.52	101.36	295.62	2.73	1.42	127.75	20.45	17.10	12.47	89.75	15.93
3	CoA 12323	127.45	105.45	273.35	2.72	1.45	122.10	21.10	17.65	12.71	90.52	15.54
4	CoOr 12346	128.51	117.62	281.55	2.81	1.47	124.84	20.25	17.72	12.80	90.45	15.97
5	CoV 12356	125.64	96.87	276.15	2.95	1.35	119.75	21.25	17.85	12.96	90.67	15.50
6	CoC 12336	129.37	115.52	275.33	2.75	1.40	128.16	19.60	17.04	12.52	89.50	16.04
7	CoC 11336	132.51	123.27	301.45	2.90	1.65	134.45	20.75	17.72	12.77	90.15	17.17
	Check											
1	Co 6907	124.85	106.82	264.87	2.65	1.22	101.65	20.55	16.85	12.10	88.17	12.30
2	CoC 01061	137.28	125.87	282.45	2.35	1.03	108.37	20.95	17.61	12.75	90.44	13.82
3	CoA 92081	120.65	100.22	268.77	2.73	1.37	112.85	20.42	17.55	12.56	89.71	14.17
	CD (0.05%)	15.51	14.62	17.57	0.17	0.19	12.62	0.44	0.42	0.35	1.85	1.54
	CV (%)	7.55	7.42	4.85	3.72	8.28	6.37	1.27	1.32	1.55	1.05	5.63

UNDER PEER REVIEW