

CHAPTER - V

IMPACT OF MEASURES TAKEN

- (1) Impact of Measures.

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Rajaram Karkhana intensified its cane development activities from 1978 onwards with increased crushing capacity of 2000 TCD. The intensified development activities were in respect of production and distribution of healthy cane seed, training of sugarcane development workers, demonstrations on improved practices, timely plant protection measures and construction of important link roads, boring of wells, subsidy schemes etc. Consequently the sugarcane area, sugarcane production and yield per hectare rose gradually from 1979-80 to 1982-83. The Table 5.1 shows area under sugarcane (members' farms) increased from 2791 hectares in 1979-80 to 3696 hectares in 1982-83 with sugarcane yield of 70 tonnes and 85 tonnes per hectare respectively. Consequently the sugarcane production increased from 1,94,964 M.T. in 1979-80 to 3,14,308 M.T. in 1982-83. No doubt there has been a steady increase in the sugarcane area, sugarcane production and yield per hectare.

In the year 1983-84 there was a decline in area under sugarcane and yield per hectare. This resulted in declining in sugarcane production. As compared to 1982-83 the area under sugarcane declined by 806 hectares, yield

per hectare declined by 6 tonnes and sugarcane production declined by 85,915 M.T. in 1983-84. Even though the cane development activities were carried out by Rajaram Karkhana in the year 1983-84, there was a set back in respect of area under sugarcane, yield per hectare and sugarcane production. The decline in cane area was mainly due to allotment of 15 villages from the area of operation of Rajaram Karkhana to Hutatma Kisan Ahir Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Walwa, Dist. Sangli. At the same time late harvesting in the year 1981-82 for 42 days and 1982-83 for 36 days resulted in decline in area under sugarcane of rotation crops. The late harvesting resulted in shortening the growth period of the crop and due to high temperature during the months of April, May and June, the sprouting of the summer harvested crop was poor and resulted in poor yield and the yield per hectare declined. As the cane area and yield per hectare declined, the sugarcane production declined.

In the year 1984-85 the area under sugarcane increased by 536 hectares and sugarcane production increased by 28,310 M.T. as compared to 1983-84 but the yield per hectare declined by 4 tonnes. The increase in sugarcane area and sugarcane production was due to various cane

development activities of Rajaram Karkhana. However, the decline in yield per hectare was due to lower application of fertilizers by the members (as the prices of fertilizers increased) and continuous cane production for years without taking an alternative crop after say 3 or 3½ years.

In the year 1985-86 the area under sugarcane declined by 385 hectares and its production declined by 11,682 M.T. as compared to 1984-85, but the yield per hectare increased by 6 tonnes. The decline in the area and sugarcane production was mainly due to extreme drought conditions which lowered water table in wells. The increase in yield per hectare was mainly due to proper application of fertilizers and manures (press-mud). It was because Rajaram Karkhana increased credit limit for supply of fertilizers from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 13000, as the prices of fertilizers increased.

From 1985-86 onwards Rajaram Karkhana concentrated its attention on bringing more and more land under irrigation schemes because of uncertainty of monsoon and decline in area under sugarcane on wells. For assured supply of water the Karkhana has taken up management of 6 co-operative irrigation schemes which were not functioning properly, Rajaram Karkhana provided financial assistance to these schemes, 20 co-operative irrigation schemes were completed

and work of 20 schemes are in progress. Separate sugarcane development department and for economic use of water, separate Water Management Department, created by Karkhana. Along with sugarcane development programme, emphasis on transfer of technology and educating farmers was given. Because of these efforts the area under sugarcane increased from 3041 hectares in 1985-86 to 3340 hectares in 1986-87 and 3328 htrs. in 1987-88. Despite this increase in area, yield per hectare increased due to higher irrigation application and higher level of inputs use. The increase was 9 tonnes and 8 tonnes in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively, as compared to yield in 1985-86. The increase in sugarcane area and yield per hectare resulted in increasing sugarcane production from 245021 M.T. in 1985-86 to 296023 M.T. in 1986-87, 291386 M.T. in 1987-88. In the year 1988-89 additional 20 villages of Walwa taluka are included in the area of Rajaram Karkhana. In crushing season 1988-89, upto 31st March, 1989, the area under sugarcane registered for crushing was 3026 hectares and yield per hectare was 75 M.T. The Sugarcane production, crushed upto 31st March, 1989 was 2,25,911 M.T.

Rajaram Karkhana was required to purchase to some extent sugarcane for crushing from outside the area of operation of the Karkhana upto 1987-88.

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In 1979-80 the sugarcane purchased from outside the area of operation of the Karkhana was 24% of total crushing, where as in 1987-88 it was 0.5%. In 1988-89 crushing season the Rajaram Karkhana became self sufficient in sugarcane requirement from its own area of operation. This was possible because of increased sugarcane production. In order to deal with this increased sugarcane production, Rajaram Karkhana increased its crushing capacity from 2000 TCD to 4000 TCD in 1989-90 crushing season.

Rajaram Karkhana is successful in maintaining upward trend in average recovery percent, due to maturity-wise harvesting and the minimum time lag between cutting and crushing. During the period of this study the recovery percentage has never fallen below 11.50%. In the 1986-87 and 1987-88 the recovery percent was 11.64 and 11.60 which was low as compared to other years. This was mainly because of agro-climatic conditions. The heavy rainfall in these two years reduced average recovery percentage. In the year 1988-89 the average recovery percentage has hit the mark of 12.27 percent. The higher recovery percentage enables the Karkhana to pay higher prices for their sugarcane production than the price fixed by the Government. The price paid to cultivators increased from Rs.254 in 1979-80 to Rs. 476 in 1988-89, within a period of a decade.