Title: Sugarcane Cultivation In Upper Bhima Basin: A Geographical Analysis With Special Reference To Shirur Tahsil Of Pune District (Maharashtra State)

INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture still forms the backbone of Indian economy, despite concerned efforts towards industrialization in the last three decades. Agriculture contributes a high share of net domestic product by sectors in India. Agriculture has been and will continue to be the lifeline of Indian economy. The progress made by agriculture in the last four decades one of the biggest success stories of free India. Agriculture and allied activities constitute the single largest contributor to the gross domestic product. Agriculture is the means of livelihood of about two-third of the workforce in the country. Sugarcane is an important cash crop in India so the production of sugarcane is unique in the tropical agriculture. Sugarcane is an important source of energy and mainly it provides sugar. Besides this it also provides raw material for number of industrial products such as alcohol, cardboard, paper pulp and today sugar mills are also generating electricity. So in modern time sugarcane cultivation should be increased in multiple numbers. The length of growing period of sugarcane is varies from 10 month to more than two years depending upon soil, and climatic condition. Cane yields vary considerably from place to place and also from season to season. One of the important factors that contribute to such variation is climate for its affects, germination, growth, yield and sugar content directly. Mechanization of sugarcane farming is basic need of modern sugarcane agriculture. Because of sugarcane is one of the most important cash crop of India, it is grown in most part of the country in total area of about 4Mha. This crop needs highest labor as compare to any other crop. With the economic growth of the nation, government welfare measures for unemployed youth, providing employment guarantee at village level, arduous field operations, dignity involvement etc; timely availability of required number of farm labor has become a deterrent factor in carrying out required field operations in time. Due to increased labor wages, cost of production of sugarcane has gone up, resulting in
lowering down the profit margin of cane grower. Many times grower feels distressed in carrying out field operations for want of manpower. Thus, mechanization is the only option left to grow sugarcane economically and gracefully. Lot of efforts has been made at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow and elsewhere to develop suitable equipments for sugarcane farming. Some of the efforts have proven their utility at farmer’s fields, in terms of cost effectiveness, reduction in labor requirement, timely operations, providing dignity to labors etc. In this age of liberalization, privatization and globalization high economic growth have been taking place of many sector. Development of agriculture is slow in a country like India, where agriculture is a backbone of its economy. So the research related to agriculture should be involved in different social science like Geography, Economics, Sociology etc and a life sciences like Botany, Chemistry, Physics etc and also Engineering and Bio-Engineering fields. This research is an interdisciplinary relevance of improving cultivation and management for increasing cane production. The measurement of sugarcane production and input required for the sugarcane production of that output is known as sugarcane productivity. In other words, it is input-output ratio. In traditional measurement of sugarcane productivity geographers and economists used to take in account the input like labor and capital, and time. them as costs which are incurred in the production of sugarcane produce. The traditional approach of measurement of sugarcane productivity, however does not take in to account of social and environment costs which are also incurred in the production of crops and raising livestock. At present measurement of sugarcane productivity question of sustainability of soil, health of ecosystem and social acceptability has become increasingly important.