IMPACT OF FLAT AND PIT PLANTATION TECHNOLOGY ON PRODUCTIVITY OF SPRING PLANTED SUGARCANE

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Effect of various planting techniques on growth, cane yield and juice quality of spring planted sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum L.) was investigated at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Sugarcane planted in 100 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits in a diagonal fashion produced the highest cane yield (153.18 t ha^{-1}) as against the lowest of 68.32 t ha^{-1} for cane planted in 90 cm spaced double-row strips, flat plantation. Maximum number of millable cane (15.28 m^2) was also recorded for crop planted in the former planting method. However, no significant effect of planting technique was observed on cane juice quality.

INTRODUCTION

Currently only 40% of the total yield potential of existing sugarcane *(Saccharum officinarum* L.) varieties is being harvested and the remaining 60% may be explored by adapting new production technology and high rated crop management (Nazir *et al.*, 1990). Among the cultural practices, an appropriate planting geometry and population density per unit area are of great significance because of their magnificent contribution in the formulation of final yield of sugarcane (Nandihalli and Singh, 1982). The row spacings (45 or 60 cm) had no

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The effect planting techniques on growth, yield and juice quality of spring planted sugarcane was investigated at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on a sandy clay loam soil during the year, 1989. The experiment was quadruplicated in a Randomized complete block design. The planting techniques comprised 90 cm spaced double row strips (control), 100 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits, 100 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits in a diagonal fashion, 90 cm spaced 90 x 90 cm pits, 90 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits, 70 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits and 50 cm spaced 100 x 100 cm pits.