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Pak. J. Agri. Sci., Vol. 31, No. f, 1994

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT FOR PROFITABLE SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

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Sugarcane productivity has been exhibiting stagnating trend over the last about 10 years. The present study has examined the pattern and level of use of production inputs on 237 acres, involving 100 farm respondents. The results of the study showed that low productivity in sugarcane originated mainly from low investment on important production inputs/practices. Productivity differentials among the selected farmers were seen directly related to level of investment for increased productivity. The returns on investment in improved sugarcane technology/practices were calculated using discrete analysis technique. The results appeared very attractive.

INTRODUCTION ers engaged in the task of improving sugarcane productivity in the country.

Sugarcane productivity has remained al-

most stagnant over the past 10 years. The yield METHODS AND MATERIALS

of sugarcane which stood? at 35.7 tonnes per

hectare in the year 1982-83 only marginally The mill zone area of Shakar Ganj sugar

increased to 43,5 tonnes in 1992-93, showing a mill constituted the universe for this study. Five

very slow growth rate of about 2% per annum. villages located at different distances from the

There is a desperate need now to increase mill gate were selected at random. A sample of

sugarcane productivity to meet additional re- 100 farmers was randomly drawn for final

quirements of our ever growing population. A study. Sugarcane input-output data per acre

number of studies in the past have shown that were recorded for 237 acres. These data were

quantitative factors such as plant protection later categorised into 5 yield categories i.e. upto

measures, weedicides, seed rate, fertilizer and 20000, 20000 to 40000, 40000 to 60000, 60000

irrigation water have important bearing upon to 80000 and over 80000 kg per acre. For each

cane yield (Gill, 1978; Gondal, 1979), There yield category, gross field benefits, variable

also exists enough evidence that non price fac- field costs and net field benefits were calculated.

tors i.e. time of sowing, method of sowing and Additional capital requirements were then

improved varieties affect cane ; rodution sig- worked out and compared. The economic feasi-

nificantly (Akhtar, 1991; Khan, 1991). How- bility of additional capital investment was fi-

ever, none of the studies was conducted on the nally determined by using marginal returns

basis of field data to pinpoint the extent of analysis technique.

capital requirements for obtaining different lev- :

els of ouput of sugarcane. This study being an RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

endeavour in this direction was conducted with

the main objective of generating information for 4. —_ Gross field benefits, variable field costs

the benefit of policy makers and extension work- and net benefits: As will be seen from Table 1