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KC Ombase

Central Sugarcane Research
Station, Padegaon, Tal. Phaltan,
Satara, Maharashtra, India

PM Chaudhari

Central Sugarcane Research
Station, Padegaon, Tal. Phaltan,
Satara, Maharashtra, India

SK Ghodke

Central Sugarcane Research
Station, Padegaon, Tal. Phaltan,
Satara, Maharashtra, India

RM Dixit

Central Sugarcane Research
Station, Padegaon, Tal. Phaltan,
Satara, Maharashtra, India

Effect of weed management practices on weed dynamics, growth, yield and economics spring sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.)

KC Ombase, PM Chaudhari, SK Ghodke and RM Dixit

Abstract

A field experiment was conducted to assess the performance of different weed management practices in spring sugarcane var. Co 86032 during year 2008-09 to 2010-11 at Central Sugarcane Research Station, Padegaon. In spring planted sugarcane application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE +2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ spray at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP found superior for control of weed in sugarcane with the highest weed control efficiency (80.80) at 120 DAP and also recorded significantly highest cane and CCS yield (115.52 and 17.33 t ha⁻¹ respectively), Net profit (₹ 54628 ha⁻¹) and benefit cost ratio (1.72). Application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE +2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP was found the next best treatment for weed control in sugarcane.

Keywords: Sugarcane, metribuzine, integrated weed management

Introduction

Adoption of improved technology based on seed nutrient and plant protection has enable the attainment of self sufficiency of food in India. However, there is a fear that it may short-lived, as a gap between food demand and supply is increasing due to high population growth rate. In this situation the urgency lies in increasing agricultural productivity with technologies that lead to remunerative, sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural system.

Sugarcane is the most important cash crop of Maharashtra. Sugar industry plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic and educational development in rural areas of Maharashtra. Many production factors are responsible for poor productivity of sugarcane *viz.* pure seed, nutrient and water management, aftercare operations in which weed management in a crucial one. Weeds are among the most under estimated pest, especially in India, where they cause average crop losses of 33 percent and more. Low productivity is mainly due to heavy weed infestation. (Srivastava *et al.*, 2002) [6] It is more appropriate that weeds, unlike insect and diseases often cause hidden symptoms of damage prior to harvest of sugarcane, and possibly also because of fatalistic attitude that weeds will always be present. Labour shortage is always there with sugarcane production (Ghosh *et al.*, 2013) [1]. Therefore, the investigation was planned with objective to find out economical and effective weed management system in spring sugarcane.

Methodology

The field experiment was conducted to assess the performance of different weed management practices in spring sugarcane var. Co 86032 during year 2008-09 to 2010-11 at Central Sugarcane Research Station, Padegaon. The twelve treatments consisting of weedy check (T₁), Two HW at 30 and 60 DAP + 1 hoeing at 90 DAP (T₂), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE +2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₃), Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₄), Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₅), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₆), Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + Metribuzine @ 1 kga.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₇), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drown cultivator at 60 DAP (T₈), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drown cultivator at 90 DAP (T₉), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE +2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ spray at 15-18 DAP as PoE + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₁₀), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ PoE at 15-18 DAP + Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₁₁) and Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ PoE at 15-18 DAP + power tiller with rotavator at 90 DAP (T₁₂)

Corresponding Author:**KC Ombase**

Central Sugarcane Research
Station, Padegaon, Tal. Phaltan,
Satara, Maharashtra, India

replicated thrice in randomised block design. The sugarcane var. Co 86032 was planted in spring season with 120 cm row spacing in gross and net plot size 10 m x 7.20 m and 8 m x 4.80 m, respectively. The crop was fertilized with 300:140:140 kg ha⁻¹ N, P₂O₅ and K₂ O. The soil of experimental plot was medium black.

Results

Weed studies: Weed flora

The major monocot weed flora observed in experimental plot was viz. *Cynodon dactylon*, *Panicum isachami*, *Commelin abenghalensis*, *Bracherea spp*, *Convol vulusarvensis*, and dicot viz. *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Ameranthu sviridis*, *Digeria arvensis*, *Ipomea aquitica*, *Ecllipta spp.*, *Xanthium strumarium* and *Euphorbia spp*. *Cyperus rotundous* was observed under sedges.

Weed Dynamics

The data on effect of different weed management treatments on weed intensity, dry weight of weeds and weed control efficiency (WCE) are presented in Table 1.

At 30 DAP application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE +2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₁₀) significantly reduced the weed intensity which was found at par with Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + power tiller with rotator at 90 DAP (T₁₂), Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP+ Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹,+2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₁₁), Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ spray at 15-18 DAP + Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₇) and Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE spray at 15-18 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₅). The dry weight of weeds at 30 DAP was significantly lower in application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹, +2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₁₁) which was found at par with T₁₂, T₁₀, T₇, T₅ and T₄. While weed control efficiency was higher in T₁₁ and T₁₂. (Table 1). At 60 DAP, application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ spray at 15-18 DAP + Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₇) was found most significant in reduction of weed intensity and dry weight of weed, which is followed

by T₁₁ with respect to weed intensity and T₆, T₁₁, T₁₂, T₅, T₂ and T₄ were found at par with T₇ with respect to dry weight of weed. Application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ spray at 15-18 DAP + Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP (T₇) recorded higher WCE at 60 DAP. The results are confirmative to Ghosh *et al.*, 2012 [2].

At 90 DAP the weed intensity was significantly reduced due to application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drawn cultivator at 60 DAP (T₈) which was found at par with treatment T₄, T₃, T₂ and T₇. Significantly lowest dry weight of weeds was observed in two weeding at 30 and 60 DAP + 1 hoeing at 90 DAP (T₂) and application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drawn cultivator at 60 DAP (T₈) which was found at par with all the treatment except T₉ and control. The highest weed control efficiency at 90 DAP was observed in application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drawn cultivator at 60 DAP (T₈). At 120 DAP, significantly the lowest weed intensity and dry weight of weeds was recorded due to application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₄) which was found at par with treatment T₃, T₂, T₅ and T₁₀ with respect to weed intensity and T₂, T₃, T₆, T₇, T₈ and T₁₁ with respect to dry weight of weeds. Also the highest weed control efficiency was observed with the application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i.ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (T₄) at 120 DAP. The results are inconformity with Raskar (2004) [3] and Tej Pratap *et al.* (2013) [7].

Growth, cane and ccs yield

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that, application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE spray + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP observed significantly the highest millable height (239 cm) and millable canes (98093 ha⁻¹) and cane yield (115.52 t ha⁻¹) and CCS yield (17.23 t ha⁻¹) than other treatments. While the cane yield was found at par with application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as as PE + 2,4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP (111.80 t ha⁻¹). Similar results have been reported by Sokolova (2010) [4], Srivastava (2005) [5] and Tomar (2003) [8].

Table 1: Weed dynamics, sugarcane growth, yield and economics as affected by various weed management treatments (Three years pooled mean)

Treatments	Weed intensity (no. /m ²)				Weed dry wt. (g/m ²)				WCE (%)				Millable height (cm)	Millable Canes /ha	Cane yield (t/ha)	CCS yield (t/ha)	Net profit (₹/ha)	B: Cratio
	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	120 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	120 DAP	30 DAP	60 DAP	90 DAP	120 DAP						
T ₁ : Weedy check	35.00 (6.00)	46.00 (6.84)	59.00 (7.74)	62.00 (7.65)	40.00 (6.37)	59.00 (7.72)	64.00 (8.05)	73.00 (8.05)	--	--	--	--	202	84503	72.01	9.85	10225	1.14
T ₂ : Two weeding at 30 and 60 DAP + 1 hoeing at 90 DAP.	33.00 (5.82)	21.00 (4.68)	18.00 (4.34)	14.00 (3.85)	38.00 (6.24)	23.00 (4.81)	17.00 (4.22)	19.00 (4.22)	5.00	61.0	70.3	73.9	232	93866	108.0 1	14.82	41801	1.52
T ₃ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha-1 as PE +2,4-D@ 1kg a.i. ha-1 as PoE at 60 DAP +hoeing at 90 DAP	17.00 (4.24)	30.00 (5.56)	18.00 (4.33)	13.00 (3.91)	20.00 (4.54)	34.00 (5.88)	20.00 (4.56)	18.00 (4.56)	50.0	42.3	68.7	75.3	230	95928	111.8 0	15.53	50416	1.66
T ₄ : Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha-1 as PE +2,4-D@ 1kg a.i. ha-1 as PoE at 60 DAP +hoeing at 90 DAP	11.00 (3.45)	19.00 (4.46)	14.00 (3.85)	9.00 (3.05)	12.00 (3.57)	23.00 (4.83)	18.00 (4.35)	14.00 (4.35)	70.0	61.0	71.8	80.8	239	98093	115.5 2	17.33	54628	1.72
T ₅ : Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha-1 as as PoE spray at 15-18 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP.	8.00 (3.00)	16.00 (4.12)	27.00 (5.26)	15.00 (3.93)	11.00 (3.43)	19.00 (4.44)	33.00 (5.71)	20.00 (5.71)	72.5	67.7	48.4	72.6	230	96056	107.9 6	15.01	46162	1.60
T ₆ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha-1 as PE + Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha-1 as PoE at 45 DAP.	17.00 (4.24)	17.00 (4.23)	29.00 (5.45)	36.00 (6.24)	21.00 (4.64)	18.00 (4.11)	29.00 (5.40)	38.00 (5.40)	47.5	69.5	54.6	47.9	236	94205	101.7 2	13.94	39608	1.52
T ₇ : Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha-1 spray at 15-18 DAP +	8.00 (3.00)	6.00 (2.62)	21.00 (4.64)	26.00 (4.89)	10.00 (3.27)	9.00 (3.06)	21.00 (4.66)	29.00 (4.66)	75.0	84.7	67.1	60.2	229	95910	103.6 8	14.37	39832	1.51

Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP																			
T ₈ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drawn cultivator at 60 DAP.	17.00 (4.24)	32.00 (5.73)	13.00 (3.73)	19.00 (4.46)	21.00 (4.68)	35.00 (5.96)	17.00 (4.22)	29.00 (4.22)	47.5	40.6	73.4	60.2	226	94600	100.6 3	13.64	38210	1.50	
T ₉ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PE + Tractor drawn cultivator at 90 DAP.	18.00 (4.35)	31.00 (5.66)	34.00 (5.89)	19.00 (4.44)	21.00 (4.66)	35.00 (5.96)	41.00 (6.44)	24.00 (6.44)	47.5	40.6	35.9	67.0	226	94168	97.86	13.57	35014	1.46	
T ₁₀ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PE +2,4-D@1kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP. + hoeing at 90 DAP.	6.00 (2.64)	22.00 (4.76)	27.00 (5.27)	15.00 (3.94)	11.00 (3.41)	29.00 (5.44)	32.00 (5.71)	20.00 (5.71)	72.5	50.8	50.0	72.6	225	95585	104.8 5	14.46	43642	1.58	
T ₁₁ : Atrazine @2 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PE +2,4-D@1kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP. + Atrazine @2 kg a.i./ha,+2,4-D@1kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PoE at 45 DAP.	8.00 (3.00)	14.00 (3.86)	24.00 (4.96)	30.00 (5.66)	9.00 (3.12)	17.00 (4.21)	25.00 (5.07)	38.00 (5.07)	77.5	71.1	60.9	47.9	226	95989	105.0 2	14.45	41958	1.54	
T ₁₂ - Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha ⁻¹ as PoE at 15-18 DAP + power tiller with rotator at 90 DAP.	8.00 (2.99)	18.00 (4.33)	29.00 (5.46)	13.00 (3.62)	9.00 (3.14)	20.00 (4.48)	32.00 (5.65)	18.00 (5.65)	77.5	64.4	50.0	75.3	227	96272	106.6 6	14.64	45123	1.59	
SE	0.18	0.30	0.41	0.35	0.43	0.67	0.55	0.55					2.68	0.39	1.39	0.32			
CD at 5%	0.54	0.90	1.21	1.03	1.27	1.98	1.64	1.64					7.68	1.15	4.07	0.95			

Data transformed to square root ($\sqrt{x + 1}$) transformation. Figures in parentheses are transformed values.

Economics

The data presented in Table 1 showed that, the Metribuzine @1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP realized the higher net profit (₹ 54628 ha⁻¹) and benefit: cost ratio (1.72) followed by Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP.

Conclusion

In spring planted sugarcane application of Metribuzine @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ spray at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP found superior for control of weed in sugarcane with the highest weed control efficiency (80.80) at 120 DAP and also recorded significantly highest cane and CCS yield (115.52 and 17.33 t ha⁻¹ respectively), Net profit (₹ 54628 ha⁻¹) and benefit cost ratio (1.72). Application of Atrazine @ 2 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PE + 2, 4-D @ 1 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ as PoE at 60 DAP + hoeing at 90 DAP was found the next best treatment for weed control in sugarcane.

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