**SUGARCANE**

**Soil and Climatic Conditions**

Sugarcane is a tropical plant, so the ideal temperatures required for its growth are 27 to 33˚C with a relative humidity of 80 to 85%. The amount of rainfall should be in between 1100 to 1500 mm. The velocity of wind should not exceed 60 km/HR. The plant needs bright sunlight and is intolerant to frost conditions. Sugarcane plants need fine-textured soil with rich organic matter.

**Treatment**

Propagation in sugarcane can happen through stem cuttings or seeds, but the commercial way of sugarcane cultivation is through vegetative propagation.

**Land Preparation and Planting**

The land is initially ploughed 2 to 4 times to a depth of 50 to 60 cm and is made fine. Using a disc harrow the clods are crushed, doing so smoothens the soil surface. Then it is levelled for easy movement of water during irrigation.

**Irrigation**

Sugarcane fields require a heavy water supply, around 1100 to 2000 mm of water per crop approximately depending on the climatic conditions of the area. Water can be supplied either by dependence on rain or by external irrigation methods.

**Harvesting**

The indication of sugarcane plant maturity is known by the yellow color of the crop, swelling of eye buds, the metal sound of the cane, breaking of the cane at nodes and by an instrument reading (Brix saccharometer showing 21 and 24). If the indication is not available, then sugarcane plants can be harvested after 16 months of planting ideally in the month of April till December.