Sugarcane Farm – Best Investment In Modern Agriculture Sector

Propagation of sugarcane

Propagation of sugarcane is primarily done by planting cuttings, known as seed cane or cane sets, which typically have two or more buds, usually three. Approximately 24,000 two-budded sets or 16,000 three-budded sets are required to plant one acre of land. Row spacing varies from 90 to 120 centimeters, depending on soil texture. Partial soil healing around the crop rows is performed when the cane crop begins rapid growth at the age of three to four months. Tillering or sprouting at the base of the plant occurs, and each original seed cane develops into several growing canes. Older leaves are removed to prevent insect pests, and the cane plants are tied to prevent lodging as they grow.

Sugarcane crops are often infested with weeds, especially in the furrow areas during the initial stages of growth, and manual weeding is typically done with a hoe. Fertilizers are applied to sugarcane from planting through the entire growth cycle, excluding the ripening period. The optimal amount of fertilizer varies based on soil type, climatic conditions, and the length of the growing cycle, emphasizing the importance of proper nutrient management.

Pests and Diseases

Sugarcane is susceptible to diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, and viruses, and regular irrigation is essential at various stages of growth. Initially, shallow wetting with two to three centimeters of water at shorter intervals is

recommended. During the later stages of tillering, ground growth, and maturity phases, irrigation intervals can be extended to 8 to 10 days.

Harvesting

Harvesting and milling usually occur during the dry, relatively cool season, lasting five to six months. Early varieties are typically harvested at 10 to 11 months of age when the cane becomes mature. A growing point at the upper end of the stock develops into a slender arrow bearing a tassel of tiny flowers. Sugar cane plants typically reach a height of three to four meters and have a diameter of about five centimeters. The average yield of cane stock is approximately 60 to 70 tons per hectare per year.