

at 120 cm apart trenches having net plot size of 4 x 9.6 m². The experiment was sown in the first week of September. All the agronomic practices and plant protection measures were kept uniform according to the standard. The sugarcane seed rate of 70,000 DBS/ha was used for crop sowing. Fertilizer NPK @ 168-112-112 kg ha⁻¹ was applied. The required data were recorded and analyzed using standard procedures and techniques and subjected to statistical analysis through MSTATC statistical computer programme (MSTAT-C, Manual, 1991).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Germination % and tillers/plant

Data presented in table reveal that the germination %age of all the varieties included in experiment was not affected significantly when sown in autumn season. However, the tillering behaviour of all varieties was significantly affected and the variety CPF-243 produced the highest no. of tillers/plant (3.89) which was followed by CPHS-35 (3.73) and HSF-242 (3.60). This may be due to the reason that tillering is largely a varietal character and is partly affected by cultural practices. This explanation is in harmony with Sathyavelu *et al.*, (1991).

No. of canes ha⁻¹, cane yield and CCS t ha⁻¹

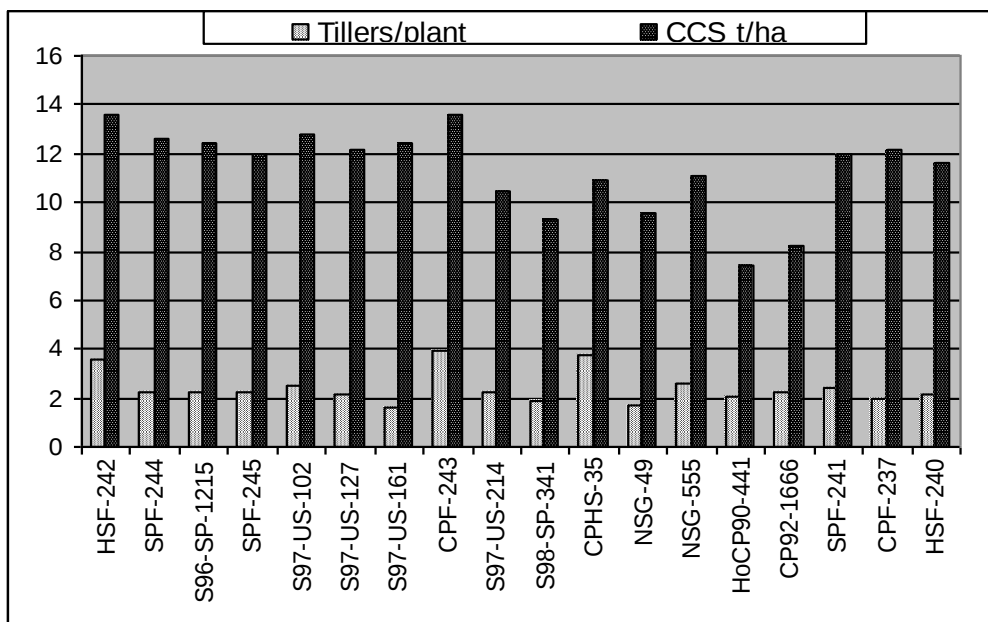
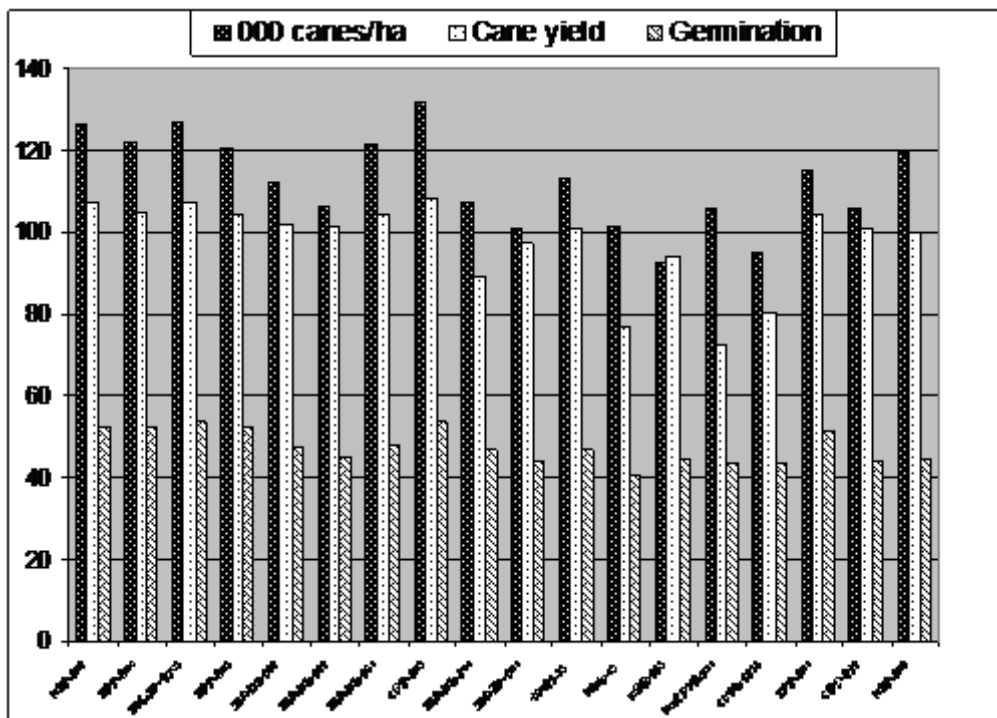
Number of canes is an important yield contributing parameter, which directly contributes to the final cane yield. The data embodied in table show that the variety CPF-243 produced the maximum thousand-cane ha⁻¹ (131.45), which was followed by the variety HSF-242 (126.25). However, CPF-243 gave the maximum cane yield of 108.17 t ha⁻¹ which was statistically at par with HSF-242 and S96-SP-1215 producing yield of 107.23 and 107.17 t ha⁻¹ respectively as against standard variety HSF-240 giving cane yield of 99.83 t ha⁻¹. This may be due to the reason that more germination %age, tillering behaviour and more number of canes ha⁻¹ of the said varieties. These varieties also produced higher CCS of 13.61, 13.56 and 12.38 t ha⁻¹, respectively as against standard variety HSF-240 producing CCS of 11.58 t ha⁻¹. Chattha *et al.*, 2004 and Bashir *et al.*, 2005, have also reported similar results.

Table-1 Yield and quality comparison of promising varieties of autumn sown sugarcane (Aveg.of two years)

Sr. No.	Varieties	Germination%	Tillers/plant	'000' cane/ha	CCS t/ha	Yield t/ha
1.	HSF-242	52.75	3.60 B	126.25 B	13.56 A	107.23 A
2.	SPF-244	52.86	2.26 E	122.26 C	12.56 AB	104.5 B
3.	S96-SP-1215	53.85	2.24 EF	127.08 B	12.38 AB	107.17 A
4.	SPF-245	52.75	2.26 E	120.30 D	12.02 AB	104.17 B
5.	S97-US-102	47.60	2.52 CD	112.20 H	12.77 AB	102.16 C
6.	S97-US-127	45.30	2.17 EF	106.15 J	12.15 AB	101.83 DE
7.	S97-US-161	48.09	1.59 I	121.43 C	12.45 AB	104.17 B
8.	CPF-243	53.85	3.89 A	131.45 A	13.61 A	108.17 A
9.	S97-US-214	46.99	2.26 E	107.46 I	10.64 BC	88.83 G
10.	S98-SP-341	44.32	1.91 H	101.16 K	9.34 AB	97.33 I
11.	CPHS-35	46.99	3.73 B	113.40 G	10.92 BC	101.17 CD
12.	NSG-49	40.74	1.66 I	101.63 L	9.59 CD	76.83 J
13.	NSG-555	44.60	2.60 C	92.56 N	11.11 BC	94.17 F
14.	HoCP 90-441	43.57	2.10 FG	105.97 J	7.46 D	72.5 K
15.	CP 92-1666	43.58	2.19 EF	95.13 H	8.25 D	80.5 H
16.	SPF-241	51.71	2.42 D	115.13 F	11.94 AB	104.17 B
17.	CPF-237	44.11	1.95 GH	105.55 J	12.14 AB	101.17 D
18.	HSF-240	44.78	2.16 EF	119.31 E	11.58 ABC	99.83 E
	LSD at 0.05	N.S.	0.1574	0.9675	2.204	1.132

N.S. = Non-significant

Values followed by the same letter in the same column do not differ significantly at 0.05 probability.



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