

Co-op sugar mills being revamped to increase area under sugarcane

With a view to motivate the farmers for increasing the area under sugarcane under sugarcane research centre at

tre Vasantdada Sugarcane Institute Pune.

The two biggest coop-



arcane cultivation in Punjab to achieve the goal of diversification of crops, the state government has undertaken an extensive exercise to modernise and strengthen the existing cooperative sugar mills in the state.

Kalanaur in the sugarcane rich Majha belt. In this direction, state Co-operation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa led a delegation of top officials of Sugarfed on a study tour of the country's biggest sugarcane research cen-

erative sugar mills in the state at Batala and Gurdaspur are being revamped by the state Co-operation department. The capacity of the Batala sugar mill is being enhanced from the current 1500-3500 tonnes of cane per day

(TCD) to 5,000 TCD at a cost of Rs 220 crore. The mill will simultaneously also start producing 15 MW of power.

Another Rs 425 crore will be spent on modernisation of the Gurdaspur co-op sugar mill to increase its capacity of crushing sugarcane from 2,000 TCD to 5,000 TCD. The mill will also be in a position to produce 25 MW of power besides 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day.

As a result of functional improvements made in recent times, cooperative sugar mills in the state crushed 2.19 crore quintals of sugarcane in 2018-19, and succeeded in improving the average recovery of sugar to 9.94 % as compared to 9.48% in the previous year.

The Bhogpur and Morinda co-op sugar mills outperformed the other co-op sugar mills by achieving sugar recovery of 11% and

10.80%, respectively. Overall the sugar recovery of co-op sugar mills was 0.46% higher than the previous year and the mills produced 1.01 lakh quintals more sugar.

The state government has also started marketing of the sugar produced in its co-op sugar mills. The state Co-operation Minister in a meeting with the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has proposed that Punjab can meet the supply of sugar being distributed through ration depots in the hill state. He argued that Punjab being an adjoining state, Himachal Pradesh by taking supply of sugar from it can save on transportation costs.

Apart from this the Budhewal co-op sugar mill has introduced its own 'Fateh' brand of 'gur' (jaggery) and 'shakkar' (sugar) in the market.

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