



DISPOSAL OF CANE TRASH AFTER HARVEST IN DRY AREAS

When cane is not burnt prior to harvest, trash made up of green tops and dry leaves is lined up either on alternate interrows or on every interrow. However, where irrigation is limited or unavailable, it has been proved that

It is preferable to spread the trash evenly over the whole field (trash blanketing).

This practice offers the following advantages over the traditional lining practices:

- 1. Savings on labour - trash blanketing requires 2 to 3 times less labour.**
- 2. Better retention of soil moisture, thus increasing cane yields under drought conditions.**
- 3. Improvement of weed control and reduction in costs due to fewer herbicide treatments.**

Although no increase in cane yield is expected in fields which are drip or overhead irrigated, trash blanketing is still more economical.

In dry areas, therefore, green cane harvesting should be encouraged and trash blanketing is recommended under such conditions.