

**CEER-B-171**

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PRODUCTION OF SUGARCANE AND TROPICAL  
GRASSES AS A RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SOURCE

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
1979-1980

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THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

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Third Annus] Report; 1979?1980

To

The United States Departaent of Enersy

Oak Ridge Operations Office, and the Division of Solar Technology

Biomass Energy Systems Branch

Washington, D. C.

By

The University of Puerto Rico

Center for Energy and Enviroment Rescarch.

Piedras, Puerto Rico

CONTRACT NO.: DE-ASOS-78ET20071 (AES-UPR Project C-481)

WeATION: Rfo Piedras, Puerto Rico

PERIOD COVERED: June 1, 1979?May 32, 1980

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Project Leader

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PRODUCTION OF SUGARCANE AND TROPICAL GRASSES AS A RENEWABLE  
ENERGY SOURCE

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## INTRODUCTION

The bionass production studies herein reported were initiated June 1, 1977 as a contribution to the Bionain Energy Program of the UPR Center for Energy and Environment Research (CEER-UPR). This research deals with sugar-cane, tropical grasses related to sugarcane, and other tropical grasses having large growth potentials on a year-round basis. The basic premise is that such plant materials can be produced continuously as a renewable, domestic source

of fuels

and chemical feedstocks that will substitute for imported fossil

energy. The present report covers the period June 1, 1979 to May 31, 1980.

## 1. Project Objectives

Primary objectives include: (a) Determining the agronomic and economic

feasibility of mechanized, year-round production of solar-dried biceaes,

through the intensive management of sugarcane and napier grass as tropical

forage:

and (b), exanination of alternative tropical grasses as potential

sources for intensive bionass production. A secondary objective concerns the

selection and breeding of new sugarcane progeny having superior biomass pro-

ductivity as their principal attribute.

## Scope of the Project

Baphasis is directed toward a highly-intensive and mechanized production

of tropical grasses as solar-dried forages. This is a deviation from convene-

tional cane and cattle feed production in chat total éry matter rather than



sugar and food components is the principal salable commodity. Management of Production inputs?particularly water, nitrogen, and candidate species, together with harvest frequency?varies significantly from established procedures. Oa

the other hand, advances in mechanized production and harvest operations within

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the sugar and cattle forage industries are being utilized with considerable

success for production of solar-dried bic

optimized production operati

ne require the identification of a few select

clones and the conditions required (or their management in an economically-

realistic operation. This is being accompli

shod in the continued developaent

Of three project phases, including greenhouse, field-lot, and field-scale

investigations (Table 1). A fourth pha

+ commercial-industrial operations,

follows logically but lies beyon! the scope of the present project. The work

herein reported deals with a continuation of the greenhouse, field-plot, and

field-scale phases begun earlier (1, 2) 2/\*

The project's screening operations are designed to identify high-yielding

Brasses that can be harvested on a year-round basis. They have indicated three

broad categories based on the time required after seeding to maximize total dry

matter (Table 2). Among sugarcane cultivars the superior growth rate per ge, a

botanical Feature,

as not been recognized historically as a desirable attribute unless combined with an acceptable Level of sugar production (3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15). Similarly, the tropical forage grasses have required acceptable digestibility and nutritive characteristics rather than high yields of dry matter (7, 8). Accordingly, our screening program often deals with long-established cultivars, but in a manner that would have astonished their original developers. In some respects this is a tropical application of the herbaceous species screening program formulated by the DOE Biomass Systems Program (9, 10).

A breeding program designed to intensify the biomass-yielding attribute of

*Saccharum* and related species lies beyond the scope of this project. Thorough

Arabic numbers in parentheses refer to relevant published literature. Complete citations are listed on pages 33 and 34.

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breeding studies would require and justify a separate project. This would include the screening of candidate parental eyes, a physiological phase to

synchronize flowering periods at the interspecific level, and be

genetic

research to break some serious constraints operating to prevent the exchange of

genes

between and allied genera (11, 12, 13, chap. 1). At a very

modest level some limited breeding is included in the present project. This

work is con-

ducted with a few obviously desirable parent clones that have desirable

breeding characteristics and which can be incorporated without inconvenience

into an ongoing breeding program for sugarcane (1, 2). Certain progeny orig-

inating with the AES-UPR sugarcane breeding program are also being considered as

potential candidates (16). Under these circumstances some prospect

is created for the emergence of superior new progeny at very little expense.

### 3. Statement on the First Quarter of Year 3

A separate report on the first quarter of year 3 was not considered justified

and the project leader received authorization to combine the first two reports

for this year's work. Owing to funding delays the period June 1 through August

31 was essentially on hold. Emergency funding amounting to about 15 percent

of regular levels enabled some limited progress to be made at the greenhouse

level where candidate screening and nutrition experiments can be performed at

relatively low cost.

The project's principal collaborators were retained during the first

quarter but without labor support. The most important experiment was kept

active during this period. This included the varietal, row-spacing, and harvest-

frequency studies with first-ratoon sugarcane and napier grass. Field-scale

2/ Categories of tropical-grass candidates for biomass production are discussed in detail elsewhere (1).

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plantings of Sordan 70:

, for mechanized harvest studies, were discontinued and new plantings previously scheduled for August were postponed until January,

1980, owing to exceptionally good weather during October of 1979 (ordinarily the wettest part of the PR rainy season) it was possible to plant six acres of

napier grass for subsequent study of mechanized harvest equipment and procedures.

?TECHNICAL REPORT

AL GREENHOUSE STUDIES.

The project's greenhouse phase is concerned with the screening of candidate tropical grasses and the response of superior cultivars to growth input and

management variables. Much

formation of this nature is obtained more rapidly

and cheaply than is possible under field conditions. Greenhouse data are not

definitive in the sense that dir

field responses and cultural recommendations,

can be stated, but perhaps two-thirds or more of the total data package needed

for @ herbaceous candidate can be gathered in this way. For *Saccharum* and related

species ordinarily propagated in populations of 30,000 to 300,000 plants per

acre, the greenhouse offers a level of precision for control of the individual

Plant that is not remotely possible in the field. This method is currently used

in Puerto Rico for its economy of project resources; under temperate-climate

conditions it offers an economy of time where field work is sea

nally Limited

to four or five favorable months per year.

Both replicated and non-replicated ?observation? experiments are conducted in the greenhouse, The latter usually concern preliminary growth-potential measurements involving only a few hundred plants in an area covering roughly 1/200 acre. Replicated experiments deal with specific growth characteristics in previously-identified candidates. Ordinarily these involve 3 to 5 replications of each treatment arranged in an incomplete randomized block design.

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## 1. Candidate Screening

The first clearly outstanding tropical grass candidate to emerge from the project's screening tests was a sweet sorghum x sudan grass hybrid.

Developed by the Northrup-King Company and marketed under the trade name "Sordan 704", this is an extremely rapid-growing grass which completes its growth and maturation processes within 10 to 12 weeks after seeding (1, 2).

Subsequent screening tests revealed other candidate clones moderately superior



to Sordan JOA, particularly under conditions of moisture stress

c

All of

these grasses are clearly short-rot:

on species

?A number of additional clones became available to the project whose correct

categories for field-plot tests

were less clearly defined, These range from

potential short-rotation species (Johnsen grass, SES-231) to potential long-

rotation species (US 6722-2, US 72-70). Seven of these grasses were propagated in the greenhouse during the spring and summer of 1979, using the interspecific commercial cane hybrid PR 970 as the reference clone (Table 3). This type of

experiment is conveniently termed "multiple rotation", and it enables multiple

species and category screening to proceed sim

ultaneously. The species and

methods used in this experiment are described in more detail elsewhere (2).

One-third of the plants was harvested each at 2, 4 and 6 months after

feeding. These time intervals correspond to short-rotation (2 months) and to

both early and late intermediate rotation (4 and 6 months, respectively). Long

rotation experiments (12 to 18 months) cannot be maintained adequately with

potted plants. In terms of DM yield/planted area (Table 3) and maturity

(Table 4), Johnson grass clearly emerged as the leading short-rotation candidate.

The 1:

ier grass hybrid PI 30086 was the leading intermediate-rotation candidate,

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=

As illustrated graphically in Figure 1, all clones except Johnson grass made normal yield increases when harvest was delayed from the second to the fourth month after seeding. Only in the case of Johnson grass would greater yields derive from simply repeating the 2-month harvest over and over again.

Alternatively, all species showed relative yield decline as harvest was delayed from the fourth to sixth month after seeding. This latter trend is misleading

in the case of valid long.

notwithstanding such as PR 980 and US 67-22-25

in field plots these clones would have begun their heaviest dry matter accumulation around 6 or 7 months after planting. On an individual plant basis napier

grass was the superior producer at each of the three test ages (Table 5).

2. Matwrar

## 8 Profiles Of Three Ni Hybrids

The NorthrupKing hybrids Serdan 77 and NK 326 gave very favorable growth performances in previous direct comparisons with Sordan 7A (2, 17); In subsequent greenhouse trials the maturation curves for both candidate grasses were determined using Sordan 70A as the reference variety. Dry matter yields for NK 326 clearly exceeded those of Sordan 704 from the 8th to 13th weeks after seeding (Figure 2, Table 6), Although there were no large differences in the rate of dry matter accumulation, Sordan 77 contained significantly more dry matter than the other candidates from about the 9th week onward (Table 6), Sufficient data are now available to justify field-scale comparisons of the three tropical grasses.

### 3. Screening of Dekalb Company Hybrids

Screening trials were begun during the third quarter on a series of tropical grass hybrids developed by the Dekalb Company. Like the NK hybrids, these grasses incorporate both sorghum and Sudan grass genomes and are basically intended for summer production as cattle forages. Preliminary (unreplicated) yield data

for six Dekalb grasses are presented in Table 7. The MK hybrids Soréan 77 and

Trudan 5 were also included in this trial. At six weeks of age the variety

Dekalb F5-25 a+ compared favorably with Soréan 77 and Teadan 5. At 10 weeks,

all of the Dekalb grasses were at least equal to Soréan 77 and Trudan 5 in dry

matter yield while Dekalb PS-25 a+ and Dekalb SN-L7 + indicated moderately higher

yields. The latter two hybrids were also superior on a per plant basis (Table 7).

#### 4. Nutritional

##### Moisture Resistant

The same MK and Dekalb candidates noted above were subjected to variable

moisture regimes in an unreplicated series initiated during the third quarter.

Given a series of tropical grasses having comparable yield potential under ideal

growing conditions, the ability to =

tain a high yield performance under condi-

tions of moisture stress is a decisive factor in the final screening process

Moisture regimes ranging from excessive water supply ("humid") to inadequate water supply ("semi-arid") were simulated by varying the frequency of irrigation.

All plants were propagated under glass using a 2:1 coir-cachaza mixture as the growth medium. Plant samples were harvested at three intervals over a time-course of 11 weeks.

All of the Dekalb grasses equalled or exceeded Sordan 77 (the project's principal semi-rotation hybrid) in dry matter yield (Table 8). Under humid conditions the varieties Dekalb ST-5 and SX-16a exceeded the Sordan 77 yields

by at least 30 percent. However, none of the candidates maintained a sat:

factory

growth performance when water supply was cut back in a simulated semi-arid regime.

The need for additional &:

ting of these grasses as "low-till" candidates is

clearly indicated.

Mean values for dry matter content, an indication of plant maturity, did

not vary consistently among moisture regimes (Table 9). A pronounced increase

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of dry matter was recorded with increasing plant age (Table 9). The latter

response was quite distinct among all moisture regimes.

5. Mins

## 1 Nutrition

A nitrate-nitrogen nutrition experiment established late in Year 2 was completed during the first quarter of Year 5. Variable nitrate levels were administered

to Johnson grass to establish the plant's nitrogen response curve. As in earlier nutrition experiments with Sordan 70A and napier grass (1, 2), the objective was to establish the slope of the dry matter response to progressively higher levels of N. Accordingly, nitrate-nitrogen supplies were increased in a geometric progression to Johnson grass propagated in sand culture. Nitrate levels ranged from 1.0 to 81.0 milliequivalents per Liter, in nutrient solutions given three times each week over a 10-week course.

Dry matter yield and content data (Tables 10 and 11, respectively) suggest that the maximum growth response was obtained at around 9 meq/l of  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ; however, both visible and real growth improvement was obtained from the 27 meq/l treatment as well. This was particularly evident as plant age (and hence root development) was advanced to 10 weeks. Johnson grass is the only candidate at this point in time to show major growth responses to 54 meq/l, and an absence of growth repression by 81 meq/l of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (Figure 3). Ironically, as a nitrogen tillage candidate Johnson grass is less likely to receive fertilization than species from other cropping categories.



With reference to nutrient uptake, Johnson gra

id not respond to W

levels higher than 27 meq/1 of NO, (Table 12). A surprisingly high foliar K content was recorded, ie, in the range of 2.4 to 2.8 percent on a dry weight

basis. These levels are more typical of sugarcane which accumulates relatively

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Large ssounts of pot:

harvest regrowth data indicate that high NO,

Levels (above 27 meq/1) are repressive against both the number and weight of

new shoots (Table 13).

## B. FIELD PLOT STUDIES

1, Saccharur Species Candidates

?An observation field-plot study with candidate *S. spontaneum* and *S. sinense*

clones has been underway at the AES-UPR Gur

0 Substation since October, 1977.

The principal objective was to define the total biomass-producing capabilities of these candidates. A second objective was to determine their qualitative value when sufficiently-aged plants became available.

The candidate clones listed in Table 14 were harvested at 2- and 4-month

intervals for one year, and subsequently harvested after six more months had

elapsed. Data summarized elsewhere (2)7. At that point the experiment:

converted to an observatory

"Low till" study in which the plants were allowed to

subsist on rainfall and native soil fertility. Harvests are planned for 6-month intervals for the duration of the project.

The first 6-month yields under minimum tillage conditions are presented in

Table 16, The s.

spontaneous clone SHS 231 continued to be the superior dry

matter producer, followed closely by SES 317 and Chunnee. Each of these clones

attained an advanced state of

maturity during their 6-month growth period, i.e.,

each exceeded 35% dry matter. SES-231 is a very impressive candidate at this

time; however, it did require nearly a year to establish a vigorous crown. Its

present growth is vigorous

dark green in color, and generally unmarred by

nutrient deficiency symptoms or pest injury. SES 231 is presently regarded as

@ late short-rotation or early intermediate-rotation candidate, Its thin, wiry,

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ane

and persistently upright stems should lend themselves well to mechanized

harvest and solar-drying operations. Field-scale plantings of SES 231 will

be made for mechanized harvest trials during the project's fourth year. At present

the clones PR 980, Saretha, and Natal Uba are rapidly dying out (Table 14).

2. Minimum Tillage Experiment;

Jae Subst

There is a need for tropical grasses that will produce at least moderate yields with the barest minimum of production inputs. The characteristics and principal requirements of minimum tillage candidates for Puerto Rico are discussed at length in prior reports (1, 18).

[A long-term minimum tillage study on species was initiated at

the AES-UPR Lajas Substation during mid-February of 1977, There are four spontaneous clones and an interspecific commercial hybrid (PR 980) serving

the control. Receiving no production inputs since the original planting, harvests

have been taken at 6-

month intervals. The fourth such harvest was performed

during the third quarter. Although dry matter yields are relatively low, it is evident that all of the *S. spontaneus* clones are sustaining themselves far more effectively than the commercial hybrid PR 980 (Table 15).

The superior clone at this stage of the experiment is US 72-72, its green

and dry matter yields were 3.92 and 1.36 tons/acre, respectively. By way of

reference, the PR cane industry is producing approximately 9 green tons/acre

and 3.5 dry tons/acre,

an island-wide average, over a comparable time-course.

Both production costs and energy inputs for US 72-72 are nil. Production costs for the PR industry cane are approximately \$64.00/OD ton; the energy output/

input ratio for this cane is approximately 3.5/1.

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### 3. Seed Expansion From "Energy Care" Plantings

From the seed sources available in 1971, three sugarcane varieties were

Selected for the project's initial studies on cane biomass. Each variety has

history of high yields for both sugar and bagasse over:

a range of PR soil and

rainfall conditions. Moreover, seed was available in adequate quantities for

project needs. Nonetheless, there was no question but that these canes represented

something less than the maximum biomass yielding potential of *Saccharum* in Puerto

Rico. Seed expansion for more promising biomass energy canes was begun late in

1979. The spontaneous clones US 67-22-2 and B 70-701 have shown especially

favorable promise as biomass producers and are included in the seed expansion

phase. This material is being propagated at the AES-UPR Gurabo Substation.

Field-plot experiments using both varieties will be established at the AES-UPR

Lajas Substation during August of 1980, Additional plantings of US 67-22-2 and

B 70-701 will be made on privately-owned Lands near Hatillo (on the humid north

coastal plain) during August of 1980, It is believed that these varieties

Produce about 40 OD tons/acre as primavera cane (10 to 12 months old at harvest)

and close to 50 OD tons/acre as gran cultura cane (16 to 18 months old at harvest).

By way of reference, the highest yields attained to date with conventional vari-

eties averaged about 25.5 and 33.6 OD tons/acre, respectively, for the "plant" and

"first-ratoon" crops.

#### 4. Sugarcane and Napier 61

Letale

A large field plot study on row spacing, varieties, and harvest frequency

for sugarcane and napier grass has been underway at the AES-UPR Lajas Substation

since 1977. The intent of this experiment is to maximize total biomass yield



for the two speck

lover a three-year cropping eycle, ie, for a "plant" crop plus

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sae

two "ratoon" crops ©/, re is believed that three crops, fe, the plant crop

plus two ratoon crops, probably represent

we best tine-frane package for energy

cane production in Puerto Rico.

Yield trends for the first six conths sustain the results of years 1 and 2.

These trends include: (a) A superiority of napier grass over sugarcane when harvested frequently (at 2-, 4-, and 6-month intervals); (b) a failure of narrow row spacing to increase yields over standard row spacings and (c) relatively small varietal differences for sugarcane given suitable time for development (6 months), while 2/3 of the cane varieties continue to weaken in response to

2-month harvest intervals

Growth data from the first five 2-

month harvests (Tables 16 to 20; Tables

24 and 22) reconfirm the fact that sugarcane will not respond favorably to frequent

cutting (2, 2). During this interval the maximum dry matter yield

of sugarcane

was 0.64 tons/acre (Table 16, var. NCo SIC) while napier grass exceeded this amount

by a factor of about 3. Contrary to the plant crop results, but consistent with

data from the first ratoon crop, narrow row spacing for sugarcane failed to increase yields. There was in fact a tendency for close spacing to reduce yield in two of the three varieties tested. Napier grass (var. Nerker) was not consistently affected by narrow row spacing.

Two of the sugarcane varieties (PR 980 and PR S4-1791) indicated continuing decline of vigor in response to frequent recutting. Variety NCo 310 was more tolerant of this harvest interval (Tables 16-22). A seasonal effect on sugarcane

yield was also evident (Tables 21 and 22). Hence, biomass yields for

the third

of commercial sugarcane in Puerto Rico is managed on a 5-year cycle while napier

grass plantings are generally indeterminate, sometimes remaining a generation or longer?

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2-month interval (November 15 to January 15) were only 1/3 of the yields obtained from the first 2-month interval (July 15 to September 15). Napier

was also more tolerant to the cooler "winter" temperatures, while mean

sugarcane yield declined by 66% (from 0.30 to 0.10 OD tons/acre/? months)

Napier grass yield declined by 26% (from 1.96 to 1.45 OD tons/acre/? months) «

Yields from the 2-month harvests were in some respects similar to the

2-month harvests, Sugarcane variety NCo 310 remained dominant over PR 960 and

PR 64-1791, and clove spacing had a generally detrimental effect on growth

(ables 23 and 24; Tables 21 and 2

However, the importance of delaying harvest frequency as a means of increasing dry matter yield was very pointedly demonstrated. For sugarcane the monthly dry matter yield averaged 0.06 ton/acre when harvested at 2-month intervals and 0.75 ton/acre when harvested at the 4-month interval. For napier grass, the average monthly yield rose from 0.40 to 1.92 tons/acre

harvest frequency was delayed from 2 to 4 months. Hence, by merely doubling the time interval allowed for tissue expansion and maturation,

2-fold and 4-fold yield increases:

were obtained for sugarcane and napier grass, respectively. Moreover, equipment usage was reduced by 50 percent, with all

that this implies relative to reduced fuel expenditure, soil compaction, and

ies and wanes

?A seasonal growth response, suounting in effect to

Antor" growth decline,

was also evident for the ?month harvest intervals, Mean DM yield for sugarcane

was only 1.4 tons/acre during the period November 15 to March 15, whereas it hed

?been 3.0 tons/acre between July 15 anc Novenber 15. This was a decline of 53%.

Napier grass was again more tolerant of the eeasonal change, with DM yield

declining by only 31% (Table 22),

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The first 6-month harvest revealed that NCo 310 was still the superior sugarcane variety midway through the second-ratoon crop (Table 25; Tables 21 and 22). A moderate but persistent depressing effect on dry matter yield was being exerted by the close-spacing treatment. At this time napier grass continued to exceed the average sugarcane yield but the difference was less pronounced than at 2- and 4-month harvest intervals. The average cane DM yield for a single harvest at 6 months was 10.5 times greater than the combined yield of three, 2-month harvests (Table 22).

Mean values for dry matter content (Table 26) indicate that napier grass had essentially reached peak maturity by the fourth month after cutting. Sugarcane progressively increased DM content from the 2- to 6-month harvest intervals.

At six months into the second-ratoon crop sugarcane yields were in the order of 20 to 30 percent lower than the first-ratoon crop, and very slightly

lower than the plant crop. This suggests that the 3-year cropping cycle plan-

ned for energy cane is a correct interpretation of biomass yield potential.

Puerto Rico's sugarcane industry employs a 5-year cropping cycle which is

based on sugar production rather than total biomass. Sugar yields can actually

y

increase in plants whose growth rates are declining (13, 14, 15) 2! wien  
bionass replacing sucrose as the primary commodity a more frequent replanting may  
be justified.

?The apparent yield decline at 6 months might also reflect an unseasonal  
drouth affecting the Lajas Valley from late September to mid-November.

Ordinarily this is a warm and humid period highly conducive to cane growth.

?? \_\_\_\_

2/ Sugarcane ?ripening? (sucrose accumulation)

Depression induced either by chemicals or by

) is directly dependent upon growth

natural mean:

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Irrigation was increased during the unexpected dry spell but this may not have compensated completely for the reduced rainfall.

©, FIELD-SCALE sTuDrES

1, Minimum Irrigation of NK Hybrids; Lajas Substation

The Northrup King hybrids Sordan TOA, Sordan 77, and NK 326 were examined with minimum irrigation in small field-scale plots ranging from 1.8 to 3.6 acres in area. Both Sordan 77 and NK 326 have shown considerable tolerance to simulated arid conditions in comparisons with Sordan 70A (2, 19). Both Sordan 70A and Sordan 77 respond to high water supply.

Each variety was planted at the rate of 60 pounds of seed/act.

The seedbed received 100 pounds/acre of elemental N, 50 pounds of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and 50 Pounds of K<sub>2</sub>O, broadcast and disced in just prior to planting. Two acre inches

of water were a

inistered by overhead sprinklers immediately after seeding.

?The experiment was planted on December 20, at the onset of Puerto Rico's dry

season, when irrigation is needed to assure rapid germination and seedling

establishment. No further irrigations were administered. During the subsequent

10 weeks an additional 2.75 inches were received as rainfall. The approximately

4.75 acre inches total received between planting and harvest amounts to about 40

Percent of the water requirement for maximum yield of Sordan 70A and Sordan 77.

At 10 weeks the three varieties were moved with a rotary scythe-condi-

tioner, solar dried to 15 percent moisture, raked, and compacted with a bulk

baler producing 1000-to 1200-pound round bales, All equipment items performed

designed without problems. Positive results from this experiment include the

following: (a) Sordan 77 was verified as a superior short-rotation candidate

(

); (b) an appreciable yield potential was demonstrated for Sordan 77

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=e

(2.23 dry tons/acre

and (c), the yield potential was demonstrated under condi

tions generally unfavorable for growth, i.e., with a short growth interval (10

weeks), during the least favorable season (late December to early March), and with

4 low water input.

Cost and energy-balance analyses for this experiment have not been com

pleted. It is possible that the savings in water expenditures (about 7 acre

inches) will not compensate for the reduced yield (in the order of 1.8 dry tons/

acre). A decisive factor here is the relatively high fertilizer expenditure with

an inadequate moisture supply for optimal nutrient utilization.

Mineral §

100 pounds/acre/10 weeks, is by far the most costly and energy consumptive input of the study. It is possible that superior cost and energy figures would have emerged if water had been given at normal rates and fertilizer rather than water had been lowered to 40 percent of normal. Experiments are planned in which the effectiveness of low water x low fertilizer and normal water x low fertilizer

regimes will be examined.

## 2. Mechanization Trials; Napier Grass Planting

Napier grass planting is traditionally a hand-labor operation in Puerto Rico. The seedbed and row furrows are sometimes prepared mechanically, but the seed stalks themselves are carried manually into the field and dropped into the furrows. They are then cut into two-eye or three-eye segments by laborers

walking along the furrows with eachetes. The seed pieces are covered with soil  
?as a final manual operation. This process is very costly. An added cost to the  
arover is the lose of viability of napier grass seed stent which often stand in  
open piles in the sun for several days while the hand operations are underway.  
Wovever, since napier grass is usually planted on small lowland acreages or  
uplands too steep for machinery, no attempt wi

made to develop a planter for

this purpose.

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During the third quarter approximately eight acres of napier grass were  
planted for future mechanized-harvest trials. A two-row sugarcane planter wa  
rented froa the PR Sugar Corporation in an effort to reduce planting costs

land to speed up seeding operations. Two napier grass varieties vere planted  
having different age and stem condition at the tine of cutting for seed. The  
rapier grass stem is considerably thinner and Lighter than sugarcane and has 2  
greater adhcrance of dead leaves. There is also a greater tendency for the  
rapier grass stem to bear lateral shoots and roots, and to be excessively curved,

especially if the selected seed steas are overaged and have lodged prior to cutting. . None of these factors prevented the sugarcane planter from performing quite effectively with napier gr

A few steas were discarded owing to excessive curvature but this is necessary for sugarcane algo. The stens vere laid etraightner and the seeded furrovs were covered with soil wore evenly than is possible by hand labor. This implest automatically cuts the stens into

billets as part of the seed placement process. Sone damage to seed "eyes" occurs.

On the whole, both the planting operation with this implest and the

subsequent seed germination were quite satisfactory. The only problens vith

femmination could be traced to overage seed, or, very rarely, to "skipped"

"areas in the row where there had been sone delay in feeding steas into the

planter. By reference to our previous napier grass planting (6 acres seeded

by hand) planting cost was reduced by 82 percent and planting time by about 65

### 3. Rotary Scythe And Round Baler Trists

Tuo harve

implenents are of special interest to this project, These are the rotary-scythe conditioner and the round baler, They are viewed as potential answers to the harvest and post-harvest management of tropical grasses having,

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-19-

standing tonnages at harvest far in excess of conventional forage grasses, but sovewahat lover tonnages than sugarcane, Initial trials performed on mature Johnson grass and 6-to LMeweeks old Sordan 70A were described in a previous report (2). These tests posed no problens of any kind, even in heavily lodged and natted Sordan 70k, Solar drying, raking, and baling operations also were performed without incident, More recent trials with Sordan 70A, Sordan 77, ?and 8K 326 were also successful (p. 16). However, the actual tonnages in these tests did not exceed about 14 standing tons/acre.

(a) Napier Grass; Three Months: Napier grass was submitted to sechanized

harvest and forage-making operations for the first time during the third quarter.

(var.

Approximately four acres of Senonths old napier er er) vere mowed with the HAC rotary scythe conditioner. This naterial vas solar-dried and baled With the Ney Holland Yodel 851 round baler. At 3 months of age, the total biomass confronting harvest sachinery was only slightly greater than chat of equally-aged Sordan and there were fever steas/acre. The primary difference lay in the much thicker ond more succulent stems of napier grass. These offer a sovevhat different and possibly nore difficult task for the sten-shattering or "conditioning" propertios of the rotary scythe. The solar drying taske are

definitely nore difficult oving to the greater thickness of napier gras atens 2/, Raking and baling operations are also complicated co some extent by the relative coarseness of the dried material.



ALL of the harve

f and post-harvest operations were performed successfully,

but they required sonowhat more drying time and machinery work tine than short=

A/ Te has been suggested that the best way to renove water from napier grass  
font might be to grind thea ina sugarcane mill and then solar dry the napicr  
grass "bagasse" (20).

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-20-

rotation species such as Sordan and Johnson grass. Moving heights vere varied  
from 2 to 8 inches. No cromm injury was evident at the lover stubble height,  
bur inch stubbie posed some difficulty for the forage Fake. An additional

day was required for solar drying. Occasional stem billets could still be found that were pliable (containing 25 to 30 percent moisture) rather than brittle (containing 14 to 16 percent moisture) Round bales were produced without

difficulty. These were somewhat rougher in appearance than Jordan bales owing

to protruding stem segments.

(b) Hopfinger Grass; Six months: The ultimate test of the rotary scythe-conditioner is encountered with 6-months old napier grass, Such material is in an advanced state of maturity with dry matter content approaching 3 percent. Stems appear more woody than herbaceous and are succulent only in the upper canopy area. Standing biomass is in the order of 30 to 40 tons/acre. Stands of grasses having greater mass than this would be approached with a sugarcane harvester rather than forage-making equipment.

The first trials of the 4-C rotary scythe on 6-months old napier grass

were performed in mid-March of 1980. The varieties Como!

Merker and P1\_7350

were harvested at two stubble heights and two tractor speeds (Table 26). The tractor engine speed was approximately 1900 rpm for all tests.

Because the M-C rotary scythe was designed to harvest forage crops that are morphologically different from napier grass and harvested at less advanced stages of maturity, several discrete kinds of problems were anticipated for this implement when operating in mature napier grass. Any one of these could eliminate the rotary scythe as a candidate harvester if it could not be corrected by adjusting the implement, by modifying the implement's design, or by modifying its mode of operation by options available to the tractor driver. Anticipated

Problem areas included the following:

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(2) An excessive height of napier grass, in the order of 9 to 12

feet, as opposed to a maximum of 2 to 4 feet for conventional forage

crops. Since the "cut" grasses must first fall forward and then be

araum backward beneath the inplenent to be conditioned, the taller  
napier grass could not have been harvested had it fallen backward on

to the upper surface of the rotary scythe. In the actual tests chere  
vas no tendency for any naterial to drop backuard on the inplenent's  
surface. The leading edge of the rotary scythe strikes the napier  
grass steno with sufficient force to push then foreard, even when  
operating at the lovest cutting height. Moreover, the elongated stens  
were forced forward suifictently far into the standing grass to enable  
thea to be dram back with ease beneath the rotary scythe. There was no  
ppreciable realignzent of the stens, that is, no turning at right

angles to th

path of the inplesent, which could tead to bunching of

th

stens and clogging of the rotary scythe blades.

(2) An Excessive sass of the napier grass, anounting to approxizately  
30 to 40 standing green tons/acre, as opposed to about 10 to 12 green tons/

acre for a typical forage crop. It was thought that the additional mass confronting the implement might cause its blades to become clogged with bunched material; alternatively, such material could effect a continual breaking of shear pins. The latter are incorporated into the implement's design and are intended to shear off when overloaded to prevent more

serious damage. During the present tests there was no clogging or breaking of shear pins.

The implement's performance was generally ragged and unsatisfactory

when the tractor was operated in second gear. There was a tendency for

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the rotary scythe to pass over or only partially condition a seal

Percentage of the stens. This was corrected by shifting to low gear

and increasing the tractor's engine speed. While outwardly slowing

the harvest process, i.e., the visible movement of harvest machinery

across the field, the decisive factor is the quantity of biomass being harvested per unit of time, In 6-months old napier grass the rotary scythe was conditioning biomass at full capacity when operated in the tractor's low gear.

(3) Inadequa:

?tens. Under normal circumstances the rotary scythe ?bonditions"

Ee conditioning of the relatively woody napier grass

forage crops that are relatively immature, succulent, and easily disintegrated, The forage plant is shattered by repeated striking of

the blades at distances of 4 to 6 inch

?along the stem. This greatly

enhances the solar drying of such materials while e

ing the windrowing

and baling operations. Stems of 6-months old napier grass were quite effectively conditioned by the rotary scythe. Solar drying proceeded

normally, Approximately one additional day w

needed to attain 152

moisture (four days for napier grass as opposed to three days for Sudan) «

Increased drying time was mainly a function of the greater stem thickness

and total mass of material per acre for napier grass

(@) Inadequate preparation for raking and baling operations.

Mature napier grass plants are 3 to 4 meters long with stems up to 3

centimeters in diameter. In order to manage such material as solar-

aired forages, it is necessary not only to shatter the stems but also

to reduce them to shortened, pliable segments that can be raked into

windrows and fed successfully into balers for compaction (rectangular

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= 23

for cube bales) or organization into round bales. In the pri

trials these requirements were met very effectively.

In practice, the rotary scythe completely disintegrated those stems offering the greatest resistance to the rotating blades. In circumstances where shattering was incomplete (lodged plants, excessively heavy stands), the stems were rendered flexible by partial shattering plus complete severing at fairly frequent intervals. Only rarely could one find a stem segment exceeding 40 to 45 centimeters in length. The longer plant segments that remained intact—both tops and stems—ordinarily bore severe bruises from repeated striking by the rotary scythe blades. These were sufficiently pliable to pass through the subsequent raking and baling operations without difficulty.

(c) Making And Baling; 6-Yonth Kapier Grass: The very excellent



performance by the rotary scythe-conditioner enabled us to solar-dry, Fake, and bale mature napier grass which otherwise would have been completely unmanageable with existing forage-making equipment. Problems which did? arise

related mainly to the excessive mass of material to

managed per unit of working

?area, To some extent these problems were alleviated by operating the tractor in low gear with increased engine speed.

The rake used in these trials is a "heavy-duty" model but one designed for conventional forage crops offering a maximum of about 5 dry tons/acre, At normal

raking speed (in second gear) the i

plement tended to slip over a significant

fraction of bionacs being raked for the first time. This was corrected by

slowing the tractor to low gear and increasing engine speed, by partially

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raising the rake when laboring in heavy material, and by reraking the skipped

areas. After the windrows had been formed there were no further difficulties

in raking, for, when turning the windrows over a second or third time.

A more serious problem was the frequent breaking of the rake's tines as

they snagged against the napier grass stems. This was especially true of high

stubble (8 to 10 inches) but occurred in low stubble (1 to 2 inches) as well.

The crown of a mature napier grass plant offers considerable resistance, more like

the stump of a sapling tree than a conventional forage grass. Although tines are

easily replaced, the rate of breakage on napier grass stubble was prohibitive.

Moreover, @ significant quantity of biomass lying flattened between the stubble  
remained unraked.

It is believed that the problems of tine breakage and unraked material can

be eliminated by use of a different type of implement, one commonly described

"ehee!

rake, This rake is not driven by @ power take-off but rather

operates through contact of its tines with the ground surface. The tines are

mounted on a

series of independent wheels which offer greater flexibility for

penetration of @ heavily-stubbed surface. Plans have been made to test a

Farahand model wheel rake with solar-dried napier grass and sugarcane trash

during the project's fourth year.

Baling trials on the 6-month old napier grass with a New Holland round baler

Proceeded normally. Although the napier grass stems were far heavier than

Sordan or conventional forage grasses, they were sufficiently broken up and weak-

ened by the rotary scythe to be organized into round bales without difficulty.

As was the case with the rotary scythe and rake, it was necessary to operate the

baler in low gear owing to the very large mass of windrowed napier grass:

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#### 4, Direct Firing Of Napier Grass

The first direct combustion tests for the solar-dried tropical grasses

of this project were performed by PR Sugar Corporation engineers during late

January of 1980. At the onset of a new campaign, sugar mill engineers need to

ignite their furnaces to raise steam and process heat before the first harvested cane arrives at the mill, For this purpose almost any combustible material is used—old lumber, discarded railroad ties, wood scraps and refuse of varying

description. Mill workers at Central Gi

ruica, located about 10 miles from the

Project's Lajas Valley site, learned of the biomass bales accumulating there and

received authorization to use some of these for start-up fuel. Some 50 bales of

solar-dried napier grass were obtained for this purpose. Although no formal data

were gathered, the engineers were highly pleased with the combustion performance

and handling properties of this material. No fuel oil was needed to assist

the

ignition as is the case with bagasse 2/, This was the first instance when the

Proj:

t's experimental tropical grasses were actually used as fuel.

#### D. BREEDING

In Puerto Rico sugarcane breeding is performed from mid-November to mid-December, Crosses completed during November of 1979 are summarized in Table 29.

Each of the five tabulated crosses was performed by Dr. T. L. Chu in conjunction

with the AES-UPR sugarcane breeding program. All were performed with bioass rather than sucrose as the primary objective. One cross, B 70-701 x ST-NG-54, has a high probability of producing offspring with a predominantly high-fiber attribute (16), The remaining crosses could produce seedlings with both high fiber and high fermentable solids attributes (Table 29).

J Central Guinica ordinarily needs 4 gallons of residual fuel oil to each ton

f

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?f bagasse (about 512 moisture) to promote combustion.

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?Three subsequent crosses were made in December using an early-flowering

+ Spontaneous hybrid as the male parent. This is an extremely vigorous clone

found in the wild near Rio Piedras. Its early tasseling habit has been overcome

to a limited degree by cutting back wild stands during the late spring. This forces the ratoon plants to pass their normal floral induction period in the juvenile state, and to enter the adult (reproductive) phase in a later time-frame more consistent with potential crossing partners.

Three commercial Puerto Rico sugarcane varieties served as the female parents,

including PR 960, PR 67-1070, and PK 64-1618 (Table 30). Nearly 1000 seeds

were obtained from the crosses with PR 980 and PR 67-1070. Only about 20 seeds

Lings were produced by the cross with PR 64-1618. At this writing none of the Progeny appear to resemble the male parent. Sufficient material is available to begin evaluating the transm:

ion of a high-fiber attribute to hybrid progeny (16).

## B, ECONOMIC STUDIES

1

### For Energy Cane Production

Preliminary cost analyses for energy cane production were performed on the

basis of first-ratoon yields. A breakdown of production input charges is

Presented in Table 31. These figures pertain to a family-owned, 200 acre opera

tion yielding 33 ov:



ity tons of biomass per acre year. The most expensive  
equipment items, @ whole-cane harvester and low-bed truck, would be hired from  
the P.R. Sugar Corporation together with the equipment operators. In an energy=  
cane industry such items would probably be family owned, in which case the  
operation and maintenance costs would be appreciably lower. Both water and  
fertilizer charges are entered moderately higher than project data actually

indicate, mainly owing to potentially large consumption differences as varietal

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-2-

and ecological Life zone factors. Total costs, including delivery to the  
milling site, amount to \$25.46 per oven-dry ton, or about \$1.70 per million BIUs.  
By way of reference Puerto Rico is presently paying about \$4.30 per million BTUs  
in the form of petroleum boiler fuels.

In an energy cane scenario about 68 percent of this dry matter would be  
burned as boiler fuel. The remainder would be extracted as fermentable solids

during the cane devolving process and later sold as constituents of high-test

not

es. Neither raw sugar nor refined

Jar sales are anticipated. Cane

milling costs in Puerto Rico today are presently about \$5.00 per ton, The ferment-

able solids from one acre of energy cane (ie, with yields of 33 0D tons/acre),

would be valued at \$1,500 to 2,000 dollars if marketed today as high-test molasses.

The Puerto Rican emphasis on molasses rather than boiler fuel is quite real

and probably justified. Rum is one of Puerto Rico's leading sources of revenue,

yet here molasses feedstocks are increasingly derived from foreign supplier.

Puerto Rico was one of the world's major molasses exporters in 1934 (21) but has

declined to an 88% dependency on imported molasses in 1979 (22). Because of this,

local interest in the energy cane herein described is directed mainly toward its

molasses yield potential rather than its role as a renewable domestic boiler fuel.

## 2. Cost Comparisons; Energy Cane vs Conventional Sugarcane

Production cost estimates for conventional PR sugarcane were computed during

the third quarter for direct comparison with energy cane estimates (Table 32).

Sugarcane cost estimates are based on data obtained from Central Aguirre for the 1979 milling season. They probably constitute a "best case" for production opera

Hons in the PR sugar industry as a whole, As indicated in Table 32, production

costs for energy cane are higher than sugarcane in five areas

Seedbed preparation,

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seed, fertilizer, harvest operations, and delivery of harvested cane, Energy

cane seed and fertilizer expenditures were double those of conventional sugarcane.

Harvest operations and cane delivery expenses were 67 percent higher, and seedbed

preparation costs were 50 percent higher. It should be noted also that the

sugarcane cost estimates pertain to a private planter (or "Colono") for whom the

major machinery items are rented rather than self-owned.

The overall cost for producing a ton of energy cane was 46 percent higher

than conventional sugarcane. However, the decisive difference between the two

management scenarios lay in the total dry matter yield per acre year (Table 32).

Energy cane yield exceeded sugarcane by a factor of about 3.7. Hence, the

increased cost of "pushing" sugarcane, i.e., to maximize total biomass rather than

sucrose, was more than compensated by even larger increases in dry matter yield.

?As a result of its relatively low productivity the PR sugar industry cane cost

in the order of \$65.00/OD ton, or about \$4.31/million BTUs.

## F. ENERGY BALANCES

The final energy balance figures for energy cane will be based on season  
Production yields from a 3-year cropping cycle. Preliminary analyses were  
Performed during the third quarter using the first-ratoon crop means for varieties  
FR 980, NCo 310, and PR 64-1791. These varieties averaged 33 OD tons/acre year  
for the first-ratoon crop. Energy input estimates for this material are sum-  
marized in Table 33 /,

Total energy inputs for energy cane production are in the order of  $28 \times 10^8$

Btu/acre year. Energy output amounts to  $279 \times 10^6$  BTU/acre year (Table 34).

All estimates prepared by Dr. Levis Saith, Consulting Economist, CEER-UPR Biomass  
Energy Program.

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?The latter figure is computed on the assumption that most of the fermentable  
solids fraction of the total dry matter yield will be extracted at the sugar

mill, The extracted fermentable solids amount to about 640 lbs/OD ton of energy

cane. This

Figure 8 based on a recorded mean Brix value of 33.1% for centenary cane juice and an assumed 80% extraction at the mill. In this instance only 1360 pounds of dry matter/OD ton, or 22.4 tons/acre, will be used as boiler fuel. On a steam recovery basis, assuming 85% efficiency for a utility boiler, an energy output/input ratio of 9.95/1 is obtained (Table 34),

Some authors have simply divided the total calorific value of their sugar product by the total production energy input (23). By this method energy cane would have an energy output/input ratio of about 7.7/1.

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It is instructive to note that nearly half of the total energy expenditure was for mineral N alone (Table 33). Hence, while the favorable energy balance obtained to date is mainly a reflection of high DM yield, future improvement of this balance can be gained both by increasing yields and by reducing the input of mineral N. One means of lowering N input is to apply the element as a soluble component of the irrigation water, particularly water applied via trickle irrigation

tion (20). The increased efficiency of lower N supplies should compensate for the relatively inefficient plant v.

wee of dry fertilizer administered in larger

faeounts to the soil surface. Another potential means of lowering mineral

expenditures ie through increased usage of N-fixing legumes in conjunction with bionass energy crops. A large musber of underutilized tropical legunes have been identified for possible use in this context (24, 25).

## SUMMARY OF THIRD-YEAR STATUS

?At the close of its third year the project has progressed to the approximate

pone envisaged for year 3 in the original S-year vork plan. There have been a

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series of developments more favorable than expected, and one unforeseen development that has required some limited modification of the project's work plan.

Bionass researchers working with tropical grasses in a tropical climate have many factors working in their favor. Nonetheless, exceptionally favorable trends emerged for us in three distinct areas. First, the botanical attributes of candidate tropical grasses conformed more favorably than expected with domestic energy resource requirements. It was possible to develop short-to long-rotation categories of grasses that would supply large quantities of biomass, on a year-round basis,

@ solar-dried state that minimized dewatering and

transportation costs. Second, the project's agricultural engineering phases were

enormously eased by prior developments in forage-making machinery. A very

appreciable work-load remains in our field evaluations of the rotary scythe, the

bulk baler, and heavy-duty wheel rake: however, it is already evident

That these

machines «

Perform in the relatively massive biomass scenarios imposed by

tropical grasses. If any one of them had failed to accommodate such materials

A large engineering gap would have remained in tropical grass fuels technology.

The third development favoring this project is a highly positive trend in produce

Low-cost and energy-balance data, The project's staff feels that considerably

better data will emerge with improved yields and refined production operations

during the final phase of the project.

One important concept has not developed as planned. The original plan to

manage hybrid sugarcane as tropical forages had failed to perceive clearly the

Time-span needed for a long-rotation species to maximize tonnage. Hence, the

Repeated harvests at 2- and 4-month intervals were highly detrimental to dry

matter yield, They simply underscored the need to allow sugarcane at least @



year to complete its growth and maturation phases. Alternatively, it was found

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that short.

and Intermediate-rotation species, such as Sorghum and napier grass, could fill the role originally planned for sugarcane. They have responded well to the repeated harvest, solar-drying, and bulk-baling operations for which sugarcane is completely unsuited. Moreover, these grasses can be stored for off-

Season use when sugarcane is not being harvested. By this means a continuous

Year-round fuels supply is provided in a convenient mix of bagasse and tropical

species.

#### W. REVISED WORK PLAN FOR YEAR FOUR

The fourth-year work plan conforms basically with "evolutionary" changes

Projected at the onset of the project. Accordingly, the following changes of

emphasies are planned for year 4: (a) A reduced level of candidate screening; (b) reduced greenhouse-phase studies in general; (c) increased emphasis on field-scale studies; (d) increased work on mechanized harvest and post-harvest technologies; and (e), expanded work on production-cost and energy-balance analyses.

Field-plot studies for the first three years have concentrated on hybrid sugarcanes and napier grass. Particular attention was given to varieties, row spacing, harvest frequency, and fertilization. In year 4 this emphasis will be redirected toward a "second generation" of sugarcane varieties specially selected for their high-biomass yielding attributes. Row spacing, together with frequent harvesting, is being dropped as a controlled variable for sugarcane. Nitrogen variables plus 6- and 12-month harvest intervals will be retained. A "grass-culture" cropping interval (16 to 18 months between harvests) will be incorporated for the first time,

A second generation study on sugarcane for biomass (depicted as "energy cane" by the project staff)

being planted at the AES-UPR Lajan Substation

during the first quarter of year 4. apier grave etvdies are being shifted to

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the field-scale phase. Special emphasis will be directed toward the mechanized harvest, storage, and transport of 6-month old material, Post-harvest handling land storage operations for bulk bales (1000 to 1500 lb. round bales) will be studied in 2 roofed storage facility presently being constructed for this purpose. This phase includes the evaluation of storage behavior for grasses baled at

varying stages of solar drying.

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DRY MATTER (g/Plant)

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by Sordan Ton and E396 (Oath short-rotation

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TABLE 1, RESEARCH PHASES FOR BIOMASS PRODUCTION  
STUDIES WITH TROPICAL GaASSES

Research Phase Class of Objectives

Greenhouse Physiological~Botanical

Field Plot Botanical Agronomic

Field Scale ?Agronomic-Econosic

Commercial-Industrial Economic

ees

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TABLE 2. CATEGORIES OF CANDIDATE TROPICAL GRASSES

cropping Groveh Interval 2/ ow Maximus 2/

Category ?(onths) (oaths)

Short Rotation +6 a3

Intermedate Rotation 8-18 6

?Long Rotation 36-60 12-18

Miniaun Tillage Indeterminate a

vy

2

Replanting frequency; at least two ratoon crops are anticipated.

Tine required physiologically to maximize dry matter.

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?UOLE 3. ORY MATTER PRODUCTION BY EIGHT CANDIDATE TROPICAL GRASSES  
HARVESTED

2, 4, AMD 6 MOWTNS AFTER LASTING 1/

ren ee

I ceartsces Aca) Ya woh =

Gutcivar can 6 Species 2 : ?

m0 fecune word 0. tay anaes

ws ame ww miie koe ete

vs ras0 mest Wire onda

se a & mines Lot eae

sn ume wacte tare nas ase

waa Emm mst ee nary inate

some namin surutt 3.038 aT

stato cre fart alee oka ne

ee

ete

1M propagaced in a 1:1 solt-cachasa aixture vith adeqace water wwly,

2 approninatety 30 aguare feet.

Y naan values in the sane column bearing velite letters ditt

(7 05)." Values bearing at least ove Leteet ia comme

stgnitieanehy.

gniticancty

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TABLE 6. ORY HATTER CONTENT OF EIGHT CANDTOATE TROPICAL GRASSES HARVESTED  
AT 2, 4,

280 B HOTMS AFTER PLANTING 17

Di CB) At Month ?

cultivar Genus & Specter z \* .

Mean

7 980 Sacchanas Wybeid wre 2.68 B56 ne

5 67-22-2 apne. hybrid ante se oad Bo  
Ws 72-70. apone. Hybrid wos 2 wd Pag  
ses 2 5 soontanew 04 32.008 4.6 be 2.9  
?aisan 5. spans. tybrid Mbbe a ote 2.0  
was S apone. tybese 92 ad 25.6 v3  
Pr 3008 Pennisatus purpurem = hdc Shae. 26.3

mae ade ane

eas 7a

#1 gol-cachasa abxture with adequate water supply.

(P£.65)." Values bearing at lease one Letter in common do net differ significantly.

---Page Break---

-ae

TUBLE 5, DRY MATTER PRODUCTION. INDIVIDUAL PLOT BASIS, BY EIGHT TROPICAL  
GRASSES KANVESTED 2, 4, AND 6 MONTHS AFTER FLAMING 1/

Bi Gg/Piace) AL Month ?

cutiver Genus & Species z + ?

PR 980 Saccharus Hybrid 60.8 be

5 67-22 §. spone. ybria So. ca

0s 72-70 5. sponte. wybrid Weee

ses 231 S. spostanem aot

Tafsan Ss apne. wybria 19.2 of

wag 5. apone. tybria 29s Weed 5.70

Pr 30086 Pennisetum purpura 8.0 8 95.84

Johnson Grass Sorghun halepense 4.28 oad

Meas 38 0.2 a

?© vropagated in 4 1:1 soti-cachasa sinture with adequate water supply.

Y wean values io the sane coluan bearing valike letters difter signiticancly

(F <:05)." Values bearing at Least one Letter in comon do not dither

sigaiticancly.



---Page Break---

ou wees

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TABLE 7. DRT MATTER PRODUCTION BY EIOET CANDIDATE THOPICAL GRASSES.

Oven A Tova~counse OF 10 MEEKS

DM Mista (ig/Piot) Mae week ?

piety « @ 10 Mean

Sodan 77 os Oss OTL 0.32

Truden 5 00 Osea 0.32

Dena F5-4 oie es ze 850

Detalb F5-25 « + oie alse O80 ost

Beka st-6 os OSs ge O54

Dekalb ste + 033053 otra 0:53

Dekalb st-le a e328) lan 052

Dekalb stirs oly Osh ko 0.34

eas 00 Osh Oe

Dekalb F525 a +

Dekalb s1-6

Desaib Si-8 +

Dekalb St-i6 a

Dekalb Sk-17 +

Men

Dekalb st-s +

Deualb st-l6 3

Dekalb S?-17 +

A Approximately 1/200 acre,

---Page Break---

-us-

TABLE 8. GRY MATTER PRODUCTION SY EICIT CANDIDATE TROPICAL GRASSES  
PROPAGATED

itu VARIABLE MOISTURE REGIMES OVER A ThAe-cOURSE OF II WEERS

m (Ke/Pice) 1 ac week ?

Motature

egine, variety 1 ° u Mean

oT te

ante Sorgen 77 38 1

Tradae 5 a So

Dealb 5-4 fa Sa

Delalb #525 a + et

Dekalb §1-6 3609

Deealb Si-e + ss lag

Delalb Sk-16 a 8S

Delalb st-17 + oie :

Nene ?oo a E

?\_?S]7

Normal sorden 77 re sr

Trudan 5. eG 56

Detalb #5-4 Se it Se

Dekarb rs-25a+ lege

Devalb S1-6 to er

Dewalb sts + be

Smi-aeis?Sordan 77 2 ae mn 238

rodaa 5) 30 te ?6 Be

Dealb F5-< cho ae Sto

Deiatb P2541 te te

Desale ste Bee 3

Detalb stot Ss fo

Dekalb Stale a eS nto

Dekalb Stal? + ee 8 ie

?a a

Mean Ey :

ee

LU Approxiaately 1/200 acre.

---Page Break---

{SLE 9, DRY MATTER CONTENT OF EIGHT CANDIDATE TROPICAL GLASSES FADPAGATEO

[WITW VARIABLE WOTSTURE REGIMES OVER A TIME-COURSE OF 11 WEEKS

woistore Bi (&) AT Week =

Regine Variery 7 ° in Mess

and Soréen 77 16.5 2.6

Traden 5 Ms 26

Dekalb 5-4 8 Ba

Dekalb F5-25aç 1213 a

Dekalb st-8 1 Bi

Detalb si-8 + ue nis

Desalb si-l6 «| Be 23

Dekalb Stl) + a6 Be

ee

Mean ma 25.2

Noraal 16.0 as

iso 28

2s BS

Be 32

Be Sse

2 bie

Detalb Si-16 a BS jo

Dawaib star + be Bi

?Sae ees

Mean a 2

ec es Ty

SemtcArid?Sordan 77 3 saa 23

Trodan 5) wg 235

Dekalb F< i390? e Bs

Dekalb P5254 © 12 gs de rd

Detalb ste 2203s Ba

Deals ste + 2 RB ao

Delalb St-16 pi ws Ba 2033

Detalb Stl? > m7 ela 8

a

Mean 6 a 2S

as

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-a-

TUBLE 10. DRY MATTER PRODUCTION BY JOHNSON GRASS PROPAGATED WITH  
VARIABLE NITRATE SUPPLY 18 SAND CULTURE

Dm (g/Piant) Ac week YM

?aah 7 «6 ww eae,

a met oe ine ise 0.99

3 Abe Le 1908 278 ase

° Sa Lee 68a sae 25s

» a 192 aoe 5.68 ay 2a

se Tab 20360 6S 3.38

os ?Tab 2.2008 3.38457 29

?

4 nutrient treamente vere iniciac

?The initial arvest

Plaace vere four weeks of a4

vies seedlings vere tvo weeks of

taken tuo weeks thereafter, Sey vhen the

Y ean values in the same column bearing unlike Letters differ aignif-  
icantly (e.03). Values bearing at least one Letter in coust

After aigoiiicanely

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{UGBE LL, DRY MATTER CONTENT (2) OF JOHNSON CRASS PROPACATED WITH  
VARIABLE NITRATE. SUPPLY 18 SAND CULTURE

DM (3) Ae Week ~

Wo, tever | GD A aa

deg) z \* ? 20 Mean

2 wre! wie 2.50 Mae 2.9

2 Bsa ee 24 He na

. Woe 15.58 84 20.68 v9

2 120 be Wo be 18.38 25.78 coy

Ps Be ae mre lb wa

a Be abe mse MA 16.

Mes SSS

v

© wean valuas in che sane coluns bearing unlike letters differ significantly (P<.05). Values bearing a least one Letter in com ston do nor differ eigaitically.

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-49-

"Gita tanta atvenie Sober iif crue 17

Foliar Content (¢ Dey We.) For ~

cada/t) ¥ ? ©

1.07 0.25,

> 1a 0.23

> Ls 0.28 230

a 2a 0.29 237

o 2a 0.27 23?

a aay 0.25 233

wens Ln 26 2st

Y aneive blades of Leaf tanke 1 § 2, harventad at veek 10 of varia  
mo trestaente,

2 ant Figures are the computed means of three replicates.

---Page Break---

TUMLE 13. POST-KURVEST RECROATH AY JONNISON CRASS PLANTS PROPAGATED|

Mini VARIABLE NITRATE SUPPLY TW SAID CULTUAE

s/Mant for ?

Teles) shots/miot\_\_ireen Wty Dry We. ro

5 28 ama aa

2 wa wks ba

. a m0 a ae

» ws was wa

? ne wie 2 on

8 1 m2 30.7 ma

1 nacut four veeks after cernnation of the variable NO, ereatueents,

?aar'Figucee ace the Conpced beats of three replicate,

---Page Break---

sae

TUSLE 16, DRY MATTER PRODUCTION BY CAIDTDATE §. SPORTANELY AND §. SINENSE

(Lowes GIVEN MINIM TILLAGE FOR Si MONTIS 17

Mieta/Pioe (Ka) For ?

Species Clone Green Matter Dry Mateer zm

Sacchane Wybrid PR 980 ast 240 28.2

S. sioease aretha 1s 2.

Ghunnee aoe bs

fatal Ube 3.08 22

Talnen oer 385

. sponeanom ses 2 94.08 wa 36.3

sts 317 a3 a8

ses 327 18.82 6.62 333

Us 67=22-2 t3on wet io

Us 67-34-24 wae 5.62 26

us 72097 we 24:00 mn

OS 72-70 2/ (CLoeoaptece paza)

bs 72272 37 3.20 12.38 as

De Tee 2s kas 14.88 at

---Page Break---

?TABLE 15. BIONASS PRODUCTION BY FIVE SACCHAREM CLONES UNDER MINDEN  
TIUAGE CONDITIONS; AUG, 1, 1979-488. 11, 1980 1/

SMonehe Yield (tona/Acre)

clone Green Matter Dry Matter zm

me 980 aaa 0.9 2.0

vs 67-2202 0.86 waa

us 7272 136 sa

vs 72-93 1.65 0.19 6

S. spoot. tybria sas 0.96 so.

4 rourth, G-month harvest. Originally planted during February, 1997.

---Page Break---

- se

UBLE 16, BIQUASS PRODUCTION BY THE SUCOND RATOON CROP OF THREE

SUCARCAME VARIETIES AND ONE NAPTER GRASS VARIETY PAO?

?care WIT VARIABLE" BOW CENTERS; FIRST 2-AOHTH HARVEST

Green Matter (Tons/A), At Row Center ?

culesvar iso 50 7 change

Px 980 owe! othe 6.3

Seo 310 reas S928 tied

Pe eei7a ie oisk oat

50 on se

Mapier Crane 22.08 « 12.78 4 5

Dry Macter (Tous/Acre)

mm 980 one! owe 9.0

eo 310 ola 8 Ose ans

Pr eini791 tke ole SSo'0

Napier Crass napa 2.04 a 9.0

Dry Matter Content (2)

Bae 14.3 ab 73

12 a 102 ob °

iiss wa ab a43

13.5 a 16.0.4 32

2/ Mean values bearing unlike Letters differ significantly (P < .05)

those bearing at least one letter in common do not differ significantly.

---Page Break---

TABLE 17, BIOMASS PRODUCTION BY THE SECOND RATOON CROP OF THREE  
SUGARCANE VARIETIES AND ONE NAPIER GRASS VARIETY PROP-  
AGATED WITH VARIOUS ROW SPACINGS; SECOND 2-MONTH HARVEST

Screen Matter (Ton/A), At Row Center ?



cutetvar Toe oe Change

380 ost a! a3

Sto'3i0 Xo e 25

Pr eini751 asa a cole

Pe

Sepier Grass 2.256 uo

Dey Matter (Tona/here)

mst 0.09

Sto 310 os b

me eeiz one

apie Grass par

Dry Matter Content (2)

580 Bae 13.8 ab 4.5

wee 30 15.0 a Bue aoe

meee. Kos won cad

sapter Craze 15.6 08 aoa aa

Af Maan values bearing unlike letters differ significantly ( $P < .05$ )

?hoan bearing at least one letter in sowmon do not differ significantly.

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TABLE 16. BIOMASS PRODUCTION BY THE SECOND RATOOK CROP OF THREE  
SUCAREANE VARIETIES AND ONE NAPIER GRASS VARIETY PROP  
AGATED WITH VARIABLE ROW SPACINGS; THIRD 2-MONTH HARVEST

Green matter (Tons/A), At Row Center ~

culcivar 150 es oe Chasse

PR 980 0.28 > Y 42.8

eo 310. Le 8. ?03

PR eran Perky ~28'9

Napier Grass t/a = 3.8

Dey Matter (fona/A)

PR 980 0.08» 0.08 » 30.9

feo 310 oh9 orb iS

PR 6e-i791 0105 & 0105 & °

Napier Crass 1.48 @ aaa -67

1.0 = Tae

ae eo

Boe °

12.5 07

1 Mean values bearing ualike Leteere difter significantly ( $P < 05$ )

?hose having at least one Letter in common do aot differ significantly.

---Page Break---

TABLE 19, BIOMASS PRODUCTION BY THE SEOORD RATOOK CROP OF THREE  
SUGARCANE VARIETIES AND OME AAPIER GEASS VARIETY PROP?

[ACATED WETW VARIABLE ROW CENTERS; FOURTH 2-NORTH RARVEST

Grown Matter (Tone/A), At Row Center ?

PR 980 cage 0.32 04 654

eo 310 265 8 a & 9

Pe eei7e. 058 ee oat é mas

oe ee

Napier Crane 11.60 9 10.21 <9

Dry Mateer (Tone/Aera)

re 980 0.02 0.07 250.0

Seo" 310 oi on19 a4

PR e179 0.08 02 ote

Mapier crase 1.29 13s aan

Dry Matter Contest (2)

1m 980 119 be Be

co 310 130 a

me eeive1 ios =

Mapier Crass nize so

A Mean values bearing unlike letters 4iøfar significantly ( $P < .05$ )

?hose bearing at least one Letter in comon do aot differ sigeitically

---Page Break---

-9-

?UBLE 20, BIOWASS PRODUCTION St THE SECOND RATOON CROP OF THREE

SUGARCAXE VARIETIES 48D OSE NAPIER GRASS VARIETY PHOP-

GATED VITW VARIABLE ROW CEXTERS; FIFTH 2-AOTH HARVEST

Green Matter (Tona/A), AE Row Center ?

cuteivar ioe Es 1 change

7 980 owe! ose = 38

e310 20k ? Tote 263.

meee oo 8 one i685.

om asco

Mapier crane 15.258 16.5 a

Dey Matter (Toas/Acee)

3 980 0.06 0.07 © 16.7

ee" 310 00 & ona 20:0

PR eei791 08 bos  $\phi$  ?es

Kaytee Cease 23s nae °

ey matter (2)

ra 980 wre 20.8 a 68

Be 310 13.) ey Ee

reece 28 aes ao

epier Crase mae 14.5 & 23,

1 Mean values bearing unlike Letters differ significantly ( $P < .05$ )

?hose bearing at least one letter in common do not differ significantly.

---Page Break---

SS een

(roe toe , cx og mre

7 tiem

(ov scene ?

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° om nme &

iene a oF n Ter

TA RTT TT OS tee

?TIVO FIVIEVA 2¥ GRLSZAETE EEVED TALEWA QW ANOWOO J 400 MOLTE-GONE HAE Wd

BORNE GALI ERD 7 Fi

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\_ (ot nee)

?rensaetoe oven et

ee (e200 sratane) ee swinig soraen

oo es seesteing nose 9

oct Coorg sieeoen)

crwg mimsemsen)

Sy ¥

[STVGNINE TEVA BY GALSUNNWH SEVID LN caY ANOWONS GO JOE WOOIWE-GIODRS  
BLL Wu EOTAIA GALIWN

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TABLE 23, BIOHASS PRODUCTION BY THE SECOND RATOOM CROP OF THREE  
SUGARCANE VARIETIES 3 OME. NAPTER GRASS VARIETY PROF

[MCATED VETW VARIABLE ROW CENTERS; FIRST (MONTH BARVEST

Green Matter (Tons/A), At Row Center ~

cultivar 150 50 1 change

Px 980 wore! 1.9 6 13.0

eo 310 ay 20.9 3 ye

PR stel7a1 1513 be 35 ¢ ois

soem en

Napier crane nee zte = 6.3

PR 980

PR stet794

Napier crass

Dey Matter Contant (2)

7 980 18.6% 08

io 310 isis ro

Pe 6tei791 is9 8 °

Napier Crass a3.8 4 29

AY Mean valuen beariag unlike letters differ significantly (P <.08)

hose having at least one letter in comon do not differ signiticanciy.

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SLE 24. BIOHASS PRODUCTION BY THE SECOND RATOOR CROP OF THREE

UGAGAREARLEEIES 0) nF MAP GRAS. TAREE PRO

Green Matcer (Tons/A), Ae Row Center ?

cutivar oe De E Gange

7 960 suse gare a5

Sto 310 rae 946 & 22

Pe sei791 Hs be cae aay

epics Grass

PR 950 Lae 1az se -25.8

\$e 300 rare. ine Bs

Pr enizs1 10 8 oto ¢ Sto!0

Mapier Cease sa7 a 5.25 a =o

Dry maceer (3)

Px 980 noe 16.9 ab 36

eo 310 17.0 a wis 52

Fe eei79 16.0 38 isa a

Mapier Crass 1208 ante °

2 eae

les bearing valike Letters differ significantly ( $P < 05$ );

Those having at least See letter in common do not differ significantly.

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sa

TABLE 25, BIOMASS PRODUCTION BY THE SECOND RATOON CROP OF THREE  
SUGARCANE VARIETIES. 200 ONE AUPIER GRASS VARIETY FROM-  
cate Wind VARIABLE Row CENTERS; FIRST MONTHS HARVEST

Grows Matter (Tons/A), At Row Center ?

cultivar 150 = 50 oe E change

900 wea! noe as

Meo 310 358s 33.6 ae

Pr elei791 maa vise

we sea

epser Grane 33.3 30.0 be 3.9

bry nator (Tona/A)

2 980 bab eat a9.6

te '310 ca ren 222

PE 6iet791 Sab are ao

apier Grasse 9.0.4 298 n2.2

FR 980 nga 224 1

Neo 310 23 ave 253 he a

Prats 23% be 2 aoa

Kapier Gras aaa 26.2 ab 3a

Af Mena values bearing unlihe letters aiffer significantly (P .05)<sup>4</sup>

?hose taving at least one Letter in comon do noe differ significantly.

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worsa sonden

(oveg ereemoun)

- seesaeene room 21

ee oneg oreason) ee feeno santen

ve vu soessetns 008 9

rag simaoaen) eat ee rnso sorsen

co re ?sees 804»

ceveg mide) wor est est seg aaro

Wear iT WG) We ee

[vaWint HTWVLeVA ZY GALSNIN SOMO WELGWW GW WTAE AD GOED NOOK GRAS HAL  
won UD WaLGW AAO 9E RTO

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?USLE 27, BIOMASS PRODUCTION BY THREE CANDIDATE TROPICAL GRASSES  
PabeacareD TH MINDIRM WATER SUPPLY OVER A TIMECCOORSE  
oF 10 vEEKS 17

Aionase Yield (Tons/Ace®)

sea Planted 9

variety (here) Green We. Ory We

Sordan 70K 36 aaa 107

sordan 77 aaa? a



AY ALL plots received 2.0 acre inches of water by overhead irrigation  
for planting. no additional irrigation was administered. Rainfall  
for the 10-week growth period totaled 2.75 inches?

2/ Solar dried to approximately 15% moisture.

---Page Break---

one or more of the 10 - 100 sorghum

at Coan in the ME Ta

only Matam ag area

eising weatintavsnu dp pete

---Page Break---

TABLE 29, NEW SUGARCANE CROSSES FOR BIOMASS; NOV., 1979

Female Parent Male Parent Objectives

B 70-701 x S7HNG-S4 Fiber only

Nco 310 x us 67=22-2 A Fiber &

Fermentable Solid

Nico 310 xB 70-701 2/ Fiber &

Feruentable Solids

PR 62-195 x ST=NG~S4 Fiber &  
Fermentable Solide

PR 68-330 x 47-NG-54

A Field cross.

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TURLE 20. NOW SUGARCANE CROSSES FOR BIOMASS, DECROER, 1973

Eatinated Yo.

roms Wo. Female Parent wale Parent Of Seailings

1 R980 x S. spent. tybese 400 to 300

PR OT-1010 x \$. apont, Hybrid 500

3 PRGLISIE x \$. spent. lybeid 20

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TABLE 31, PRELDMURY COST AUALYSIS FOR TOTAL DRY HATTER PRODUCTION  
BY FIRST-RATOOW SUCARCAKE MANAGED AS AK ENERGY CROP

TDRY MATTER YIELD: 33 OD Tons/Acre Total 6600 Tons

## Preliminary Cost Analysis

Cost (dollars)

4, Land Rental, at 50.00/Acre 10,000

2. Seedbed Preparation, at 15.00/Acre 1,000

3. Water (800 Acre Feet at 15.00/AF) 22,000

4, water application, at 48.00/Acre Year 9,600

5. Sand for Pine crop Plus Two tallow Crops),

Wages/expense at 15.00/AF 3,000

4. Fertilizer, at 160.00/Acre 36,000

7, Pesticides, at 26.50/AF 3,300

A, arvent, Including tqiupment Charnes,

?Equipment Deprecition, Aad Labor 20,000

3. Day tabor, 2 Man Year (2016 fre at 3.00/m«) Y 6,048

30. Cultivation, at 5.00/here 2,000

AL, Land Preparation & wainteuance (Pret Post-tiarvest) 600

32, Debivery, a 7.00/T00/3 ailes of Haul 46,200

DB. seeds 132,768

3, Managenests 108 of Subtorad 13,275,

15. Total cont 368,025

A/ labor which i not ncioded in other cones

?otal coue/Ton:  $(168,023 + \$600): 23.46$

?otal Cout/Miliion BTUs:  $(25.46 + 15) = 1.70$

\* Ope fon of this dry matter vould contain approximately £00 pounds of fermentable solide, oto? pounds of Acrmentable solids, equal to about 61 gallone of high-test eclazes,

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6

?TABLE 92. PRELIMINARY COST ANALYSIS FOR ENERGY CAE vU CONVENTIONAL  
SUCAACAIE PRODUCTION 18

Porto mice (1979 DoLLags)~

aualyals For A Privately Omed 200 Acre Operation 1!

Estinated Cont (6/Yeur) For ~

1. Land estat, at 50.00/Aer6 10,000 10,000 °
- 2 2,000 3,000 0
3. Waser, at 15.00/Aere Foot 12,00 12,000 °
4. Maver application, at 48.00/Acre Year 94600 9,600, °
5. Seed (for Plant Crop Plus Tyo Racoon Crops) 4,300 3,000 100
6. Fereitiser 18,000 36,000 100
7. Peaticides, at 26.50/Acr6 5,300 5,200, °
8. warvest, including Equipeent Charn
- ?Eeulpoeat Depreciation, and Lal 12,000 20,000 o
- 9 Day Labor, at 3.00/ne 2! 6,088, 6,048, °
20. Cultivation, at 5.00/nere 1,000 1,000 °
- AL, Land Preparation & Maintenance (Fre Fost-arvest) 600 00 °
- 22, Delivery, For 3 tites of aut m0 46,200 o

AP Wield (0.0. Tons/Acre Year): Sugarcane, 9.0; Eaersy Cane, 33.0.

2/ Labor vaich is sot included in other coats.

Total Coet/0.0. To

Sugarcane, \$84.68

Boeray cane, 25.66

Total Cost/Miliion BTUe: Sugarcane, 4.32

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s(6t) 18 29 eousen woss poadery /E



aD eae ane

awe ve

ra ro oe o'e, 000'2 aw peas

? Soro ms = ores aq 2097

w ore 000'tT trey wr a <prereeeeny

we owt twee ree ?

we tne cece aries tn

oro ?Teren-ang

on cro oor ae 007, a emyasez0g,

ne ote ox rts

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a

SOI OLWing NT NOTLONOONA AND ADWANE WOU SHALNT AOKENE TRY Nv ?Ee ATHY

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=n

TABLE 34, ENERGY INPUT AND RECOVERY FROM ENERGY cANE Prooucrion 1!

?Asmat Energy Tnvolvenent

Paraneter = stuincre m= XGai/ia WO Oil/aw

oucpot 2/ aeaa 4.40

spat ery

lance 40.96

Ouepue/tepae 9.95 9.95 9.95

Af Based on an anouai dry matter yield of 33 00 cons/acre, Less 640

Tee/0D ton an extracted fersentable solids.

2 Steam recovery basis. Asnunes alternate source of atean is

?lectrie utility boiler having 5: effickency using nor 6 fuel oft,

ed with 6.287 Ge BTU/Eb! of el

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