**RESEARCH PAPER**



# **Simultaneous equation model for Indian sugar sector**

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### **Abstract**

India is the second-largest producer and consumer of sugar and sugarcane-based products. Changes in sugar production in India afect domestic and global markets of sugar and related industries. In this paper, a simultaneous equation model is developed to understand the interrelationship between sugar supply and demand in India using time-series data over 44 years from 1970–1971 to 2013–2014. Three-stage least square regression model was used to estimate the elasticities of supply and demand equations of sugar. Results revealed that price of sugar afected sugar supply positively and demand negatively. Recovery rate and amount of cane crushed have positive relationship with sugar production. Changes in current year area harvested, yield and FRP determine the future area under sugarcane cultivation. Rainfall and technology have supported to increase the yield. Sugar consumption has direct relationship with population rate. These results suggest that technological development, external trade and appropriate sugar policy measures are the primary choice to resolve the sugar complexities in future.

**Keywords** Sugar · Price · Technology · 3SLS · Simultaneous equations · Agro-processing

# **Introduction**

Analysing the role of market forces and governments on balancing sugar supply and demand in the market is important for the following four reasons. First, the Indian sugar market has experienced a series of policy changes afecting farmer—producers of

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sugarcane to processors to consumers. Second, India is the second-largest producer and consumer of sugar and sugarcane-based products. Hence, changes in sugar production not only afect the Indian sugar market but also distort the global market. Third, sugarcane and its derivatives are extensively used as raw materials in more than 25 industries, such as food, agriculture, energy, transportation, and education (Yadav and Solomon [2006](#page-28-0)). A shock in any sub-units of the sugar sector will affect the welfare of farmers, processors, and consumers. Fourth, energy security and environmental concerns over  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emission in recent decades call for relying upon zero pollutant resources; sugarcane is one such resource that provides highest energy-to-volume ratio, and its by-product ethanol is used in the automobile sector (Yadav and Solomon [2006](#page-28-0); Walter et al. [2014;](#page-28-1) Jaiswal et al. [2017;](#page-27-0) Manochio et al. [2017](#page-27-1))

Regardless of importance, fuctuations in sugar price and consequent profts/losses to farmers and processors (sugar mills) are not just concerns among researchers and academics but also a serious social and political issue in India. Such adverse situations arise due to asymmetric information and inefficient functioning of the market system. It is generally known that efficient marketing of agricultural products must ensure (1) remunerative price to farmers; (2) reasonable price to consumers; and (3) margin for processors and traders. Such a fair functioning of marketing system safeguards the interests of all stakeholders in the supply chain (Acharya and Agarwal [2011\)](#page-26-0). Any imperfection in price allocation leads to poor gains for each participant in the marketing channel. Sugar marketing in India is a complex system with unpredictability in the nature of supply and price. In this situation, it is important to know the cause and efect between various market actors. Addressing the extent of causal efects transmitted among farmers, processors, retailers, and government agencies is imperative to identify the degree of market conduct and performance.

#### **Indian sugar sector**

Sugar is one of the essential food commodities and is treated as a prime sweetening agent in India. About 30% of total sugar production is consumed directly by the households, and the rest is used as raw material in many food industries (Abnave and Babu [2017](#page-26-1)). Sugarcane is the major source for about 90% of total sugar consumed in India. The sector contributes around 10% to the total agricultural GDP, supports nearly 50 million farmers and their families, and provides direct employment to over 0.5 million skilled and semi-skilled persons in sugar mills and associated industries (Indian Sugar Mill Association [2017\)](#page-26-2). It is the second-largest producer after Brazil, with shares of nearly 15% and 25%, respectively, of sugar and sugarcane. With 735 operating sugar mills, India accounts for around 20% of the sugar mills in the world. In addition, there are 328 distilleries and 210 cogeneration plants, and numerous pulp, paper, and chemical making units. The industry produces around 350 million tons of cane, 22 million tons of white sugar, and 8 million tonnes of jaggery. Besides these, about 2.7 billion litres of alcohol and 2300 MW power, and many chemicals are produced from sugar industries. The industry is expected to export around 1300 MW of power to the grid in the future.

Given the constant demand and large proportion of domestic consumption (more than 90% of total production), surplus production of sugar results in decline of its prices and proftability of sugar industries. Thus, sugarcane farming and sugar industry are gripped with problems of excess production that results in market glut and delayed payment of dues to farmers. This further creates amount of 'arrears' to farmers, increasing cost of sugar production to sugar industries and burden on state governments to subsidise or to pay the

statuary price for sugarcane. As a result, farmers are not only unpaid timely for their cane supply but also become not interested in sugarcane farming. This creates years of shortages, at least for the subsequent 2–3 years. As a consequence, sugar production in India has turned out to be cyclical. This kind of instability and unpredictability in sugarcane and sugar production has prevented the sector from achieving its full potential (Sharma et al. [2015\)](#page-27-2). Thus, year-to-year fuctuation in sugarcane and sugar production is crucial for farmers and mill owners. On the other hand, production of sugarcane and sugar is technically constrained with many factors at individual farm–factory level. For instance, water does crucial role in sugarcane cultivation technically. As being the annual crop (12–16 months), cost of irrigation water in sugarcane farming covers 6–10% of total cost of cultivation, after labour hours (about 50%) (GoI [2017\)](#page-26-3). Eventually, scarcity in water and labour during all round of the crop season and associated higher cost affect the choice of sugarcane and quantity supply at farm level. However, the present paper is primarily concerned with the cause and efect of macro-variables, as availability of historical information on water and labour use and cost is limited at national level.

Apart from sugar industries, numerous jaggery units are functioning in India. Jaggery industry has been enjoying the privileges of the absence of interventions from the public sector over a long period and ability to absorb sugarcane when reasonable prices for cane are not available from sugar mills. Till 1980s, more than 70% of the harvested sugarcane was used in jaggery production. Since then, the proportion has declined and greater demand has emerged for sugar production due to changes in per capita sugar consumption.

To safeguard the welfare of farmers and consumers, the Indian government has introduced periodically various price policy measures. Such interventions include the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932; Essential Commodity Act, 1955; Minimum Support Price (in the 1960s); Sugar (Control) Order, 1966; State Advisory Prices, 1970; Sugar Development Fund, 1982; Sugar Cess Act, 1982; Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987; Delicencing Sugar Sector, 1998; Ethanol Blending Programme, 2012; and Scheme for extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings in 2014. Experts have indicated that such interventions distort market equilibrium and result in crisis in sugar production (Shrof and Kajale [2014\)](#page-27-3). In particular, imposition of levy under the Essential Commodity Act (1955) and FRP for cane at fxed rate created a state of no-linkage among cane price, sugar price, and the amount of supply and demand of sugar in the country (Meriot [2015;](#page-27-4) Sharma et al. [2015;](#page-27-2) Abnave and Babu [2017\)](#page-26-1). Considering these difculties, the Rangarajan Committee (2013) recommended partial decontrol of sugar sector to overcome market disequilibrium, and accordingly the Government of India removed levy quota and levy price from 2012 to 2013; let the sugar mills sell all their ex-mill sugar production in the open market.

In recent times, energy safety and environmental problems have inspired the use of ethanol in the automobile sector across the world. For example, Brazil, the USA, Europe, Australia, Canada, and Japan have followed fuel ethanol blending technology to reduce carbon emission. Government of India has set a target to reach ethanol blending with petroleum by 20%, but only 3.3% of the target was achieved in 2016 (Debnath and Babu [2018](#page-26-4)). It is expected that surplus sugarcane and sugar production can satisfy the raw material requirement of ethanol industry and thereby help to avoid the unpredictability of the sugar cycle.

Thus, sugarcane farming and sugar industry are gradually transforming into sugar complexes by involving diferent kinds of actors and stakeholders in diferent stages of production, processing, marketing, and consumption. Supply and demand of sugar in the country are constrained by many factors, such as technology, policy interventions, population, urbanisation, and development of food industries and super-markets. To assess the efect of key factors, such as changes in prices, technology, and policy reforms on sugar market,

it is important to have more empirical research. The present study, therefore, attempted to estimate cause and efect of diferent components of sugar production under simultaneous equation model incorporating sugar demand, supply, sugarcane production, international trade, and government interventions.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows: "[Review of empirical literature](#page-3-0)" section reviews empirical work related to supply and demand of food commodities and associ-ated estimation problems. "[Methodology"](#page-4-0) section deals with the data and methodology employed in the present study. "[Results and discussion](#page-12-0)" section presents the results of the study and discusses the sugar sector, and ["Conclusion and recommendations"](#page-20-0) section summarises and concludes the results of the study.

## <span id="page-3-0"></span>**Review of empirical literature**

In general, agricultural markets are assumed to be competitive, that is, there are large numbers of buyers and sellers for a single commodity. There are complex linkages between them that are distorted by many factors, including policy options and technologies (Borychowski and Czyżewski [2015](#page-26-5)). Marketing of an agricultural product is not unidirectional but an economic system, where cause and efects are represented by a set of equations. Interrelationship between these equations and coefficients is estimated together as a change in the parameters of an equation is expected to affect the state of other variables in another equation simultaneously (Greene [2003](#page-26-6); Gujarati and Porter [2004\)](#page-26-7). In other words, the explained variable is not only afected by explanatory variables but also afects the same explanatory variables within the system. Such interdependence between the variables is called two-way causation; in such a situation, applying a single-equation model with oneway cause and efect seems to be neither appropriate nor unbiased (Acharya and Madnani [1988\)](#page-26-8). Hence, a system of equation models is necessary to represent the interrelationship between supply and demand functions of an agricultural product.

Most studies, however, have relied upon unidirectional single-equation model for estimating supply of and demand for agricultural commodities. Many estimated supply of and demand for food commodities separately in single-equation settings (Hossain [1997;](#page-26-9) Chowdhury and Herndon [2000](#page-26-10); Umanath et al. [2018;](#page-27-5) Kumar et al. [2017](#page-27-6)). Supply response model in general is unidirectionally determined by price of own and competitive crops and some other specifc factors relating to technology, weather, economic structure, and macroconstraints (Nerlove and Bachman [1960](#page-27-7); Rao [1989](#page-27-8)) using time-series data. The concept of supply response has a long history in the literature (Nerlove [1956;](#page-27-9) Houck and Ryan [1972;](#page-26-11) Lee and Helmberger [1985\)](#page-27-10). On the other hand, most studies used single-equation model for demand and price analysis (Lee and Helmberger [1985](#page-27-10); Prestemon and Buongiorno [1993;](#page-27-11) Wear and Lee [1993;](#page-28-2) Brooks [1995;](#page-26-12) Chas-Amil and Buongiorno [2000](#page-26-13); Hemmasi et al. [2006\)](#page-26-14). Kangas and Baudin ([2003\)](#page-27-12), attempting to estimate the supply and demand of forest products in domestic and international market, employed single-equation method for each function in the market. A few have concentrated on factors explaining food prices (Westcott and Hofman [1999;](#page-28-3) Monteiro et al. [2012](#page-27-13); Ekananda and Suryanto [2018\)](#page-26-15). Besides, Almost Ideal Demand System (AIDS) and its next-level models (e.g. Quadratic AIDS model) have also been found to estimate the demand of food commodities (Chengappa et al. [2016;](#page-26-16) Umanath et al. [2016\)](#page-27-14).

Simultaneous equation models have been used to solve the complex system of price, supply, trade, and demand market (Lin [2008;](#page-27-15) Roberts and Schlenker [2009](#page-27-16)). Bayramoğlu et al. ([2016\)](#page-26-17) used simultaneous equations system, including equation for supply and demand of corn, bioethanol, and corn price. Dority and Tenkorang [\(2016](#page-26-18)) tried to estimate the impact of US and Brazilian ethanol production on world food prices and found that energy price had a signifcant impact in determining the world food price. Lamm Jr and Westcott ([1981\)](#page-27-17) examined the relationship between prices of factors of production and retail prices of food articles by applying three-stage least squares (3SLS) and found that increased factor prices affect food prices.

Only a few studies have attempted to study market behaviour and price determination in sugar sector under various situations (Mustafa and Khan [1982](#page-27-18); Ribeiro and Oliveira [2011;](#page-27-19) Kumawat and Prasad [2012](#page-27-20); Hamulczuk and Szajner [2015;](#page-26-19) Pastpipatkul et al. [2016](#page-27-21)). Specifcally, Senthilnathan and Ramasamy ([1996\)](#page-27-22) in India and Keerthipala [\(2002](#page-27-23)) in Sri Lanka have tried to solve the sugar complex with the help of simultaneous equation settings. However, they are not sufficient in considering jaggery and other allied units of sugar industry. There is a paucity of the literature exploring the impact of sub-sectors of sugar industry on the supply and demand of sugar and their interrelationships in India.

### <span id="page-4-0"></span>**Methodology**

#### **Sugar sector model framework**

In this study, simultaneous equation model was used to estimate the interrelationship between demand and supply of sugar in India. The following simultaneous equation system represents the Indian sugar sector model by including various market situations of production, consumption, sugar price, and international trade, to fnd out the interrelationships among these variables.

Production:

$$
SPNt = a0 + a1SUPt + a2MCPt + a3CACt + a4MOPt + a5RERt + a6LEPt + a7SPNt-1
$$
\n(1)

$$
CAC_{t} = b_{0} + b_{1}ARE_{t} + b_{2}YID_{t} + b_{3}IAG_{t} + b_{4}CAC_{t-1}
$$
 (2)

 $ARE_t = c_0 + c_1ARE_{t-1} + c_2YID_{t-1} + c_3FRP_t + c_4FRP_{t-1} + c_5VOP_{t-1} + c_6RAF_{t-1} + c_7GCA_t$ 

<span id="page-4-2"></span><span id="page-4-1"></span>
$$
(3)
$$

$$
YID_t = d_0 + d_1 RAF_t + d_2 TIM_t + d_3 YID_{t-1}
$$
\n(4)

Consumption:

$$
SUC_{t} = e_0 + e_1 SUP_{t} + e_2 PGD_{t} + e_3 P DQ_{t} + e_4 POP_{t} + e_5 JAG_{t} + e_6 SUC_{t-1}
$$
 (5)

Sugar price:

$$
SUPt = f0 + f1JAGt + f2STRt + f3SPDt + f4SUEt + f5FRPt + f6SUPt-1
$$
 (6)

Trade:

$$
SUE_{t} = g_0 + g_1 SUP_{t} + g_2 INP_{t} + g_3 STB_{t} + g_4 EXR_{t} + g_5 SUE_{t-1}
$$
 (7)

 $SPN = sugar$  production in million tons;  $RER = recovery$  rate in percentage;  $ARE = sugarcane$  area in million hectare;  $YID = sugarcane$  yield in tons/ha;  $MOP =$  molasses production in million tons;  $POP =$  population in million;  $SUC =$  sugar consumption in million tons; PCSUC=per capita sugar consumption in tons;  $RAF =$ rainfall normalised by normal rainfall in millimetre;  $SUE =$  sugar export in million tons;  $STB =$  beginning stock in million tons;  $CAC =$  cane crushed in million tons;  $GCA =$ gross cropped area in million hectare; LEP = levy in percentage; VOP = value of other crops; SUP = sugar price in  $\overline{\tau}/qt$ ; SPD = price of sugar in public distribution system in ₹/kg; PGD = per capita GDP in billion crore; PDQ = squared per capita GDP in billion crore; FRP=fair & remunerative price  $\bar{\tau}/qt$ ; JAG=jaggery price in  $\bar{\tau}/kg$ ;  $INP =$  international price in \$/ton; MCP = mill capacity in tons;  $EXR =$  real effective exchange rate;  $a_0$  to  $a_7$ ;  $b_0$  to  $b_2$ ;  $c_0$  to  $c_5$ ;  $d_0$  to  $d_2$ ;  $e_0$  to  $e_5$ ;  $f_0$  to  $f_4$ ;  $g_0$  to  $g_4$  are parameters to be estimated; and  $t =$ time.

The first equation represents sugar production, where the level of production is influenced by factors such as sugar price, cane crushed, molasses production, recovery rate, jaggery price, and levy (per cent). As per economic theory, the level of production is concerned mostly with prices of the main product, competitive products, and by-products. Hence, to represent the competitiveness between sugar and its derivatives, we included the prices of sugar and jaggery, and the level of molasses production, in the sugar production equation. Similarly, technical factors which directly afect sugar production level, such as recovery rate and amount of cane crushed, were included in sugar equation to capture impact of technology on sugar production. We used a separate equation for cane crushed as it is assumed to have endogenous efects in sugar production equation, where yield and area are expected to afect the cane crushed separately. Moreover, area under sugarcane and yield can be endogenous and determined by other factors. Area is a function of factors such as previous year area harvested, yield, FRP, gross irrigated area, and value of other feld crops. This kind of area adoption under a crop can be estimated by employing Nerlovian area response model (Nerlove [1958\)](#page-27-24). Similarly, yield is a function of variables such as technology and rainfall. On the other hand, consumption is expected to be afected by sugar price, income, and size of population. Since the sugar industry is confronted by numerous price policy measures, we included fair and remunerative price (FRP), sugar price in the public distribution system, beginning stock of sugar, and amount of export, in the price equation. In the export equation, domestic and international sugar price, exchange rate, and beginning stock were taken as explanatory variables. Diagrammatic representation of interrelationships between variables can be seen in Fig. [1](#page-6-0).

All these equations were estimated simultaneously using 3SLS regression method so as to control for the endogeneity bias and cross-equation correlation of the residuals. It is generally known that any regression with any variables having unit root would result in spurious regression. To control this bias, non-stationary variables can be made stationary by diferencing. But this method will remove information about the long-run efect of the variables (Hsiao and Fujiki [1998](#page-26-20)). Further, it is necessary to add an error-correction term if the variables are cointegrated so that long-term relationship and causalities can be identifed appropriately (Engle and Granger [1987](#page-26-21)).

In simultaneous equation models, either the presence or absence of cointegration among the variables is supposed to be preassumed from the way the model is specifed (Hsiao [1997\)](#page-26-22). Also, a dynamic structure introduces trivial cointegration between the current and lagged variables (Hsiao and Fujiki [1998\)](#page-26-20). Hence, testing for cointegration of the variables using a sample Augmented Dickey–Fuller test on the residuals is not relevant. Moreover, for structural dynamic models of non-stationary and cointegrated variables, Hsiao [\(1997](#page-26-22)) and Hsiao and Fujiki ([1998\)](#page-26-20) have demonstrated that conventional structure equation estimators such as two-stage least square (2SLS) and 3SLS still possess desirable statistical



<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Sugar model

properties under certain conditions. For these reasons, we employed 3SLS regression method in the present study without discussing the stationarity problems on the residuals. The same procedure was followed by Rossi et al. [\(2009](#page-27-25)) to estimate the impact of export control policy measures.

#### **Data**

Data on all the variables used for the analysis were collected from various issues of the *ISMA* [Indian Sugar Mills Association], *Cooperative Sugar*, and *Indian Sugar* journals from 1970–1971 to 2013–2014, which gives us enough leverage to apply the model for analysis. Price and other economic variables were defated by consumer price index (base year: 1986–1987) to convert them into real terms.

### **Descriptive statistics of variables included in the model**

Sugar production shows an upward trend over the years, with some minor and major fuctuations in 1977–1978, 2006–2007, 2010–2011, and 2014–2015, with 4.71% annual compound growth rate (ACGR) (Fig. [2\)](#page-7-0). Highest sugar production was recorded in 2006–2007 with about 28 million tons, which is 7.6-fold of 1970–1971.

Prices of sugar and jaggery are anticipated to afect the quantity production of sugar at factory level. Prices of sugar and jaggery, adjusted for infation, show decreasing trend over the years—−2.11 and −1.48% of ACGR, respectively (Figs. [3,](#page-8-0) [4\)](#page-8-1). It is assumed that quantity supply of sugar may be positively related to price of sugar and negatively to price of jaggery, the latter being considered as competitive by the sugar factory for its raw cane materials. FRP is a kind of support price, legally designated for sugarcane in India, to ensure a reasonable price for farmers and safeguarding them from unforeseen fuctuations. This not only determines the choice of sugarcane but also afects the cost of production of sugar positively at factory level as FRP accounts for 70% of the costs in sugar production. In the past three decades, FRP has been increasing exponentially (Fig. [5\)](#page-9-0).

Similar to jaggery, molasses production afects the supply of sugar negatively. There has been an increasing trend in molasses production, with frequent ups and downs over the years—production of molasses was high (13.11 million tons) in 2006–2007, which then declined to 6.55 million tons in 2008–2009, and thereafter increased to 12.48 million tons during 2014–2015 (Fig. [6](#page-9-1)). Molasses production has been fuctuating since the 1970s and is expected to afect sugar production negatively. Recovery rate is another non-price factor

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

<span id="page-8-1"></span>

<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 3** Sugar price (SUP) in ₹/qtl

afecting the level of sugar production. Increased recovery rate is expected to increase sugar production. The average recovery rate was 10.37% in 2014–2015. Over the years, however, sugar recovery rate seems to have fluctuated around  $10\%$  in India (Fig. [7\)](#page-10-0). Imposing a levy on sugar probably reduces sugar supply in the market and afects the proper functioning of sugar factories. Since the establishment of the frst sugar mill in India, levy on ex-mill sugar has been used as a major policy instrument to regulate sugar distribution to the ultimate consumer; its pros and cons, with respect to the welfare of farmers and mill owners, have been discussed intensively. Levy rate was reduced from 70% in the 1970s to 40% in the 2000s, 10% in the 2010s, and 0% from 2014 (Fig. [8](#page-10-1)).

The production of sugar in India is directly related to the cane crushed. About 70% of produced sugar is obtained from sugarcane juice. The production of cane juice is fur-ther dependent on area adoption and yield. Figure [9](#page-11-0) shows an upward trend in area under

<span id="page-9-0"></span>

<span id="page-9-1"></span>sugarcane, with a growth rate of 1.55%. However, the annual compound growth rate (ACGR) of sugarcane yield has been stagnant (0.84%), despite tremendous improvement in yield level from 1970s to 2014 (Fig. [10](#page-11-1)). The up-and-down trend of yield and area under sugarcane is due to various reasons: previous year yield, FRP, rainfall, and remuneration obtained from other crops are attributed as major factors explaining the extent of area under sugarcane, while rainfall and technologies, such as seed varieties and fertilizers, have been major drivers of yield improvement. Value of output of other crops (VOP) is another major factor that explains the area adoption of sugarcane, as farmers' decision on choice of sugarcane is relative to remuneration from other crops. VOP shows a declining trend (−0.34% ACGR) (Fig. [11\)](#page-12-1). Sugarcane is a water-intensive crop, and hence, rainfall would afect yield at current period technically and the choice of area under sugarcane in the next year. Figure [12](#page-12-2) reveals the uneven distribution of rainfall over the years.

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

<span id="page-10-1"></span>Consumption of sugar seems to be afected by per capita income, price of sugar and jaggery, and population. As per economic law, price of sugar is likely to affect sugar consumption negatively and jaggery price positively. Also, it is anticipated that consumption of sugar would be positively related to the per capita income and population because increased population and their purchasing power might encourage food processing industry forward, where the use of sugar and sugar-based derivatives is indispensable. Both population and per capita income have increased exponentially over the years (Figs. [13,](#page-13-0) [14\)](#page-13-1), and also, there is an increasing trend in the domestic per capita and total sugar consumption. Sugar consumption was about only 4.02 million tons in 1970–1971, and it has increased about 15.67% in 2014 (Fig. [15](#page-14-0)).

Since more than 90% of total sugar production is consumed by domestic population, it is expected that there would not be any signifcant relationship among these variables. However,

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

<span id="page-11-1"></span>we were interested in estimating the cause and efect of major variables, such as real efective exchange rate (Fig. [16](#page-14-1)), domestic sugar price, international sugar price (Fig. [17](#page-15-0)), and beginning stock (Fig. [18](#page-15-1)), which are expected to determine the international market for sugar in India. Total sugar export was less than 1.11 million tons until 2005. Maximum sugar export (4.96 million tons) was observed during 2007–2008; it declined to 2.30 million tons in 2014 (Fig. [19](#page-16-0)). In addition, the trend and growth rate of price of sugar in PDS, cane crushed, gross cropped area and mill capacity were presented in Figs. [20,](#page-16-1) [21,](#page-17-0) [22](#page-17-1) and [23](#page-18-0), respectively.

<span id="page-12-1"></span>

# <span id="page-12-2"></span><span id="page-12-0"></span>**Results and discussion**

### **Reliability test of the present model**

The present study followed the recursive system of simultaneous equation model to estimate the demand and supply elasticities of sugarcane and sugar derivatives in India. Here, we used couple of tests to choose an appropriate simultaneous equation model, as estimation with simultaneous equations is often vulnerable to endogeneity and simultaneity problems in the model. Relevancy (a high correlation between instrument variable and endogenous regressors that cannot be explained by other instruments) and



<span id="page-13-0"></span>**Fig. 13** Population (POP) in million

exogeneity (no correlation with the innovations in the dependent variable) were tested by using multiple correlation and Durbin–Wu–Hausman test of endogeneity.

Correlation test found high correlation of: the endogenous variable sugar production with per capita GDP (0.768) and jaggery price (0.766); cane crushed with molasses production (0.999) and population (0.933); sugar export with molasses production (0.649) and world sugar price (0.641); yield with gross irrigated area (0.893) and time (0.878); and sugarcane area with cane crushed (0.980), molasses production (978), and gross cropped area (0.945). All these indicate that all the instrument variables included in the model satisfy the relevancy test with their respective endogenous variables (Table [1\)](#page-19-0). Durbin–Wu–Hausman test was used to fnd exogeneity. Results of Durbin's Chi-square

<span id="page-13-1"></span>billion crore

<span id="page-14-0"></span>

<span id="page-14-1"></span>value and Wu–Hausman's *F*-statistics for all the seven equations are insignifcant, indicating that there was no endogenous variable in the right-hand side of all equations (Table [2\)](#page-19-1). From the results of weak instrument tests, robust *F*-statistics of all the seven equations were found signifcant, indicating that instruments included in the present study are very strong (Table [3](#page-20-1)). All these results emphasise that the model given in the previous section is appropriate for simultaneous equation analysis.

#### **Estimated equation of 3SLS**

The choice of method for estimating the coefficients of any simultaneous equation model depends on its identifability. As given in Table [4,](#page-21-0) order and rank conditions for

<span id="page-15-0"></span>

<span id="page-15-1"></span>identifcation problem indicated that the model presented from Eqs. [1](#page-4-1) to [7](#page-4-2) was over identified and suggested to employ the 3SLS to estimate the effect of macroeconomic policy variables on Indian sugar sector. Goodness of ft (*R*-square values) for all the seven equations was appropriate and signifcant at 1% level (*F*-test). Out of 34 estimated parameters in the model, 61% were statistically signifcant at 5% probability level (Table [5\)](#page-22-0).

### **Estimated elasticities**

In order to know the responsiveness of sugar supply and demand and all other endogenous variables, we estimated elasticity at mean level of respective explanatory variables.

<span id="page-16-0"></span>

<span id="page-16-1"></span>Estimated elasticity for all variables in all equations is presented in Table [6.](#page-24-0) Accordingly, in the sugar production equation, amount of cane crushed in a year is positive (1.03) and signifcant, indicating that 1% increase in the amount of sugarcane crushed would lead to increase in sugar production by 1.03%. Also, sugar production with respect to cane crushed is elastic, implying that the use of crushed cane for sugar production is increasing, rather than being diverted towards the production of other derivatives of sugarcane, such as jaggery and molasses. On the other hand, recovery rate shows a positive and highly elastic relationship with sugar production (1.52), that is,  $1\%$ change in recovery rate would result in 1.52% increase in sugar production. In general, recovery rate is percentage of sugar produced per ton of sugarcane crushed. Recovery

<span id="page-17-0"></span>

<span id="page-17-1"></span>rate represents both quality of sugarcane production and efficiency of sugar production at factory level. Hence, any marginal improvement in the quality of cane production can be expected to result in higher sugar production. Imposing of levy quota by the government on sugar production appeared to be negative but inelastic (−0.03) on the sugar production equation.

In the cane crushed equation, area harvested appeared to be positive and highly elastic (5.62)—1% increase in area harvested would increase the amount of cane crushed by 5.62%. Since the change in amount of cane crushed is highly responsive to area harvested, any fuctuation in area under sugarcane due to various reasons (climatic factors, policy measures, or market fluctuation) can be expected to affect sugar production and

<span id="page-18-0"></span>

its stability adversely. Surprisingly, quantity of cane crushed is observed to have a signifcant negative relationship to the changes in sugarcane yield with higher elasticity (0.92).

Area harvested and yield in the cane crushed equation are treated as endogenous variables, which are afected by some other exogenous variables, such as price of own, FRP, and prices of competing crops, lagged area, rainfall, and yield. It is found that 1-year lagged area under sugarcane, FRP, yield, rainfall, and value of competing crops have affected the adoption of area under sugarcane. For instance, 1% change in previous year area, yield, FRP, and rainfall would increase the area adoption under sugarcane in current year by 0.18, 0.76, 0.01, and 0.30%, respectively. Among these variables, non-price factor yield shows relatively higher responsiveness than price factor FRP, indicating that yield might be a key factor for determining the adoption of area under sugarcane in subsequent years. Moreover, the value of other feld crops shows indirect relationship to the adoption of area under sugarcane with elasticity  $-0.68\%$ , indicating that all other feld crops exhibit competitive relationship with sugarcane. In other words, increase in the prices or value of output of the feld crops is expected to reduce the area harvested under sugarcane. It is well known that sugarcane is a commercial feld crop that requires more amount of water and other inputs, such as capital, labour, and fertilizers, and is cultivated in all seasons in a year. Also, sugarcane cultivation is associated with more capital flow and income risk. Hence, the chance of getting more remuneration from other crops would result in area reduction under sugarcane.

In the yield equation, both rainfall and time trend (proxy for technologies) variables appeared to have positive and signifcant impact on the yield. Specifcally, change in yield is less responsive to technological change (with elasticity of 0.06%). This indicates sluggishness in technological development to improve the yield of sugarcane. As indicated in the descriptive section, the ACGR of yield in India is only 0.14%. According to FAO report ([2017\)](#page-26-23), India ranks 37th with respect to yield per hectare (69.74 tons). It is about 50% less than the world's top productivity (Peru with 121.25 tons per ha), and slightly less than the average productivity of world (70.89 tons), Europe (74.30

<span id="page-19-0"></span>

Table 1 Correlation		<b>SPN</b>	<b>SUE</b>	<b>ARE</b>	CAC	YID	<b>SUP</b>
	<b>SPN</b>	1.000	$-0.442$	$-0.812$	$-0.753$	$-0.689$	$-0.737$
	<b>SUE</b>	$-0.442$	1.000	0.628	0.650	0.328	$-0.409$
	<b>JAG</b>	0.766	$-0.395$	$-0.527$	$-0.468$	$-0.306$	0.850
	<b>ARE</b>	$-0.812$	0.628	1.000	0.980	0.849	$-0.800$
	CAC	$-0.753$	0.650	0.980	1.000	0.840	$-0.736$
	<b>MCP</b>	$-0.709$	0.522	0.917	0.910	0.791	$-0.690$
	<b>EXR</b>	$-0.732$	0.462	0.920	0.905	0.824	0.409
	<b>GCA</b>	$-0.757$	0.458	0.945	0.925	0.893	$-0.757$
	<b>LEP</b>	0.517	$-0.440$	$-0.740$	$-0.742$	$-0.607$	0.485
	<b>MOP</b>	$-0.745$	0.649	0.978	0.999	0.830	$-0.727$
	PGD	0.768	$-0.296$	$-0.818$	$-0.774$	$-0.902$	0.900
	<b>PDQ</b>	0.150	0.386	0.092	0.156	$-0.237$	$-0.506$
	POP	$-0.763$	0.503	0.946	0.933	0.865	$-0.747$
	RAF	0.046	$-0.012$	$-0.135$	$-0.158$	$-0.020$	0.017
	<b>RER</b>	$-0.530$	0.459	0.517	0.514	0.435	$-0.507$
	<b>STB</b>	$-0.749$	0.419	0.742	0.660	0.573	$-0.744$
	<b>SPD</b>	0.140	$-0.336$	$-0.309$	$-0.329$	$-0.099$	0.083
	<b>FRP</b>	$-0.251$	0.446	0.558	0.632	0.358	$-0.182$
	<b>TIM</b>	$-0.773$	0.489	0.943	0.928	0.878	$-0.759$
	<b>VOP</b>	0.453	$-0.477$	$-0.633$	$-0.656$	$-0.392$	0.419
	<b>INP</b>	$-0.553$	0.641	0.822	0.825	0.705	$-0.516$
	<b>YID</b>	$-0.689$	0.328	0.849	0.840	1.000	$-0.680$

<span id="page-19-1"></span>**Table 2** Durbin–Wu–Hausman test of endogeneity

Equation	Durbin score Chi-square (1)	Wu-Hausman $F$ stat Decision	
SPN (SUP CAC = PGD JAG MOP POP)	2.01	1.46	Failed to reject the null
MCP MOP RER LEP L SPN	$(p=0.15)$	$(p=0.23)$	
$CAC (ARE YID = MOP POP GCA TIM)$	1.67	1.50	Failed to reject the null
JAG L.CAC	$(p=0.19)$	$(p=0.22)$	
$SUC(SUP = PGD JAG)$ PGD PDO POP	0.14	0.11	Failed to reject the null
JAG L.SUC	$(p=0.70)$	$(p=0.73)$	
SUP (SUE = MOP INP)JAG STB SPD FRP	1.29	0.99	Failed to reject the null
<b>L.SUP</b>	$(p=0.25)$	$(p=0.32)$	
SUE (SUP=PGD JAG) INP STB EXR	1.19	1.05	Failed to reject the null
<b>L.SUE</b>	$(p=0.27)$	$(p=0.31)$	

Ho: variables are exogenous

tons), Latin American countries (73.4 tons), and leading producer Brazil (74.48). All these fgures point to the need to exploit yield potential through technological development in India.

Equation	Robust F-statistics Decision	
SPN (SUP CAC = PGD JAG MOP POP) MCP MOP RER LEP L.SPN	$6.38***(0.00)$	Reject the null hypothesis that the instruments are weak
$CAC$ (ARE YID = MOP POP GCA TIM) JAG L.CAC	$4.97***(0.00)$	Reject the null hypothesis that the instruments are weak
$SUC(SUP = PGD JAG)$ PGD PDO POP JAG L.SUC	$8.22***(0.00)$	Reject the null hypothesis that the instruments are weak
$SUP (SUE = MOD INP)JAG STB$ <b>SPD FRP L.SUP</b>	$19.03***(0.00)$	Reject the null hypothesis that the instruments are weak
$SUE(SUP = PGD JAG)$ INP STB <b>EXR L.SUE</b>	$46.36***(0.00)$	Reject the null hypothesis that the instruments are weak

<span id="page-20-1"></span>**Table 3** Weak instrument test

Ho: Instruments are weak

\*\*\* imply significance at 1% level and figures in the paranthesis indicate probability value

On the consumption side, sugar price shows expected negative efect with sugar demand (−0.27). Population appears to have positive and high elastic efect on sugar consumption, suggesting that demand for sugar and sugar-based food products would keep pace with increased population size. Increased population combined with food consumption transition towards processed foods and beverages is expected to trigger the sugar industry to move forward.

The elasticity of sugar price to jaggery price changes is positive and responsive (with elasticity of 0.90%), indicating that changes in unorganised sector of jaggery unit would afect the level of sugar price moderately. Jaggery units can absorb the excess supply of sugarcane during a time of surplus production; Indian jaggery has its own traditional value and quality, with constant demand for jaggery products in the domestic market over the years, in addition to demand from neighbouring countries. As expected, the price of sugar is negative but less responsive to changes in sugar stock at current period (−0.09). It is a general fact that a higher level of stock increases total sugar supply in the market, and consequently, sugar price declines. The responsiveness of sugar price with respect to changes in export is signifcant at 10% level, indicating that higher price for sugar in the international market may help to increase the proftability of sugar mills and subsequently to reduce domestic sugar price.

Interestingly, no variable is statistically signifcant in export equation, indicating that international trade with respect to sugar production in India is irrelevant as more than 90% of total sugar production in India is consumed by the domestic population.

### <span id="page-20-0"></span>**Conclusion and recommendations**

This study attempted to develop and analyse the simultaneous equation model for sugar sector as the sector is often considered complex and interdependent between diferent sectors. The results obtained from the model mostly corroborate with real phenomena—for instance, sugar production was signifcantly infuenced by recovery rate and price; sugar consumption was positively related to population and negatively related to sugar price; decision on greater adoption of sugarcane was dependent on previous year area, yield,

Equation		$K-k$		Decision	
SPN=f(SUP MCP CAC MOP RER LEP L.SPN)	27	$\, > \,$	2	Over identified	
$CAC = f(ARE YID JAG L.CAC)$	30	$\rm{>}$	$\mathfrak{D}$	Over identified	
ARE=f(L.ARE L.YID FRP L.FRP L.VOC L.RAF GCA)	27	$\geq$	$\Omega$	Over identified	
$YID = f(RAF TIM L.YID)$	31	$\mathbf{r}$	$\Omega$	Over identified	
$SUC = f(SUP$ PGD PDQ POP JAG L.SUC)	28	$\geq$		Over identified	
SUP=f(JAG STB SPD SUE FRP L.SUP)	28	$\rm{>}$		Over identified	
$SUE = f(SUP \text{ INP} STB \text{ EXR} L.SUE)$	29	$\mathbf{L}$		Over identified	

<span id="page-21-0"></span>**Table 4** Order condition of identifability

FRP, and rainfall; technology-supported higher yield. However, the sugarcane farming and sugar industry are gripped by problems of frequent fuctuation in sugar production, i.e. there exists an imbalance in demand and supply. It causes delay of payments to sugarcane farmers from sugar factories and increased fnancial burden on state governments, viz. to subsidise or to pay the statutory price and lend soft loans to industry to clear payment dues, in addition to diversion of precious surface water and groundwater resources to cultivate sugarcane. All these apparently indicate that there is mismanagement or lack of proper planning in sugarcane production and sugar sectors in the country. This situation calls for increasing the production efficiency as well as reduced the cost incurred in production of sugarcane at farm level and sugar at factory level.

Policy measures to consider are: (1) develop improved technology that supports for high recovery rate, productivity, resistant to drought and water stress conditions. The average rate of recovery in India is less than 10%, which is quite low compared to other major sugar producers, such as Java, Hawaii, and Australia (14–16%). So there is an ample scope to increase sugar production in India by increasing the recovery rate, with the help of high sugar recovery varieties, and consequently reduce the cost of production at farm and factory levels; (2) create awareness about the importance of sugar recovery rate and proper post-harvest management and crushing practices to the concerned stakeholders. Giving incentives to farmers for every additional rate of recovery will help sugar mills to produce sugar at minimum cost.

Also, the results of the study revealed no signifcant external trade efect on the domestic supply and demand of sugar in India. This might be because more than 90% of sugar produced in the country is consumed by domestically. So, leveraging the sugar sector towards international trade might help the sector overcome unforeseen situations, particularly during excess production. Likewise, the food industry, specifcally the food processing sector which relies on sugar, has been growing rapidly over decades across world. Further, there is a growing demand for ethanol production from sugarcane. Thus, post-harvest managements and quality standards for international market and technology and infrastructure development with respect to biofuel production are expected to play a major role in balancing sugar supply and demand in the country.

Inputs-use pattern and its cost, specifcally with respect to water use, and the cause and efect of these factors on the sugar sector are not dealt extensively in the present study because time-series data on the cost of cultivation and water usage at farm level are unavailable. Moreover, the scope of the present paper is limited to study only the interrelationship between supply and demand of sugar and major factors determining trade and policy



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\*\*\* and \*\* implies significance at 1% and 5% levels, respectively, and figures in the paranthesis indicates standard error \*\*\* and \*\* implies signifcance at 1% and 5% levels, respectively, and fgures in the paranthesis indicates standard error variables at the macro-level. Hence, future research may undertake general/partial equilibrium and simulation framework by incorporating farm-level and macroeconomic factors to address the infuence of input-use pattern and other farm characteristics on sugar supply and demand and cost–beneft analysis at farm and factory levels.

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