

# Phenotypic characterization of new sugarcane varieties using DUS descriptors

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A total of one hundred and twenty seven subtropical sugarcane reference varieties were phenotypically characterized using new DUS descriptors. The trial was planted during 2020-2022 in augmented block design at ICAR-SBI-RC, Karnal under DUS experimental field. The digital Colour images of all the key traits were taken during various crop stages to identify the key traits for characterization in sugarcane varieties. These digital images were further verified via morphological colour chart i.e. Royal Horti-Society colour chart (RHS). Morphological data of 27 traits namely, growth habit, leaf sheath hairiness, ligule shape, inner auricle shape, dewlap colour, leaf blade curvature, leaf blade width, adherence of leaf sheath, internode colour not exposed to sun, internode colour exposed to sun, internode diameter, internode shape, internode zigzag alignment, internode growth crack, rind surface appearance, internode waxiness, bud shape, bud size, bud groove, bud cushion, bud tip position, prominence of growth ring, width of root band, internode cross-section, pithiness, NMC and cane height recorded during 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> month crop stage. Parameters on Leaf area index and green canopy were also undertaken. Digital photographs of these clones depicting major DUS characteristics were taken during early maturity phase to late maturity phase and further characterization of all the references varieties was undertaken in order to check the consistence of traits. Cane yield and CCS yield per plot were also estimated. The overall mean for pol% in juice the top ranking test clones were Co 0237 (19.60%), Co 05011 (19.15%) followed by CoS 95255 (18.60%).

### References

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