







## Optimizing Sugarcane Cultivation: Efficacy of Single-Bud Pelleting on Emergence and Quality Traits

Zahra Ajribzadeh<sup>1</sup> , Salim Farzaneh<sup>2</sup> , Mahmoud Shomeili<sup>3</sup> , Hamidreza Balouchi<sup>4</sup> ,  
Raouf Seyed Sharifi<sup>5</sup> , and Aziz Karmolachaab<sup>6</sup> 

1. Ph.D. Student in Seed Science and Technology, Department of Production and Plant Genetics, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran. Email: [z.ajribzade2013@gmail.com](mailto:z.ajribzade2013@gmail.com)
2. Corresponding author, Professor of Production and Plant Genetics Department, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran. Email: [s.farzaneh@uma.ac.ir](mailto:s.farzaneh@uma.ac.ir)
3. Assistant Professor of Sugarcane Development Research and Training Institute Khuzestan, Ahvaz, Iran. Email: [mahmoud.shomeili11@gmail.com](mailto:mahmoud.shomeili11@gmail.com)
4. Professor of Agronomy and Plant Breeding Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Yasouj University, Yasouj, Iran. Email: [balouchi@yu.ac.ir](mailto:balouchi@yu.ac.ir)
5. Professor of Production and Plant Genetics Department, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran. Email: [raouf\\_ssharifi@yahoo.com](mailto:raouf_ssharifi@yahoo.com)
6. Assistant Professor, Mirza Kouchak Khan Agriculture and Industry Company, Ahvaz, Iran. [azizchaab@gmail.com](mailto:azizchaab@gmail.com)

### Article Info

**Article type:**  
Research Article

**Article history:**

Received 29 May 2025  
Received in revised form 26 September 2025  
Accepted 16 September 2025  
Available online 21 September 2025

**Keywords:**

Emergence percentage  
Emergence rate  
Micro-combi fertilizer  
Pelleting  
Potassium silicate

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Commercial sugarcane cultivation is often associated with high production costs due to the extensive use of planting material, energy waste, long cultivation periods, rapid deterioration of cuttings after bud establishment, labor-intensive operations, frequent machinery use, and heavy applications of fertilizers and pesticides. This study evaluated the efficacy of pelleting lateral buds from sugarcane stalks to produce single-bud seed pieces suitable for mechanized cultivation at the Sugarcane Development, Research, and Training Institute in Khuzestan, Iran.

**Methods:** A split-plot experiment, based on a randomized complete block design with three replications, was conducted in 2021 at the Sugarcane Development, Research, and Training Institute (SDRTI) in Khuzestan, Iran. The factors considered were different planting dates—16 August (D1), 16 September (D2), and 17 October (D3)—as the main plots, and pellet types (A1: starch + peat + micro-combi fertilizer; A2: starch + peat + nutritional compounds + potassium silicate + carbendazim fungicide; A3: single-bud without pellet; and A4: 50 setts without pellet as the control) as the subplots.

**Results:** Pelleting single-bud seeds, particularly in treatment A2 planted in September, significantly enhanced crop establishment. It increased the emergence percentage by 56% and the emergence rate to 2.85 sprouts per day compared to the control. Pelleting also improved growth and quality indices more effectively than the other treatments.

**Conclusions:** Pelleting single-bud sugarcane seeds with nutrient-enriched coatings improves emergence, supports early crop growth, and facilitates mechanized cultivation. This technique supports mechanized planting by enhancing nutrient delivery and moisture retention at the bud level, contributing to more sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective sugarcane cultivation.

**Cite this article:** Ajribzadeh, Z., Farzaneh, S., Shomeili, M., Balouchi, H., Seyed Sharifi, R., & Karmolachaab, A. (2025). Optimizing Sugarcane Cultivation: Efficacy of Single-Bud Pelleting on Emergence and Quality Traits. *Iranian Journal of Seed Research*, 12 (1), 1-14. <http://dx.doi.org/10.61882/yujs.11.2.1>



© The Author(s).

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.61882/yujs.11.2.1>

Publisher: Yasouj University.

**Highlights:**

- Using treatment A2 for pelleting significantly boosted the emergence rate of sugarcane single buds by providing essential nutrients.
- Planting in September along with pelleting improved the early growth and establishment of sugarcane plants.

**Introduction**

Sugarcane (*Saccharum spp.* L.) is an economically important crop cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its high sucrose content, bioenergy potential, and drought tolerance (Bunphan et al., 2025). Commercial sugarcane propagation relies on vegetative setts 30–50 cm in length, each containing 3–4 buds. Approximately 8 to 10 percent of the total yield is used as planting material, making the process economically inefficient, as sett preparation accounts for over 20% of total production costs. In conventional systems worldwide, about 8 to 9 tons of sugarcane setts are used as planting material per hectare. This high volume poses challenges in the transportation, handling, and storage of setts, leading to rapid deterioration and a decrease in bud viability. An effective alternative to reduce planting material volume and improve sugarcane quality is the use of single-bud setts (Jain et al., 2011).

Previous research (Jain et al., 2011) has demonstrated that a small segment of sugarcane stalk containing a single viable bud, along with minimal surrounding tissue and root primordia, is adequate for germination. Such single-bud cuttings can establish successfully under favorable conditions, supporting their use in efficient and resource-saving sugarcane propagation systems. In this regard, several researchers have demonstrated the feasibility of removing the internodal section and using single buds for mechanized planting, although their efforts were limited to small-scale experiments (Iqbal et al., 2002; Tamilselvan, 2006). It has been reported that the highest net yield can be achieved

with this system due to the efficient use of cuttings, leading to about 80% savings in planting material (Nare et al., 2019). Despite these advantages, the single-bud system is not commercially viable due to the rapid loss of moisture and early decay under field conditions (Jain et al., 2011). To address this limitation, one promising technique for improving germination percentage and rate, as well as the emergence, durability, and quality of individual buds (hereafter referred to as "seeds"), is seed pelleting and coating.

High-quality seed cultivation has long been in demand among farmers and can enhance crop performance by up to 30%. Pelleting with suitable materials enables the localized release of beneficial substances near the seed, which significantly improves emergence (Afzal et al., 2020). This technique provides protective and nutritive compounds directly around the seed, shielding it from adverse environmental conditions until germination (Guan et al., 2013). Furthermore, seed pelleting improves soil moisture retention, which enhances emergence and seedling establishment (Piri et al., 2019; Paravar et al., 2023; Dalvi et al., 2021). By supplying essential nutrients, pelleting supports critical physiological processes such as rapid growth, chlorophyll synthesis, cell division, photosynthesis, root development, nitrogen fixation, and carbon assimilation—ultimately improving seedling vigor and structure (Tripathi et al., 2017). Positive outcomes from seed coating have also been reported by Sharma et al. (2022) and Taghizoghi et al. (2018). In addition to pesticides, herbicides, and growth

regulators, pelleting allows for the incorporation of strengthening compounds in small, targeted amounts, tailored to the specific needs of the crop species (Sanchez et al., 2014). Moreover, coating materials can protect and support seed development under diverse environmental conditions without negative side effects, thereby aligning with farmers' production goals (Guan et al., 2013).

Planting date is another critical factor affecting crop performance. Proper timing helps avoid extreme temperatures and drought stress during sensitive growth stages. Exposure to such unfavorable conditions during critical periods can significantly reduce both yield quantity and quality (Zander et al., 2021). An inappropriate planting date has been reported to lower emergence by 20–30% and reduce the plant's ability to tolerate early-season stresses, leading to weaker overall performance (Zander et al., 2021). Therefore, planting date is considered one of the most important agronomic factors for achieving high production and yield. In the context of changing climatic conditions, adjusting the planting date can optimize resource use efficiency by ensuring crop exposure to favorable growth conditions (Abbas et al., 2019).

In this regard, the Sugarcane Development, Research, and Training Institute (SDRTI) in Khuzestan, Iran, has initiated a project to investigate the physical aspects of single-bud sugarcane seedling survival and storage. The project aims to enhance storage capacity and improve seedling establishment through pelleting techniques applied at different planting dates, with the ultimate goal of enabling large-scale mechanized sugarcane planting.

### Material and Method

The present study was carried out at the first research station of SDRTI in Khuzestan, Iran. The site is located at 48°32' E longitude and 30°59' N latitude,

with an elevation of 603.6 m above sea level. This experiment was conducted in 2021 using a split-plot arranged in a randomized complete block design. The main plots included three different planting dates: 16 August (D1), 16 September (D2), and 17 October (D3), and the subplots comprised four types of pellets: A1 (starch + peat + micro-combi fertilizer), A2 (starch + peat + nutritional compounds + carbendazim fungicide), A3 (single bud without pellet), and A4 (50 cuttings without pellet).

The nutritional compounds consisted of humic acid, filter cake, micro-combi fertilizer, superabsorbent, and potassium silicate.

The components of micro-combi fertilizer are Mg: 1.28%; B: 1.62%; Cu: 0.604%; Mn: 3.2%; Zn: 4.25%; Fe: 4.25%; Mo: 0.059%; and S: 2%.

Soil samples were collected from five points across the experimental field at the Khuzestan Sugarcane Research Station. Composite soil samples were analyzed to determine their physical and chemical properties, which were Sand: 18.5%; Silt: 41%; Clay: 40.5%; EC: 0.69 dSm<sup>-1</sup>; pH: 7.83; Na: 647.07 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>; Ca: 320 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>; Mg: 672 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>; K: 152 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>; NO<sub>3</sub>: 0.06 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, and NH<sub>4</sub>: 552.8 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (Ajribzadeh et al., 2024).

Sugarcane stalks have distinct knots, each containing a node and an internode (with a length of 5 to 25 cm). Each node has a lateral bud situated at an angle between the leaf and the stalk. For this experiment, buds from the commercial sugarcane variety CP69-1062, each 3 cm in length, were used. The buds were excised and pelleted with either A1 (starch + peat + micro-combi fertilizer) or A2 (starch + peat + nutritional compounds + carbendazim fungicide). Pellets were prepared by dissolving 60 g of starch in one liter of water and heating the solution. After cooling, the buds were immersed in the binder and subsequently coated with the filler and nutritional compounds.

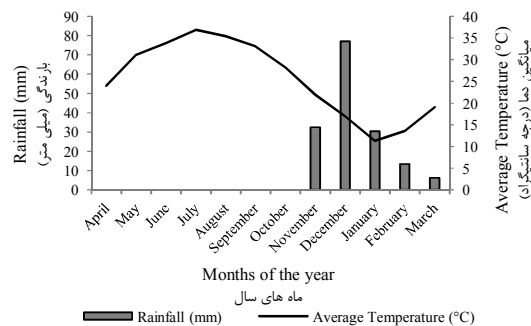
The composition of the nutritional compounds for A1 included ( $10 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  micro-combi fertilizer), while A2 contained ( $45 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  superabsorbent) (Ghorbani et al., 2013), ( $10 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  micro-combi fertilizer), ( $12 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  humic acid) (Farzaneh et al., 2019), ( $10 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  filter cake) (Monjezi et al., 2014), and ( $10 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$  potassium silicate).

The preparation of the pellets was conducted in laboratory conditions at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The pelleted single buds were transferred to the field for planting the following day. Each experimental plot measured  $5 \times 10 \text{ m}$  and contained five rows, with a net plot size of  $45.75 \text{ m}^2$ . Between 25 and 30 holes were prepared in each row for planting single buds. The holes, arranged in a zigzag pattern for optimal space utilization, were 8–10 cm deep and spaced 25–30 cm apart (Figure 1). After placing the buds in the holes, they were covered with a 3–5 cm layer of soil, and the field was immediately irrigated. Meteorological data were recorded for the location in 2021 at SDRTI Station No. 1, Khuzestan (Figure 2). These data were used to align crop management practices for the prevailing climatic conditions. Crop management operations, such as irrigation, fertilization, and weed control, were consistent with standard practices in the region. Irrigation was scheduled according to plant requirements and applied through hydroflumes and adjustable valves. Weeds were manually removed throughout the growing season to maintain plot cleanliness.



**Figure 1.** Cultivation intervals and placement of single-buds following pelleting in the field.

شکل ۱. فواصل کشت و نحوه قرار دادن تک جوانه‌های پلت شده در مزرعه.



**Figure 2.** Average meteorological statistics of the Sugarcane research station (number one) in 2021.

شکل ۲. میانگین آمار هواشناسی ایستگاه تحقیقاتی نیشکر (شماره یک) در سال ۱۴۰۰

### Measurements

#### Seedling Emergence Percentage (EP):

$$EP = (Ng / Nt) \times 100$$

where:

- Ng = Number of emerged seedlings
- Nt = Total number of planted buds

#### Seedling Emergence Rate (ER):

$$ER = \Sigma(N / D)$$

where:

- N = Number of seedlings emerged on a given day
- D = Number of days after planting until emergence

**Stalk Diameter:** Ten stalks were randomly selected from each experimental plot. The stalk diameter was determined by measuring the upper, middle, and lower portions of each stalk and calculating the average of these three measurements.

**Brix Percentage:** The Brix value, representing the soluble solid content of the syrup, was measured using a refractometer (Brix meter). A few drops of the extracted syrup were placed on the refractometer prism, the cover was closed, and the Brix reading was recorded (ICUMSA, 1999).

**Pol Percentage:** Polarization (Pol), indicates the percentage of sugar present in the syrup extract. To measure it, 100 milliliters of syrup extract were taken, and mixed with 2 g of alkaline lead acetate and filtered through filter paper. The filtrate was then analyzed using a polarimeter, and

the corresponding Pol value was obtained (ICUMSA, 1999).

**Purity Percentage:** The syrup purity was calculated as the ratio of Pol to Brix values, expressed as a percentage.

### Statistical Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using SAS, and graphs were generated with Excel software. Mean comparisons were performed using a LSD tests at the 5% probability.

### Results

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) indicated that planting date had a significant effect ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) on seedling emergence percentage, emergence rate, stalk diameter, Brix, Pol, and purity percentage. Pelleting had a significant effect on seedling emergence percentage and rate ( $p \leq 0.01$ ), as well as on quality indices, including Brix and Pol ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). The interaction between planting date and pelleting significantly affected several growth and performance components. Specifically, it affected emergence

percentage at  $p \leq 0.05$  and emergence rate at  $p \leq 0.01$  (Table 1).

### Seedling Emergence Percentage

Mean comparisons showed that the highest emergence percentage was observed in treatment D2A2, which was approximately 56% higher than the control (D2A4) and statistically similar to treatment D1A2 (Figure 3A). After the A2 treatment, the A1 treatment under the August planting date resulted in a higher emergence percentage than other treatments across the different planting dates. Across all three planting dates, the emergence percentage for non-pelleted single buds and 50 cm cuttings was consistently lower than for the pelleted single buds (treatments A1 and A2). This decline was most pronounced under the October planting date.

According to mean comparisons (Figure 3B), the highest emergence rate was 4.00 seedlings per day, recorded in treatment D2A2. The trend in emergence rate varied among the pelleted, non-pelleted, and conventional planting methods.

**Table 1.** Variance analysis of the effect of pelleting lateral buds of sugarcane stalks on growth components and qualitative indices of sugarcane at different planting dates.

جدول ۱. تجزیه واریانس اثر پلت کردن جوانه‌های جانبی ساقه نیشکر بر اجزای رشد و شاخص‌های کیفی نیشکر در تاریخ‌های مختلف کشت.

Sources of variation منابع تغییر	Df درجه‌ی آزادی	Mean Squares (MS)					
		Seedling emergence percentage درصد سبزشدن	Seedling emergence rate سرعت سبزشدن	Stalk diameter قطر ساقه	Brix بریکس	Pol پل	Purity خلوص
Replication تکرار	2	5.08 <sup>ns</sup>	0.49 <sup>ns</sup>	2.58*	0.96 <sup>ns</sup>	0.78 <sup>ns</sup>	19.18**
Planting dates تاریخ کشت	2	1087.6**	24.94**	11.58**	19.25**	20.83**	20.36**
Error a خطای a	4	24.54	0.13	2.29	3.19	4.04	13.32
Pelleting پلت کردن	3	2467.2**	6.49**	0.66 <sup>ns</sup>	3.08*	3.43*	4.08 <sup>ns</sup>
Planting dates × Pelleting تاریخ کشت × پلت کردن	6	275.9*	2.93**	0.13 <sup>ns</sup>	0.73 <sup>ns</sup>	0.78 <sup>ns</sup>	1.89 <sup>ns</sup>
Error b خطای b	18	103.2	0.30	0.53	0.67	0.67	1.45
Coefficient of variation (%) ضریب تغییرات (%)		17.1	28.8	3.14	4.10	4.89	1.42

ns, \* and \*\*: Not-significant and significant at 5% and 1% probability levels, respectively.

ns, \* و \*\* به ترتیب غیرمعنی‌دار و معنی‌دار در سطح احتمال ۵٪ و ۱٪.



### Seedling Emergence Rate

In treatment A3, the emergence rate was 0.86 seedlings per day, which was lower than in the other treatments across the various planting dates. Furthermore, this rate was lower for the October planting date (D3A3) than for the August (D1A3) and September (D2A3) planting dates (Figure 3B).

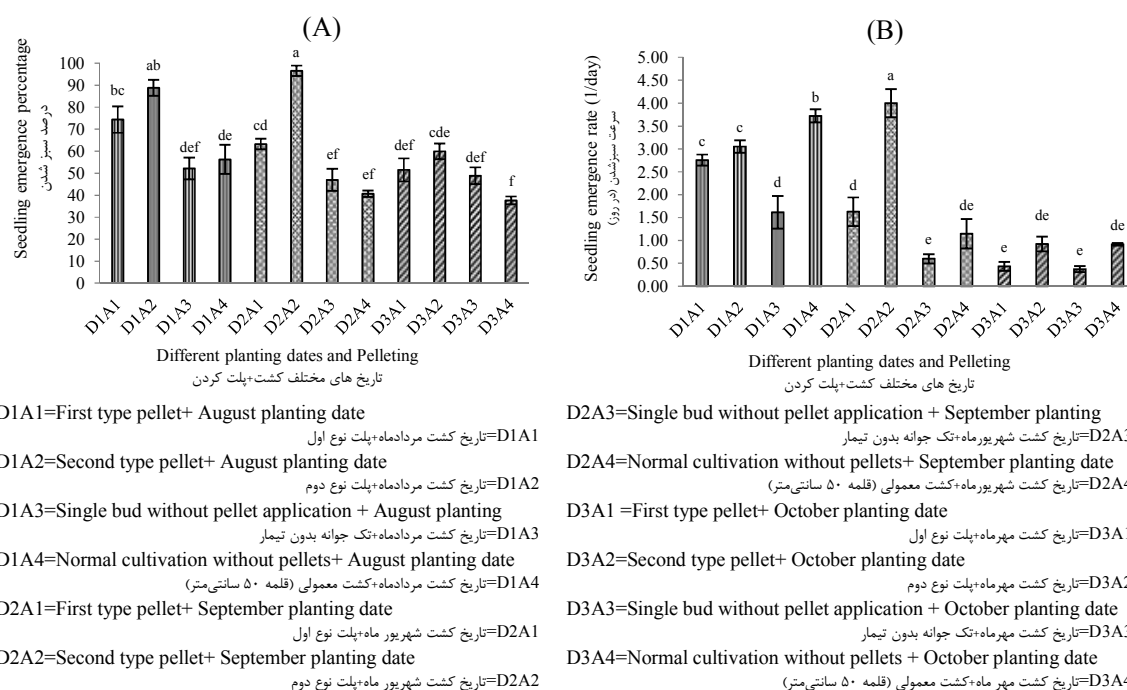
### Stalk Diameter

According to Table 2, no significant difference in stalk diameter was observed between the August and September planting dates. However, stalks planted in

August were, on average, two millimeters thicker than those planted in October.

### Qualitative Indices (Brix, Pol, and Purity Percentage)

As shown in Table 2, no significant differences in the quality indices were observed between the September and October planting dates; both were higher than those in August. A mean comparison of the pelleting effect indicated a 1% improvement in the quality traits under the A1, A2, and A3 treatments compared to the A4 treatment (Table 3).



**Figure 3.** Mean comparison of the effect of pelleting on the emergence percentage (A) and emergence rate (B) of sugarcane across three different planting dates. Columns with the same letters, based on the LSD test, are not significantly different at the 5% probability level.

**شکل ۳.** مقایسه میانگین اثر پلت کردن بر درصد سبز شدن (A)، و سرعت سبز شدن (B) نیشکر در سه تاریخ کشت مختلف. ستون‌های دارای حروف مشترک بر اساس آزمون LSD، در سطح احتمال ۵٪ اختلاف معنی‌داری ندارند.

**Table 2.** Mean comparison of the effect of different planting dates on the qualitative indicators of sugarcane in conventional planting and pelleted single-bud setups.

جدول ۲. مقایسه میانگین اثر تاریخ‌های مختلف کشت بر شاخص‌های کیفی نیشکر در کاشت معمولی و تک جوانه پلت شده

Planting dates تاریخ کشت	Stalk diameter(mm) قطر ساقه (میلی‌متر)	Brix (%) بریکس (%)	Pol (%) پل (%)	Purity (%) خلوص (%)
August (D1) مرداد	24±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	18.76±0.59 <sup>b</sup>	15.46±0.85 <sup>b</sup>	83.36±2 <sup>b</sup>
September (D2) شهریور	23±0.75 <sup>ab</sup>	20.75±0.19 <sup>a</sup>	17.82±0.32 <sup>a</sup>	85.84±0.8 <sup>a</sup>
October (D3) مهر	22±0.34 <sup>b</sup>	20.69±0.39 <sup>a</sup>	17.65±0.55 <sup>ab</sup>	85.26±1.11 <sup>a</sup>

Means with the same letters in each column, based on the LSD test, are not significantly different at the 5% level.

میانگین‌های دارای حروف مشترک بر اساس آزمون LSD، در سطح احتمال ۵٪ اختلاف معنی‌داری ندارند.

**Table 3.** Mean comparison of the effect of pelleting lateral buds of the sugarcane stalk on the qualitative yield of sugarcane.

جدول ۳. مقایسه میانگین اثر پلت کردن جوانه‌های جانبی ساقه نیشکر بر شاخص‌های کیفی نیشکر

Types of pelleting نوع پلت	Brix (%) بریکس (%)	Pol (%) پل (%)
First type pellet (A1) پلت نوع اول (A1)	20.06±0.45 <sup>a</sup>	17.1±0.6 <sup>a</sup>
Second type pellet (A2) پلت نوع دوم (A2)	20.4±0.19 <sup>a</sup>	17.35±0.13 <sup>a</sup>
Single-bud without pellet application (A3) تک جوانه بدون اعمال پلت (A3)	20.35±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	17.38±0.29 <sup>a</sup>
Normal cultivation without pellets(A4) کشت معمولی بدون پلت (A4)	19.14±0.4 <sup>b</sup>	16.07±0.2 <sup>b</sup>

Means with the same letters in each column, based on the LSD test, are not significantly different at the 5% level.

میانگین‌های دارای حروف مشترک بر اساس آزمون LSD، در سطح احتمال ۵٪ اختلاف معنی‌داری ندارند.

## Discussion

Seed and crop improvement is the first critical stage in plant production, as it not only enhances stress tolerance through regulation of biochemical pathways, gene expression networks, and physiological responses but also improves germination and crop structure (Zhao et al., 2020). In this study, pelleted single-bud lateral setts of sugarcane stalks were used to ensure rapid field establishment with high germination rates, suitable for large-scale mechanized cultivation.

Overall, positive effects on sugarcane growth and performance were observed, particularly in treatment A2, which included nutritional and fungicidal compounds. Enhanced establishment percentage and rate, combined with sufficient light interception and reduced competition for growth resources, resulted in higher yield. Similar findings were reported by Sanchez et al. (2014) in *Parthenium argentatum* (Guayule), where

pelleted seeds demonstrated improved establishment under stressful conditions. Pelleting modifies seed shape and size, facilitating mechanical planting and enabling the incorporation of pesticides, herbicides, growth regulators, and amendments that enhance establishment.

Ben-Jabeur et al. (2023) reported that pelleting alters the internal seed environment, increasing acidity and enzyme activity, thereby promoting faster germination, emergence, and stronger root and stalk growth. Moreover, the observed faster growth in roots and stalks, as well as accelerated plant establishment, may be evidence of increased and more rapid enzyme activity in seeds when using the pelleting technique.

In research by Singh and Thakur (2022) examining the effect of pelleting on bean seeds, enhanced growth was observed compared to the control group. The researchers suggested that pelleted kidney-shaped bean seeds not only increase

growth and yield but also produce higher-quality seeds compared with the control group. Furthermore, they proposed that this increase in growth and yield may be due to the addition of materials to the seed before planting, resulting in improved plant growth, increased height, and the number of branches in the vegetative stage, as well as an increase in the number of pods in the reproductive stage, ultimately leading to a higher plant yield. Also, this technology can directly impact photosynthetic pigments and photosynthetic efficiency, increase NADPH production, and enhance plant productivity, likely due to the expansion of leaf surface area and improved light utilization (Khatun et al., 2024).

Plant growth indicators are among the factors that have been studied in the cultivation of sugarcane. Sugarcane growth requires temperatures between 32–35 °C for optimal establishment. Weather data (Ajribzadeh et al., 2025) indicated that October planting experienced lower average temperatures (28.2 °C) compared with August and September (Figure 2). Consequently, emergence percentage and rate were reduced in October, consistent with previous findings in sorghum. In this regard, Zandar et al. (2021) demonstrated in their study on different cultivation dates of sorghum that the presence of cold soils and low ambient temperatures in the months before March can lead to a decrease in the percentage and rate of plant emergence, which can result in reduced crop performance. Similarly, another study that examined the effect of different cultivation dates, it was reported that the performance of sorghum plants in early cultivation dates was more than 50% higher than in late cultivation dates in the experimental plots. This difference was attributed to changes in weather conditions and decreasing temperatures (Uyi et al., 2022).

The pelleting product developed in this study was tailored to the moisture and

nutritional needs of single buds. The development process involved selecting buds from stalks with minimal nutritional reserves, followed by the creation of a synthetic endosperm to supply essential nutrients for growth across various planting schedules. The observed enhancement in sugarcane emergence rates and establishment success is likely attributable to the integration of an optimized binder tailored to the sponge-like tissue of the single bud, ensuring adequate nutritional support. This formulation facilitated water uptake and accelerated enzymatic activity, promoting the efficient degradation, translocation, and assimilation of stored reserves, which collectively contributed to accelerated growth rates. Furthermore, the incorporation of fillers compatible with the tissue structure of the single bud provided sufficient aeration to support respiratory processes. This enabled rapid root development, germination, and emergence within a condensed timeframe. The product was engineered to accommodate a diverse range of sugarcane varieties, leveraging globally standardized techniques adapted from seed propagation protocols for other crops.

## Conclusion

Due to their anatomical characteristics, single sugarcane buds are highly prone to rapid moisture loss, which can result in poor establishment or delayed growth under field conditions. To mitigate this, an artificial endosperm formulation was designed to supply adequate moisture and nutrients. Pelleting single buds with nutrient-enriched compounds (particularly treatment A2) significantly increased emergence percentage and rate, especially under August and September planting dates.

By encapsulating single buds with a nutritionally complete and moisture-retentive matrix, the early-stage establishment of sugarcane under field



conditions was notably improved. Maintaining an optimal spacing of 25–30 cm allowed greater light interception and reduced competition, enhancing crop establishment.

The successful establishment of sugarcane using single-bud planting combined with proper spacing enhanced access to sunlight and minimized resource competition, ultimately leading to improved vegetative development. This approach yielded results comparable to traditional methods involving setts from 50 cm stalk cuttings. Pelleted single-bud planting achieved comparable performance to conventional planting using 50 cm stalk setts while reducing planting material

requirements by 70–80%, shortening planting time, and lowering nutrient and fertilizer needs. These agronomic advantages were most evident under optimal planting spacing (25–30 cm), which facilitated enhanced light use efficiency and resource distribution, while reducing intra-species competition. As a result, cultivation costs were significantly reduced compared to conventional sugarcane planting practices. In addition, this method supports the integration of mechanized sugarcane cultivation through modern technologies, contributing to more sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems.

#### ***Authors' Contributions***

Methodology, S.F., M.S., R.S.S., and A.K.; formal analysis, H.B.; investigation, Z.A.; writing-original draft preparation, Z.A.; writing-review and editing, S.F. and H.B.; supervision, S.F., and M.S.; project administration, S.F., and M.S.; All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

#### ***Data Availability Statement***

Data available on request from the authors.

#### ***Acknowledgements***

We would like to thank the Sugarcane Development, Research and Training Institute, Khuzestan for their financial and moral support and sincere cooperation in carrying out this research.

#### ***Ethical Considerations***

The authors avoided data fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, and any form of misconduct.

#### ***Funding***

The present article was conducted with financial support from the Research Vice Presidency of the University of Mohaghegh Ardabili – Ardabil. Additionally, the financial support for this research was provided by the Sugarcane Development, Research and Training Institute, Khuzestan, Iran in the form of a research project with the code (12919801).

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Reference**

منابع

- Abbas, G., Younis, H., Naz, S., Fatima, Z., Hussain, S., Ahmed, M., & Ahmad, S. (2019). Effect of planting dates on agronomic crop production. *In Agronomic Crops*, 1, 131-147. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-32-9151-5\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-32-9151-5_8)
- Afzal, I., Javed, T., Amirkhani, M., & Taylor, A.G. (2020). Modern seed technology: Seed coating delivery systems for enhancing seed and crop performance. *Agriculture*, 10(11), 526. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture10110526>
- Ajribzadeh, Z., Farzaneh, S., Shomeili, M., Balouchi, H., & Seyed Sharifi, R. (2025). Using pelleted lateral buds of sugarcane stalk as seeds with an approach to improve sugarcane yield components. *BMC Plant Biology*, 25(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-025-06629-0>
- Ajribzadeh, Z., Farzaneh, S., Shomeili, M., Balouchi, H., & Seyed Sharifi, R. (2024). Enhancement of emergence and vigor in sugarcane stalk lateral buds through seed coating. *Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition*, 24(4), 7869-7880. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-024-02083-3>
- Ben-Jabeur, M., Kthiri, Z., Djébali, N., Karmous, C., & Hamada, W. (2023). A case study of seed biopriming and chemical priming: seed coating with two types of bioactive compounds improves the physiological state of germinating seeds in durum wheat. *Cereal Research Communications*, 51, 125-133. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42976-022-00294-x>
- Bunphan, D., Wanna, R., Monkham, T., & Malambane, G. (2025). Genetic potential of sugarcane genotypes in acidic soil with low fertility under rainfed conditions. *Journal of Breeding and Genetics*, 57(2), 504-515. <http://doi.org/10.54910/sabao2025.57.2.10>
- Dalvi, A.A., Kalyankar, S.V., Gaikwad, R.A., & Rathod, P.S. (2021). Effect of bioagent and seed coating on seed quality parameters in soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill.). *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry*, 10(1), 1187-1189. [www.phytojournal.com](http://www.phytojournal.com)
- Farzaneh, S., Shamloeiian, M., Seyed Sharifi, R., & Kadihodad, S. (2019). Effect of seed coating with organic fertilizers on emergence and seedling growth of sugar beet. *Journal of Agricultural Crops Production*, 21(1), 43-59. [In Persian] <https://doi.org/10.22059/JCI.2018.265951.2085>
- Ghorbani, A., Jalilian, J., & Amirnia, R. (2013). The effects of seed priming and superabsorbent on some quantity and quality characteristics of kaboli chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.). *Research in Field Crops Journal*, 1(1), 43-53. [In Persian]
- Guan, Y.J., Wang, J.C., Hu, J., Li, Y.P., Ma, W.G., Hu, W.M., & Zhu, S.J. (2013). Pathway to keep seed security: The application of fluorescein to identify true and fake pelleted seed in tobacco. *Industrial Crops and Products*, 45(1), 367-372. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2013.01.007>

- ICUMSA (International Commission for Uniform Method in Sugar Analysis). (1999). Method book and ICUMSA supplement. Edt, Whalley, H.C.S. Elsevier publishing company, Amsterdam, London, New York., 420 p.
- Iqbal, M.T., Eusufzal, S.U.K., & Rukshana, F. (2002). Performance of sugarcane bud chip settings. *Indian Journal Sugarcane Technology*, 17, 88.
- Jain, R., Solomon, S., Shrivastava, A.K., & Chandra, A. (2011). Effect of ethephon and calcium chloride on growth and biochemical attributes of sugarcane bud chips. *Acta Physiologiae Plantarum*, 33(3), 905-910. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11738-010-0617-4>
- Khatun, M., Prasanna, R., Bhardwaj, A., Makur, S., Lal, S.K., Basu, S., & Kumar, P.R. (2024). Developing microbial seed coating for enhancing seed vigour and prolonging storability in Chickpea. *South African Journal of Botany*, 172, 289–301. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2024.07.015>
- Monjezi, H., Moradi, M.R., Telavat, A.A., Siadat, A., Koochakzadeh, M., & Hamdi, H. (2014). Effect of application of sugarcane filter muds, chemical and biological fertilizers on canola grain yield and quality and some soil properties. *Journal of Crops Improvement*, 16 (2), 445-457. [In Persian] <https://doi.org/10.22059/jci.2014.53054>
- Nare, B., Tewari, V.K., Chandel, A.K., Kumar, S.P., & Chethan, C.R. (2019). A mechatronically integrated autonomous seed material generation system for sugarcane, A crop of industrial significance. *Industrial Crops and Products*, 128, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2018.10.001>
- Paravar, A., Piri, R., Balouchi, H., & Ma, Y. (2023). Microbial seed coating: An attractive tool for sustainable agriculture. *Biotechnology Reports*, 37, e00781. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.btre.2023.e00781>
- Piri, R., Moradi, A., Balouchi, H., & Salehi, A. (2019). Improvement of cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*) seed performance under drought stress by seed coating and biopriming. *Scientia Horticulturae*, 257(17), 108667. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2019.108667>
- Sanchez, P.L., Chen, M.K., Pessarakli, M., Hill, H.J., Gore, M.A., & Jenks, M.A. (2014). Effects of temperature and salinity on germination of non-pelleted and pelleted guayule (*Parthenium argentatum* A. Gray) seeds. *Industrial Crops and Products*, 55, 90-96. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2014.01.050>
- Sharma, R., Bharat, N.K., Thakur, K.S., & Kumar, P. (2022). Effect of seed coating and foliar spray treatments on plant growth, seed yield and economics of seed production in garden pea (*Pisum sativum* L.). *Indian Journal of Ecology*, 49(2), 378-382. <https://doi.org/10.55362/IJE/2022/3532>

- Singh, N., & Thakur, A.K. (2022). Effect of seed pelleting with rhizobium and nitrogen application on yield and quality of cowpea seeds. *Biological Forum – An International Journal*, 14(2), 720-726. [www.researchtrend.net](http://www.researchtrend.net)
- Taghizoghi, S., Soltani, E., Allahdadi, I., & Sadeghi, R. (2018). The effect of different seed coating treatments on the seed germination of canola under drought and salinity stresses: using a modeling approach. *Journal of Crops Improvement*, 20(3), 577-593. [In Persian] <https://doi.org/10.22059/jci.2018.238846.1807>
- Tamilselvan, N. (2006). Sugar cane response to chip bud method of planting. In: Proceedings of International Society for Sugar Cane Technologists, Agronomy Workshop, Khon Kaen, Thailand, 23-26.
- Tripathi, K.M., Bhati, A., Singh, A., Sonker, A.K., Sarkar, S., & Sonkar, S.K. (2017). Sustainable changes in the contents of metallic micronutrients in first generation gram seeds imposed by carbon nano-onions: life cycle seed to seed study. *ACS Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering*, 5(4), 2906-2916. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acssuschemeng.6b01937>
- Uyi, O., Reay-Jones, F.P., NiX. Buntin, D., Jacobson, A., Punnuri, S., & Toews, M.D. (2022). Impact of planting date and insecticide application methods on Melanaphissorghi (Hemiptera: Aphididae) Infestation and Forage Type Sorghum Yield. *Insects*, 13(11), p.1038. <https://doi.org/10.3390/insects13111038>
- Zander, A., Lofton, J., Harris, C., & Kezar, S. (2021). Grain sorghum production: Influence of planting date, hybrid selection, and insecticide application. *Agrosystems, Geosciences and Environment*, 4(2), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1002/agg2.20162>
- Zhao, T., Deng, X., Xiao, Q., Han, Y., Zhu, S., & Chen, J. (2020). IAA priming improves the germination and seedling growth in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) via regulating the endogenous phytohormones and enhancing the sucrose metabolism. *Industrial Crops and Products*, 155, 112788. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2020.112788>

## بهینه‌سازی کشت نیشکر: اثربخشی پلت کردن تک جوانه بر سبزشدن و ویژگی‌های کیفی

زهرا عجریب زاده<sup>۱</sup>، سلیم فرزانه<sup>۲</sup>، محمود شمیلی<sup>۳</sup>، حمید رضا بلوچی<sup>۴</sup>، رئوف سید شریفی<sup>۵</sup> و عزیز کرملاجعب<sup>۶</sup>

۱. دانشجوی دکتری علوم و تکنولوژی بذر، دانشکده تولید و ژنتیک گیاهی، دانشگاه محقق اردبیلی، اردبیل، ایران. رایانامه: [z.ajribzade2013@gmail.com](mailto:z.ajribzade2013@gmail.com)
۲. نویسنده مسئول، استاد گروه تولید و ژنتیک گیاهی، دانشکده کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی، دانشگاه محقق اردبیلی، اردبیل، ایران. رایانامه: [s.farzaneh@uma.ac.ir](mailto:s.farzaneh@uma.ac.ir)
۳. استادیار، مؤسسه تحقیقات و آموزش توسعه نیشکر و صنایع جانبی خوزستان، ایران. رایانامه: [mahmoud.shomeili11@gmail.com](mailto:mahmoud.shomeili11@gmail.com)
۴. استاد گروه زراعت و اصلاح نباتات، دانشکده کشاورزی، دانشگاه یاسوج، شهر یاسوج، ایران. رایانامه: [balouchi@yu.ac.ir](mailto:balouchi@yu.ac.ir)
۵. استاد گروه تولید و ژنتیک گیاهی، دانشکده کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی، دانشگاه محقق اردبیلی، اردبیل، ایران. رایانامه: [raouf\\_ssharifi@yahoo.com](mailto:raouf_ssharifi@yahoo.com)
۶. استادیار، شرکت کشت و صنعت میرزا کوچک خان، اهواز، ایران. رایانامه: [azizchaab@gmail.com](mailto:azizchaab@gmail.com)

اطلاعات مقاله	چکیده
<b>نوع مقاله:</b> مقاله پژوهشی	<b>هدف:</b> کشت سنتی نیشکر اغلب به دلیل استفاده گسترده از مواد کاشت و هدر رفت انرژی، دوره‌های طولانی کاشت، زوال سریع قلمه‌ها پس از استقرار جوانه‌ها، عملیات پر زحمت، استفاده مکرر از ماشین آلات و کاربرد مقادیر زیاد کودها و آفت‌کش‌ها با هزینه‌های بالای تولید همراه است. این مطالعه به ارزیابی اثربخشی پلت کردن جوانه‌های جانبی ساقه‌های نیشکر جهت تولید قطعات بذر تک جوانه مناسب برای کشت مکانیزه در مؤسسه تحقیقات و آموزش توسعه نیشکر و صنایع جانبی خوزستان، ایران، پرداخته است.
<b>تاریخ دریافت:</b> ۱۴۰۴/۰۳/۰۸	<b>روش پژوهش:</b> در سال ۱۴۰۰، آزمایشی به صورت کرت‌های خرد شده در قالب طرح بلوک‌های کامل تصادفی با سه تکرار در مؤسسه تحقیقات، آموزش و توسعه نیشکر و صنایع جانبی خوزستان انجام شد. عامل اول شامل سه تاریخ مختلف کشت (۲۵ مرداد ماه، ۲۵ شهریورماه و ۲۵ مهرماه ۱۴۰۰) به عنوان پلات اصلی و عامل دوم شامل ۴ نوع پلت، (A1) (نشاسته+پیت+کود میکرو کمبی)، (A2) (نشاسته+پیت+ترکیب‌های تغذیه‌ای+سیلیکات پتاسیم+قارچ-کش کاربن‌دایزیم)، (A3) (تک جوانه بدون پلت) و (A4) (قلمه ۵۰ سانتی‌متر بدون پلت- شاهد) به عنوان پلات فرعی بودند.
<b>تاریخ بازنگری:</b> ۱۴۰۴/۰۶/۰۴	<b>یافته‌ها:</b> پلت کردن بذرهای تک‌جوانه‌ای، به‌ویژه در تیمار A2 که در تاریخ کاشت شهریورماه کاشته شد، به‌طور قابل توجهی باعث افزایش استقرار محصول شد و درصد سبزشدن را ۵۶ درصد و سرعت سبزشدن را به ۲/۸۵ جوانه در روز نسبت به شاهد (A4) افزایش داد. پلت کردن همچنین شاخص‌های رشد و کیفیت را نیز تحت تأثیر مثبت قرار داد.
<b>تاریخ پذیرش:</b> ۱۴۰۴/۰۶/۲۵	<b>نتیجه‌گیری:</b> پلت کردن بذرهای تک‌جوانه‌ای نیشکر با پوشش‌های غنی شده با مواد تغذیه‌ای، سبزشدن را بهبود می‌بخشد، از رشد اولیه محصول حمایت می‌کند و کشت مکانیزه را تسهیل می‌کند. به‌ویژه در تیمار A2 در تاریخ کشت شهریورماه باعث بهبود رشد و استقرار نیشکر در شرایط مزرعه‌ای شد. این روش با بهبود رساندن مواد تغذیه‌ای و حفظ رطوبت در اطراف تک جوانه، از کشت مکانیزه نیشکر پشتیبانی می‌کند و به کشت پایدارتر، کارآمدتر و مقرون به صرفه‌تر کمک می‌کند.
<b>تاریخ انتشار:</b> ۱۴۰۴/۰۶/۲۹	<b>جنبه‌های نوآوری:</b>
<b>کلیدواژه‌ها:</b> پلت کردن درصد سبزشدن سرعت سبزشدن سیلیکات پتاسیم کود میکرو کمبی	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• پلت کردن به‌ویژه در تیمار A2 با تأمین مواد تغذیه‌ای ضروری، درصد و سرعت سبزشدن تک جوانه‌های نیشکر را به‌طور قابل توجهی افزایش داد.</li> <li>• کشت در شهریورماه همراه با پلت کردن، رشد اولیه و استقرار گیاه نیشکر را بهبود بخشید.</li> </ul>

**استناد:** عجریب‌زاده، زهرا؛ فرزانه، سلیم؛ شمیلی، محمود؛ بلوچی، حمیدرضا؛ سیدشریفی، رئوف و کرملاجعب، عزیز (۱۴۰۴). بهینه‌سازی کشت نیشکر: اثر بخشی پلت کردن تک جوانه بر سبزشدن و ویژگی‌های کیفی. *پژوهش‌های بذر ایران*، ۱۲ (۱)، ۱-۱۴. <http://doi.org/10.61882/yujs.11.2.1>





## ملاحظات اخلاقی

### پیروی از اصول اخلاق پژوهش

نویسندگان اصول اخلاقی را در انجام و انتشار این پژوهش علمی رعایت نموده‌اند و این موضوع مورد تأیید همه آنهاست.

### مشارکت نویسندگان

نویسنده اول: دانشجوی دکتری، تهیه و آماده‌سازی نمونه‌ها، انجام آزمایش و گردآوری داده‌ها، انجام محاسبات، تجزیه و تحلیل آماری داده‌ها، تحلیل و تفسیر اطلاعات و نتایج، تهیه پیش‌نویس مقاله

نویسنده دوم: استاد راهنمای اول پایان‌نامه، نظارت بر مراحل انجام پژوهش، بررسی و کنترل نتایج، اصلاح، بازبینی و نهایی‌سازی مقاله  
نویسنده سوم: استاد راهنمای دوم پایان‌نامه، طراحی پژوهش، نظارت بر مراحل انجام پژوهش، بررسی و کنترل نتایج، اصلاح، بازبینی و نهایی‌سازی مقاله

نویسنده چهارم: استاد مشاور اول پایان‌نامه، نظارت بر پژوهش، مطالعه و بازبینی مقاله  
نویسنده پنجم: استاد مشاور دوم پایان‌نامه، کنترل انجام محاسبات، تجزیه و تحلیل آماری داده‌ها، تحلیل و تفسیر اطلاعات و نتایج، مطالعه و بازبینی مقاله

نویسنده ششم: استاد مشاور سوم پایان‌نامه، مشارکت در طراحی پژوهش و نظارت بر پژوهش

### تعارض منافع

بنا بر اظهار نویسندگان این مقاله تعارض منافع ندارد.

### حامی مالی

مقاله حاضر با حمایت مالی معاونت پژوهشی دانشگاه محقق اردبیلی- اردبیل انجام شد. همچنین حمایت مالی از این پژوهش از طرف مؤسسه تحقیقات و آموزش توسعه نیشکر و صنایع جانبی خوزستان در قالب طرح تحقیقاتی با کد (۱۲۹۱۹۸۰۱) انجام شده است.

### سپاسگزاری

از مؤسسه تحقیقات و آموزش توسعه نیشکر و صنایع جانبی خوزستان به خاطر حمایت مالی و معنوی و همکاری صمیمانه در اجرای این پژوهش، سپاسگزاری می‌شود.