

## OBJECTIVES

The preceding discussion leads to the objective of this publication. It is an attempt at deriving a comprehensive set of decision-making tools — a decision-making model — for use in sugarcane production in South Florida. As mentioned earlier, decision-making tools may take many different forms. In this particular model, the emphasis is on numerical symbols (figures) — the quantities of physical inputs inherent in sugarcane production.

Moreover, while every attempt was made to have the values contained in the analysis reflect reasonable estimates of costs and returns, it is the writer's desire that the model be more useful as a framework for rational decision-making.

In addition, the analysis is of such a format that almost any anticipated alternative and its resulting impact on costs and revenues can be easily evaluated. It can be of significant help in budgeting resources for a production period. It can also be an invaluable aid to growers attempting to secure working capital or long-term capital.

Another feature of this analysis is that it can be used as a guide to sugarcane production in that all of the major operations and the individual tasks comprising them are presented later<sup>1</sup> in the order in which they are most likely to occur.

Furthermore, it was the intent of the author to develop an analysis useful to a broad spectrum of people with interests in sugarcane. In addition to growers, it is hoped that those doing research in sugarcane may find it useful as well as Extension personnel, financial institutions, prospective producers, and public agencies.

## ASSUMPTIONS IN THE ANALYSIS

There is no one figure, or estimate, of the cost of producing sugarcane in south Florida. Production levels and costs vary significantly due to differences in soils, climate, size of farm, and management.

Therefore, certain assumptions must be made with respect to systems of production and levels of output.

### *Management*

For this analysis advanced management is assumed — a management that is innovative, receptive to adapting recommendations by specialists in the area of sugarcane production, and which readily accepts practices followed by other good operators in the area.

It is also assumed that the manager is an owner-operator who employs two fulltime laborers.

### *Farm Size and Other Characteristics*

In order that an appropriate machinery complement can be chosen,

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<sup>1</sup>See Table 3.