



Adoption of recommended grape cultivation practices by the grape growers

■ R.S. Atar, B.M. Thombre, D.D. Suradkar and G.R. Ainlawar

Department of Human Development, College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University, LUDHIANA (PUNJAB) INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Grape is important fruit crops and having good prospects in Maharashtra. However, the area under grape is increasing day by day. It is necessary to find out the knowledge level and adoption of the recommended grape cultivation practices by the grape growers for developing new suitable strategy, to overcome the constraints faced by them in knowledge and adoption of recommended grape cultivation practices by the grape growers. The present study was conducted in Latur district from Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. A multistage sampling was used to select tahsils, villages and grape growers. The sample was of 120 respondents and they were interviewed, personally to collect the data with the help of structured and pretested interview schedule. The collected data were processed and statistically analysed. The coefficient of correlation was used to find out the relationship between the selected independent and dependent variables. The study revealed that higher proportion of the grape growers had medium farming experience 14 to 27 years were educated up to secondary school level, had semi-medium size of land holding and medium about area under grape. Majority of them had annual income Rs. 1,57,001 to 4,80,000/. Majority of the grape growers were having 'medium' social participation, use of sources of information, risk orientation, market orientation and medium level of extension contact. It was observed that the majority of the grape growers had medium level of knowledge and adoption of recommended grape cultivation practices. Study revealed that with the increased levels of farming experience education, land holding, area under grape, annual income, social participation, use of sources of information, risk orientation, market orientation and extension contact of grape growers, level of knowledge and adoption of recommended grape cultivation practices of grape also increased. The study portrayed that the most of the grape growers reported the non-availability of seedling in time followed by problem of load shedding of electricity, Shortage of FYM / compost, high cost of plant protection measure and shortage of skilled labour. Most of the grape growers followed problem about high cost of seedling, salty water, high cost and non availability of sufficient chemical fertilizers in time. Majority of grape growers had incomplete knowledge about improved grape cultivation.

INTRODUCTION

Grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) is a temperate fruit crop and also cultivated under tropical and subtropical regions in the world. It was originated in Asia Minor in the region between Black Sea and Caspian Sea which belongs to the family Vitiaceae. India is fast emerging as one of the major grape growing countries in the world. In India it is cultivated under temperate, subtropical and tropical climates. About less than 2 per cent grape production in India is exported successfully to Europe,

USA, Middle East and South East of Asian countries, as against 0.1 per cent of all fruits. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Haryana are the major grape growing states in India. Maharashtra is the leading grape producing state.

The commercial cultivation was initially confined to Nasik, Pune, Sangli, Satara and Ahmednagar in Western Maharashtra. However, it has been now well cultivated in Latur, Osmanabad and Beed districts of Marathwada region. Raisins are golden, green or black coloured delicacies which are favourites of