

A study of personal, economic and psychological characteristics of grape growers and their constraints in grape production technology in Barshi tahsil of Solapur district

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ABSTRACT

India's exports of fresh grapes fell from 23,680 tonnes valued at Rs. 6452 crores in 2000-01 to 14,571 tonnes valued at Rs. 59.96 crores in 2001-02 due to a drop in the export to Bangladesh and U. K. Maharashtra is a leading producer of grapes in the country with about 25,000 hectare of land under it. In Maharashtra, grapes are grown in Nashik, Sangli, Jalgaon, Pimpalgaon, Tasgaon, Solapur, Naryangaon, Pune, Junnar and Satara. The study was carried in Barshi tahsil of Solapur of district where grape is extensively grown. Out of 270 grape growers from the selected villages, a sample of 150 grape growers was drawn proportionately. Majority of grape growers were from younger age group, educated upto primary school level, from medium size of family, medium annual income, small area under grape cultivation, medium experience in grape cultivation, medium sources of information, medium degree of risk orientation, and medium level of knowledge. It was observed that a majority of grape growers (69.33 per cent) had adopted the recommended grape production technology to the medium extent. The major constraints reported by the grape growers in adoption of recommended grape production technology were lack of knowledge about control measures of insect, pests and diseases, lack of technical knowledge about doses of manures and fertilizers.

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INTRODUCTION

Grape (*Vitis vinifera*) is an important fruit crop of the world. It is one of delicious refreshing and nourishing fruit crop. The crop is native of subtropical zone between 34° north and 40° south latitude where the culture is most successful.

The crop is mainly grown for wine making to a limited extent for preparation of raisins and certain extent for Table purpose. However, grape growing in India is mostly for Table purpose. India's exports of fresh grapes fell from 23,680 tonnes valued at Rs. 6452 crores in 2000-01 to 14,571 tonnes valued at Rs. 59.96 crores in 2001-02 due to a drop in the export to Bangladesh and United Kingdom. Maharashtra is a leading producer of grapes in the country with about 25,000 hectare of land under it. In Maharashtra, grapes are grown in Nashik, Sangli, Jalgaon, Pimpalgaon, Tasgaon, Solapur, Naryangaon, Pune, Junnar and Satara. The grapes from Baramati in Maharashtra arrive in the market in December, from Narayangaon in February, from Pune in March and from Nashik in May.

Maharashtra is alone accounting for about 55 % area under grape cultivation. The state is leading in India in area and productivity of grape. However, the productivity has come

down to 17.60 tonnes/ha as against the national average of 22.50 tonnes/ha and the productivity of Punjab is 27.00 tonnes/ha Grape is an important cash crop in Western Maharashtra region. Solapur is one of the leading grape producing districts. Area of this district under the said crop is increased from 1,781 hectares in 1991-92 and 3172 hectares in 2003-04 with a grape production of 3,47,500 tonnes and an average yield of 30.18 tonnes/ha in 2003-04. This indicates that the average productivity is more than the average productivity of the state. This means that there is need to promote and maintain the grape production technology among the grape growers. This indicates that there is a need to know their existing level of knowledge and extent of adoption for deciding the future strategy in respect of promoting the grape production technology. In view of this the study was carried out to study the selected personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of grape growers and to study the constraints faced by the grape growers in adoption of recommended grape production technology.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Barshi tahsil of Solapur district comprising of

Key words :

Socio-economic characteristics,
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