



Study of adoption of post harvest technology practices along with constraints faced by the grape growers in Sangli district

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Tasgaon Tahsil of Sangli district where grape is extensively grown. Sample of 160 grape growers was drawn by using stratified random sampling method. It was observed that all the grape growers adopted the post harvest technology practices like harvesting the grape on the basis of major signs of maturity at proper time by using secateurs and use of bubble sheet or Netlon for cushioning purpose. Most of them followed adoption practices for grading and packing of bunches. Nearly half of them adopted the practices of precooling and cold storage for storing the boxes. It was observed that only half of them adopted the processing of grape for raisin purpose by using soda oil beech method of raisin making. The major constraints reported by most of the grape growers were high cost of packing material, high transportation charges due to long distance market and excessive price fluctuation. Majority of them reported constraints about lack of knowledge and preparation of grape processed products.

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INTRODUCTION

Grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) is an important subtropical cash crop of the world. It is mainly used for table purpose, raisin making and wine preparation. The production of the grape in India as well as in Maharashtra has been increasing fastly. There has significant role of post harvest technology to maintain or enhance the quality of grape processed products and to make it marketable. Post harvest technology has potential to create rural industries. So, fruit and vegetable processing industry has a significant role to play in development of the country, which is predominantly agricultural economy. The industries are equipped to absorb large quantities of fruits for processing purpose. Adoption of the generated technology has always been the major aim of our developmental activities or efforts. It is beyond doubt that adoption of improved techniques of post harvest technology is the positive answer to increase the agricultural production. The extension agencies are engaged in the various sectors of community development movement in the country and are working for making the farmers to adopt the recommendations of the scientists in respect of improved techniques in

post harvest. However, adoption of these recommendations by the farmer is observed to be differential. The adopters of the post harvest technology practices of grape also differ in adoption behaviour.

Now a days marketing of grape is becoming difficult due to certain causes such as interference of middleman, long distance markets, fluctuation in market prices etc. This results into loss of grape growers. So, this can be avoided by increasing the storage life of berries through processing into different value added products. Therefore, post harvest technology has great importance in preparation of processed products from increased production. Also post harvest technology plays major role in minimizing transportation costs, spoilage in transportation, avoiding fluctuation in market prices, exporting the fresh fruits and processed products to foreign countries and thereby getting maximum price to farmers and increasing their economic status. In view of this, the scientific understanding about the post harvest technology, its extent of adoption and the constraints faced by the grape grower is must for deciding the future strategy.

Key words :

Adoption, Post
harvest
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