

CHAPTER - II

GRAPE CULTIVATION

HARVESTING PERIOD.

C H A P T E R - II

GRAPE CULTIVATION

The group, known in its high sounding scientific name is 'Vitis-Vinifera' is one of the Table is one of the delicacies. It is a fairly good source of minerals like calcium phosphorus and Iron and vitamins like B₁ and B₂. Its juice is a mild laxative and acts as a stimulant to the kidneys.

Evidences of the introduction of grapes in to India around 1300 A.D. by some invaders from Agganistan and Persia are available. The historic event of change in the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra by Mohamed Tughalak introduced the grape there.

Grape is one of the oldest cultivated fruit crops. But in India the commercial grape cultivation is popularise in recent times. India produces about three lakhs tonnes of grapes covering an area of 11,060 hectares. This amounts to a little over 1 per cent, of the total fruit production of the country. The main grape growing area in India are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana (Table No. 2.1).

TABLE NO. 2.1

GRAPE PRODUCING STATES IN INDIA

<u>Area States</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Share in Total (percentage)</u>
Maharashtra	3500*	31.65
Karnataka	3000	27.13
Andhra Pradesh	1600	14.47
Tamil Nadu	1200	10.85
Punjab	600	5.42
Haryana	500	4.52
Rajasthan	300	2.71
Gujarat	60	0.54
Others	300	2.71
<u>Total</u>	<u>11060</u>	<u>100.00</u>

SOURCE : Bhujabal B.G. Draksha Bag. Continental Prakashan Pune, 1981. The area under grape cultivation in Maharashtra in 1984 was estimated at 5,000 hectares.

From among these states, Maharashtra and Karnataka accounts for about 60 per cent of the country's land under grape cultivation. If the shares of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are added to this the area under cultivation in the country goes upto 84 per cent of the total grape production. The quality of Indian grapes is of very high standard and India has recently started exporting grapes mainly to the middle East countries

especially to Dubai. The total exports amounted to 1,186 tonnes of grapes valued at Rs. 119 lakhs during 1983-84. Since India is producing one of the finest seedless grapes, it has tremendous export potentialities, not only to the middle eastern countries but to the more developed world. For this ofcourse India will have to meet International standards and competition. Infact, Patil's⁴ survey has indicated that the prospects of India increasing the ares (i.e. Trebbling) under grape cultivation are very bright. If this could be done, then at current prices, an additional income from this source will yield about Rs. 70 lakhs. In relative terms the area under grapes cultivation and the context of the field per acre obtained surpassing that in the most other grape growing countries of the world. Thus grape growing has taken considerable status in India in the recent past and can be considered. One of the most remunerative farming enterprises of the present times.

Maharashtra is a leading producer of choicest grapes in India, accounting for almost 32 per cent of the total area under grape cultivation in the country. Within Maharashtra, Nasik is the leading district in grape cultivation with 1,000 hectares (29 per cent) followed by Sangli district with 800 hectates of land (23 per cent) under grape cultivation (Table No. 2.2).

"The Maharashtra **Rajya** Draksha Bagayatdar Sangha" was established in 1940 and has been instrumental in propagative the scientific method of grape cultivation.

TABLE NO.2.2

DISTRICTWISE AREA UNDER GRAPE CULTIVATION & PRODUCTION

Districts	Area (Hectares)	Share in the total percentage
Nasik	1000	28.57
Sangli	800	22.86
Pune	500	14.29
Solapur	300	8.57
Ahemadnagar	250	7.14
Aurangabad	150	4.29
Satara	75	2.15
Jalgaon	75	2.15
Nanded	75	2.15
Bhir	225	6.43
Others	50	1.43
Total	3500	100.00

SOURCE : Draksha Bag Dr. B.G.Bhujabal.

Its efforts particularly after 1972, culminated in a substantial increase in the area under grape cultivation and also in solving the problems related with grapes and grape

cultivation. In recent days, "Vaidanic Drakshakula" has been established in Sangli; to help the grape growers for cultivating grapes and also to assist them in controlling the diseases.

These efforts have encouraged farmers to bring increasing area under grape cultivation and thereby increase production. The area under grape cultivation increased from 2,000 hectares in 1960 to 5,000 hectares in 1984 an overall increase of 150 per cent (Table No. 2.3).

The total production increased from 50,000 tonnes in 1960 to 1,25,000 tonnes in 1984 ~~an~~ increase of 150 per cent. However, the tonnage per hectare oscillated between on all time low of 17 in 1975 to 30 in 1965. From 1980 the average production has remained same, 25 tonnes per hectare.

TABLE NO. 2.3

GRAPE PRODUCTION IN MAHARASHTRA

Year	Area under cultivation (in Hectares)	Total production (in Tonnes)	Tonnes (in hect.)
1960	2,000	50,000	25.00
1965	2,500	75,000	30.00
1970	3,000	80,000	26.67
1975	2,000	50,000	16.67
1980	3,000	75,000	25.00
1982	4,000	1,00,000	25.00
1984	5,000	1,25,000	25.00

SOURCE : Bhujbal B.G.

(has remained same, 25 tonnes per hectare.)

Over this period the grape culture has undergone a substantial change, particularly in terms of varieties and the techniques of production prior to 1960, the main grape varieties were Bangalore, Purple, Bhokari, Cheema Shahebi, and Koli Shahebi. After the introduction of Thomson Seedless and good responses to Arab.e.Shahi varieties. The trend of growing grapes in Maharashtra has undergone a change. Further improvements have also been introduced in spacing. In 1982 the variety wise production of grapes showed on almost absolute preponderance of the Thomson Seedless (variety) both in terms of area under this variety and total production of it. (Table No. 2.4).

TABLE NO. 2.4

VARIETY WISE PRODUCTION OF GRAPES IN MAHARASHTRA 1982.

Variety	Area under cultivation (in hect.)	Percentage to the total	Total production (in Tonnes)	Percentage to the total.
✓ Thomson Seedless	3,300	82.50	68,000	68.00
Arab.e Shahi Cheema Sahebi	400	10.00	20,000	20.00
Koli Sahebi	100	2.50	4,000	4.00
Bangalore Punde	100	2.50	4,000	4.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>100.00</u>

SOURCE : Bhujabal B.G. Ibid.

Thus the seedless variety (Thomson) accounted for 82.50 per cent of all the land that was under grape cultivation in 1982 (4,000 hectares) and 68 per cent of the total grapes produced in that year (10,000 tonnes) in Maharashtra.

Anab_e_Shahi variety was grown on 400 hectares of land (10 per cent of the total under grapes cultivation) and accounted for 20 per cent of the total production while the rest of the varieties, cheema Sahebi, Koli Sahebi and Bangalore purple, accounted for 2.50 per cent each of land under grape cultivation and for 4 per cent each of the total production. However, a point of note is that although the average production of grapes as a whole per hectare of land under grape cultivation in Maharashtra in 1982 was 25 tonnes, the figures of Thomson Seedless were 20.60 tonnes Anab_e_Shahi, 50 tonnes, and the rest of the Seeded varieties, 40 tonnes. This ~~the~~ production of seedless grapes per hectare is 41 per cent, of Anab_e_Shahi 50 per cent of the other seeded varieties.

HARVESTING PERIOD :

The climatic conditions prevailing in the grape growing areas in Maharashtra dictate that for efficient production, the vines be pruned from September to October and the crop is matured and harvested from late December to early April. The whole crop from the 4,000 hectares has to be harvested during

this period. On an average, the quantity of grape harvested during these months indicates that the month of March is the most crucial month when, of the total 1,00,000 tonnes harvested in 1982, 67 per cent was in March (Table No. 2.5).

Thus the total season for harvesting (and marketing) grapes extends from 90 to 100 days. Beyond that period, the cultivators are bound to suffer from increasing wastages through spoilage on the farm, during transportation etc. These would contribute to the losses.

TABLE NO. 2.5

MONTH WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRAPE HARVEST(1982) .

Month	No. of days of Harvest	Average Area of Harvest cheaper day	Total Crop Harvested Hectares	Tonnes.
December	4	10	40	1,000
January	31	20	620	8,000
Feburary	28	30	840	24,000
March	31	80	2480	66,950
April	5	4	20	50
Total	99	144	4000	1,00,000

SOURCE : Ibid.