



ROLE OF MAHARASHTRA STATE GRAPE GROWERS ASSOCIATION IN PROMOTING AND EXPORTING GRAPE IN MAHARASHTRA

Dr. Shivaji Murlidhar Bhosale¹, Prabhakar Vilasrao Shinde²

¹ Head, Department of Economics, Chh. Shivaji College, Satara, Maharashtra, India

² Research Scholar, Shri J J T University, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT:

The Grape (Vitis vinifera) is basically temperate crop. In Indian subcontinent, it is also cultivated in subtropical climate. India is the leading producer and exporter of grapes in World.

In India, Maharashtra is a largest producer of grapes in India. Production share of Maharashtra is about 80% to the whole country. Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association, officially Maharashtra Rajya Draksha Bagaitdar Sangh, Pune-MRDBS is an association of grape growers which was established with the aim of development of grape horticulture in Maharashtra. The presented research analyzed the role of Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association through various data, publications, etc. It indicated that Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association played a crucial role in promoting, exporting and enhancing the grape in Maharashtra.

Keywords: Grape, Maharashtra Rajya Draksha Bagaitdar Sangh, Pune-MRDBS, Horticulture Economics, Viticulture, etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Prior to establishment of Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association, Grape was cultivated by traditional method in 1960 era. The prime pillar behind formation of MRDBS was former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, late Mr. Vasant Rao Naik. It was visualized by him. Then Former Union Agriculture Minister Hon. Sharad Govindrao Pawar gave a boost to working of MRDBS.

Late Mr. Vasant Rao Naik was State Agriculture Minister during 1959 - 1960. With his broad foresight and vision of viticulture, he visualized that certain regions in Maharashtra were quite favorable for viticulture and the use of advance technology and exchange of experience was necessary for growth of viticulture. He had visualized that only a grape growers association could guide the growers scientifically for better prospectus. In the year 1960, MRDBS was established under the guidance of Dr. N. Gopalkrishnan, supported by late Mr. Raosaheb Boravake, Mr. Abasaheb Boravake and Mr. Annasaheb Shembekar. Later it was registered under public trust act and society act. A constitution was formed, while the formation of the constitution, various issues and rules were included into it which proves that the founders of this constitution had a profound study not only on viticulture but also on grape growers and associations.

Rules included under the constitution of MRDBS

- i. To bring about an overall development of the grape crop as well as grape growers.
- ii. To provide technical guidance, import fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, growth hormones and provide them to growers and facilitate loan procuring for buying equipments etc.
- iii. To carry out research on grape vine, to curtail the production cost, improve the quality of grapes, develop and cultivate new varieties of grapes and implement advanced



technology for production. To conduct various experiments related to fertigation, water management and pruning. Establish laboratories at every place and run them successfully.

- iv. To provide reliable grafts from governmental or private vineyards.
- v. Provide sufficient and long term loan from Government and other organizations to the growers for vineyard development.
- vi. Better transportation for distant grape centers and to carry out discussions with concerned centers to make necessary arrangements.
- vii. Establishment of library to provide books, articles etc. related to grapes.
- viii. Planning of study tours for gaining information related to vineyard experiments as well as held exhibitions, workshops.
- ix. Strive for increase in grape cost and demand.
- x. Purchase of movable and immovable properties.

MRDBS is one of the premiere and renowned organization today working with the sole purpose of addressing the problems of grape growers on a single platform and headquartered at Pune. It has regional offices at Nashik, Sangali, Solapur and Pune.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

- i. To study the role of MRDBS in promoting and enhancing Grape horticulture in Maharashtra.
- ii. To study the role of MRDBS in scientific development of Grape horticulture in Maharashtra.
- iii. To study the role of MRDBS in export of Grape from India.

HYPOTHESIS

- i. H01 The Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association not played significant role in development of grape horticulture in Maharashtra.
- ii. H1 The Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association played significant role in development of grape horticulture in Maharashtra.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research paper presented is primarily based on secondary data i.e. Journals, periodicals, Government-agriculture ministry statistical reports, NHB reports, etc.

Milestones-MRDBS

The Milestones of Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association

1960-70: The cultivation of seeded grape varieties like Selection-7, Anab-E-Shahi, Kali Sahebi, Pandhari Sahebi started.

1975: Cultivation with variety Thompson Seedless started.

1985: Rootstock vine cultivation has started.

1987: For the first time, imported machinery used in grape vineyard.

1992: Use of CPPU and soluble fertilizers has started.

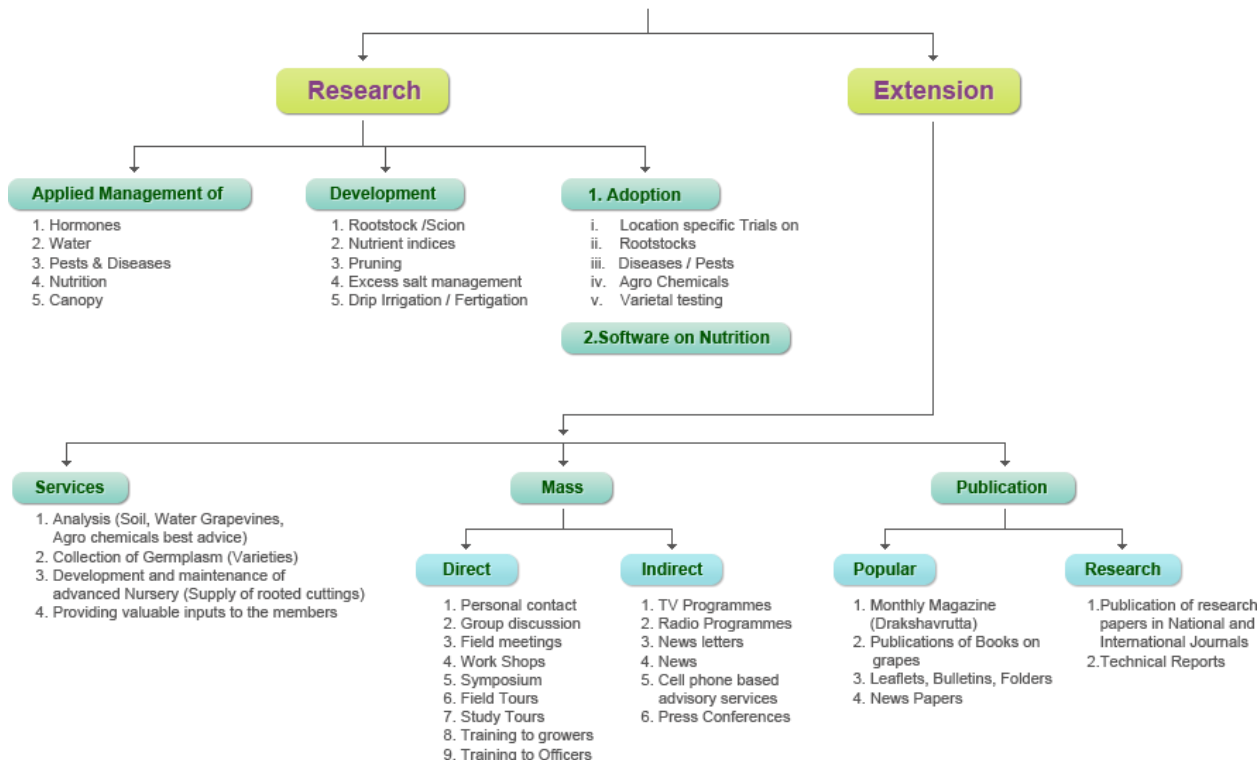
1996: Use of packing units, cold storages and pre cooling units came into practice.

1997: National Research Centre for Grapes has established at Pune.

2000: Use of special machineries for cultivation and spraying has started.

ACTIVITIES OF MRDBS

Multidimensional Activities of MRDBS



A) Research and Development- Highlight

Following are the some research done by MRDBS at Manjri Farm, Pune and came out with fruitful suggestions for Grape Growers.

- i. MRDBS had setup soil fertility norms for grapes in Maharashtra for Thompson Seedless, its various mutants and Sharad Seedless.
- ii. MRDBS studied and recommended integrated nutrient management for potential yield & quality of grapes, which resulted in increase in productivity.
- iii. MRDBS introduced rootstock in grape vineyard for the first time in India in 1997-98, which reduced water and soil problems in grape vineyard.
- iv. MRDBS guided about use of mulching for grape vineyard.
- v. MRDBS trained the growers for the use of various fertilizers. i.e. integrated pest management
- vi. MRDBS suggested the use of Hydrogen Cyanamide for grape bud sprouting to increase the size of bud.
- vii. For controlling of thrips, MRDBS used biological insecticides and guided the growers' about same.
- viii. MRDBS done research on the pink berry disorder during ripening of the non – pigmented Thompson Seedless and came out with useful suggestions.
- ix. MRDBS conducted a research on exaluation of some insecticides against Pink Mealy Bugs & Thrips in Maharashtra.

B) Extension Activities-MRDBS

- i. Publications: Following are the publications i.e. books, booklets by MRDBS

Sr. No.	Name of Book	Author	Subject
1.	Draksha Sanhita	S.A. Dabholkar	Grapes
2.	Jagatik Wine Vyavsay	Vinayak Patil	Wine Business
3.	Aple Draksha Utpadan va Adhunik Drakshvidnyan	MRDBS	Grape Production



4.	Adhunik Draksha Margadarshika	MRDBS	Grape Guide
5.	Draksha Vidnyan	V.D. Patil	Grape Science
6.	Jagtik Draksha Vidyanacha Kanosa	Dr. J.M. Khilari	World Grape Science
7.	Draksha Thibak Sinchan	Dr. S.S. Magar	Grape Drip Irrigation
8.	Drakshvelinche Poshan	Dr. J. Sharma	Grape Vine
9.	Drakshasathi Sanjivakancha Vapar	Dr. J.M. Khilari	Grape

Monthly Publication:

DrakshVrutta(Marathi) is monthly magazine publication of MRDBS which includes various articles on grape cultivation, marketing and export by various scientists and experts which is much useful for grape growers across Maharashtra.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MRDBS

- Reduction in Tax on Raisin: After continuous demand of MRDBS, Government reduced service tax on grape raisin from 12.5% to 4%
- Subsidy for Grape cultivation: Government declared 20% subsidy for grape vineyard cultivation.
- National Research Centre for Grape: With the help of MRDBS, Government i.e. Indian Council of Agriculture Research(ICAR) established the National Research Centre for Grape for integrated research and development of grapes at Pune.
- Export: MRDBS started the export of Grape by establishing a new venture MAHAGRAPES.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

- Increase in Area: Under the guidance of MRDBS, Grape cultivation spread throughout Maharashtra.
- Increase in Production:- After establishment of MRDBS, production and productivity of grape is continuously increased . This is because the guidance by MRDBS to growers.

Table 1
Production data of Grapes-India

Year	Area(In thousand hectare)
1991-92	32.4
2001-02	47.5
2002-03	52.1
2003-04	57.8
2004-05	60.5
2005-06	66.0
2006-07	65.0
2007-08	68.0
2008-09	80.0
2009-10	106.4
2010-11	111.0
2011-12	116.0
2012-13	117.6
2013-14	118.7

Table 2
Production and Productivity of Grapes- India

Year	Production (In thousand Metric Ton)	Productivity (In thousand Metric Ton/hectare)
1991-92	668.2	20
2001-02	1184.2	24.9
2002-03	1247.8	24.0
2003-04	1474.8	25.5
2004-05	1564.7	25.9
2005-06	1649.6	25.0
2006-07	1685.0	25.9
2007-08	1735.0	25.5
2008-09	1878.0	23.5
2009-10	880.7	8.3
2010-11	1235.0	11.1
2011-12	2220.9	19.1
2012-13	2483.1	21.1
2013-14	2585.3	21.8

Table 3
Leading Grape producing States

State	2011-12			2012-13			2013-14		
	Area	Production	Productivity	Area	Production	Productivity	Area	Production	Productivity
Maharashtra	92.0	1810.0	19.7	90.0	2050.0	22.8	90.0	2160.0	24.0
Karnataka	16.8	288.1	17.1	19.7	320.9	16.3	20.5	302.4	14.8
Tamilnadu	2.9	55.1	19.0	2.7	43.4	16.2	2.8	47.7	16.8
Telangana	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.2	25.8	21.0
Mizoram	1.9	24.3	12.8	2.4	20.8	8.7	2.5	23.9	9.7
Andhra Pradesh	1.4	28.9	20.6	1.6	31.5	20.0	0.4	8.9	20.8
Other	1.0	14.5	14.5	1.3	16.5	12.7	1.3	16.6	12.5
TOTAL	116.0	2220.9	19.1	117.6	2483.1	21.1	118.7	2585.3	21.8

iii. Increase in Export: By the efforts of MRDBS, Grape export to various foreign countries from India is increased on large scale.

Table 3
Export of Grapes from Maharashtra

Year	Quantity	Rs. in Lakhs
2007-08	55574.20	27070.63
2008-09	66073.91	34076.54
2009-10	81921.91	48667.52
2012-13	133543.60	117653.30
2013-14	156872.29	157008.20

CONCLUSION:

Agriculture still continues to be a major occupation of people in India. Grape is the leading horticulture produce of India. The present study concluded that, Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association guided grape growers on various problems and solutions. Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association is always a guiding force behind grape growers of Maharashtra. It helped in enhancing grape production, augmenting growers' income, and strengthening nutritional security.

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