

# **Grape Cultivation in Sangli District: A Case study of Tasgaon Tahsil**

## **Executive Summary of Prof. K. M. Mane**

The transformation from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture is an indicator of developed agricultural economy of a region. So, it requires an adequate sources of irrigation along with availability of other inputs, Such as fertilizers, pesticides, use of modern implements, H.Y.V. seeds etc. The transformation of subsistence agriculture to commercial has become possible in drought prone areas of Maharashtra. This is through the cultivation of grape yards in Sangli district. Though, the attempt is on small scale. It is worth to be noted that the region is well known for its quality production, not only in the country but also abroad. Hence this attempt has been made a great success and opened a new field for the cultivators of this region.

To study the evaluation of grape cultivation, role of physical and cultural factors in the grape cultivation spatial distribution of grape cultivation some aspects are hightailed in the present study.

Sangli district one of the southern districts of Maharashtra state, lying between 16°43' to 17°38' north latitude and 73°41' to 75°41' east longitude and has an area of 8,596 sq. km. The district lies on the Deccan plateau and the neighboring districts are Satara, Solapur in the north, Ratnagiri in the west, Kolhapur in the south.

The grapes are cultivated since a long time. According to agronomist the origin of grape is in Asia Minor between black sea and Caspian Sea (Bhujabal, 1976). Later on the grape cultivation started in other parts of the world. According to some agronomist the grapes were observed in and around the Himalayan Mountain during 5<sup>th</sup> Century. The reference of grape cultivation is also found in "Bruhdsanhita". In Mughal period the grape cultivation had taken its roots.

The high concentration is observed in central part of the region which includes the whole Tasgaon tahsil, eastern part of Miraj tahsil, western part of Kavathe Mahakal tahsil and southern part of Khanapur tahsil. This can be well attributed with the climatic conditions like moderate temperature and low rainfall.

The present study therefore, attempts to highlight some of the important features of marketing in the grape cultivation. While discussing this aspect, it should not be over sighted that, grape is a perishable commodity which must be consumed within a few days after harvesting. Before marketing grapes goes through two important processes, first packing the grapes and then transporting to the market where middlemen's role is of much important.

The analysis of the regional set up as a basis for the grape cultivation reveals that the major part of Sangli district except tahsil of Walwa and Shirala, are climatically poor and unfavorable for grape cultivation. Particularly Tasgaon, Khanapur and Miraj tahsil are most suitable for grape yards. However there is limited scope of grape cultivation in the region due to inadequate water supply for irrigation.

The Present study gives idea about grape cultivation in the study region. Each and every crop have suitable climate for its growth, in that way, grape have tropical climatic condition in the central part of Sangli district i.e. rainfall, humidity, temperature and soil texture are also rich for grape production.

In the study region, the highly concentration of grape cultivation in Tasgaon tahsil, eastern part of Miraj tahsil and western part of Kavathe Mahankal tahsil and southern part of Khanapur tahsil are known as central part of Sangli district with drained shallow soils and availability of irrigation. Shirala and Walwa tahsil reported very few areas under grape cultivation because of heavy rainfall and black soil is adverse climatic condition for it.