

Review of existing grape drying structures in Maharashtra

Quality raisins are being produced in Sangli and Solapur districts of Maharashtra. Australian grape drying practice is adopted in India with minor modifications. To understand existing grape drying structures and problems are being faced in raisin making, a team of scientists from ICAR-NRC for Grapes, Pune (Dr Ajay Kumar Sharma) and ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal (Dr Dilip Pawar) visited different grape drying regions of Sangli and Solapur districts during 17-18 Sep, 2024. In this visit, team visited 8 sites (Malgaon, Agalgaon, Umadi (Sangli), Karkamb, Nannaj and Akkalkot (Solapur), reviewed grape drying structures and interacted with more than 30 grape growers cum raisin makers. Raisin makers demanded the structures able to dry grapes faster. Based on collected information from this visit, attempts will be made to modify the structures with suitable engineering inputs to produce quality raisins.

