

Industry Meet on use of Plant Growth Regulators in grapes

Industry meet on use of Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) in grapes was organized under ‘Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav’ program by Society for Advancement of Viticulture and Enology (SAVE) and ICAR- National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune on 15/06/2022 at NRL Committee Room, ICAR-NRCG, Pune. The meetings had representations from private companies, MRDBS and progressive grape growers. The meeting was coordinated by Dr. N. A. Deshmukh, Senior Scientist (Fruit Science) and Dr. P. H. Nikumbhe Scientist (Fruit Science). Dr. Sujoy Saha, Secretary, SAVE detailed about the role of SAVE in grape research and development and requested for more participation from the industry.

Dr. R.G. Somkuwar, Director, ICAR-NRCG, Pune welcomed the guests. In his introductory remarks he focussed on indiscriminate use of the PGR in combination with bio-stimulants degrading the quality of grapes which in turn hampered export as well. He had emphasized on the judicious use of PGRs at the appropriate crop growth stage. Dr. S. D. Ramteke, Principal Scientist (Plant Physiology) had deliberated on the recent trends in the use of PGRs on grapes. Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Chemistry) stated that cross-contamination of bio-stimulants with other pesticides is the major challenge in analysing samples for residue. Further he stated that the consumer preference is crunchy and soft-skinned grapes, but the excessive use of PGRs and/ bio-stimulants resulted in thick skinned berries. Mr. Sunil Pawar, MRDBS had emphasized on the proper guidance to the grape growers on proper dosage and right time of application of PGRs and bio-stimulants, so that the input cost will be reduced. Mr. Rahul Rasal, said that there was a need to make the growers aware on the dosage of the PGRs and bio-stimulant to be used on the basis of pH and water TDS, prevailing temperature and relative humidity. This was followed by an open discussion in which industry representatives interacted and given their suggestion on safe use of PGRs and bio-stimulants and informed the house about the industries initiatives as well. The meeting was ended with vote of thanks to all the guests.



