

## ICAR-NRCG Scientists' participation in Annual Seminar of Maharashtra State Grape Growers Association

The annual seminar of Maharashtra Rajya Draksha Bagaitdar Sangh, was held from 27-29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Pune. In this programme around 5000 grape growers from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu region attended the technical sessions. ICAR-NRCG, played a pivotal role in the programme where in the domain experts deliberated several key issues regarding viticulture including exports and exploration of new verticals of Indian Grapes. Production aspects in the form of canopy structure, irrigation and nutrition protected cultivation were some of the key deliverables by the scientists of the institute. Issues on untimely rains which have intrigued the growers in the past few years were also discussed. Several new information on role of sunlight in the productivity of grapes were presented too. Crop protection being a much discussed topic among the growers, problems and issues regarding new pests were brought to the fore by the scientists, which included borer attack, *Cladosporium* infection and sporadic incidence of viruses. New pesticides registered with CIB-RC were discussed and safe use of pesticide was emphasized with respect to the MRL compliance. Biointensive management of diseases was one of the major areas of discussion and there was an incessant request by the growers for the availability of Biocontrol agents from the institute. Raisin production and value added products were also an area of discussion as the growers felt that, they will be a huge economic support to them in addition to table grapes. There were experts from other countries viz. Italy, Brazil and Spain as well. The seminar had the footfalls of several stakeholders including input industry, digital and retail marketing organization as well as AI entrepreneurs.

The grape growers highly appreciated the presentations and interactions of ICAR-NRCG scientists in this event, especially the problem solving approach of the institute which they felt, is not only improving the quality of grapes, but also consistently enhancing the export and farmers' income.

