

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTUS OF RAISIN PRODUCTION IN SANGLI DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA**

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Abstract

India is the second largest producer of food and has the potential to be the largest on a global food and agriculture canvas. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood of India's population. Agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays important role in the overall socio- economic fabric of India. Raisins production is very important industry in several grape growing sectors in India. After wine production, manufacture of raisins is the second most important product of grapes. Agriculture is the most important economic activity in Sangli district. Grape occupies an important position in total fruit production in Sangli district.

Keywords: Raisin, Grape Production, Agriculture, Socio- Economic Fabric, Economic Activity.

Introduction

Maharashtra ranks first in India in terms of production of grapes, accounting for more than 81 per cent of total output. In 2018-19, Maharashtra exported 1,21,469 tonnes of grapes in 8,982 containers. The rate of a black raisin in the market is between Rs. 30 and Rs. 70 per kg, while the yellow raisin fetches Rs.80-130. The green raisin rate is between Rs. 70-170 per kg.

The grapes are important horticultural crop in western Maharashtra, especially in Sangli and Tasgaon District. These two districts have been emerged as well-known pocket of grape cultivation. Now days some grape growers cultivated grapes for purpose of raisin making only in western Maharashtra. Season of grape crop are of short period that is February to April. At present 20% grapes used for raisin production in western Maharashtra.

Maharashtra is a leading in India in production of grapes. Sangli and Nashik districts are at a forefront in the Maharashtra to grapes production. Farmers of Sangli and Nashik districts produce the grapes in scientific manner. The grapes produced in sangli and Nashik districts are famous all over the India.

Sr.No.	State	District	Grape production areas
1	Maharashtra	Sangli	Tasgaon, Palus,kadepur, Jat, Kavathemahankal, Atapadi, Walwa, Miraj

In recent years, horticultural activities are increased in Sangli district of Maharashtra. Sangli district is at forefront in production of grapes and raisins. All talukas except Shirala from Sangli district cultivate grapes. Local production of grapes became an important source of raw material for raisin industry in Sangli district. Raisins making activity is totally dependent upon local production of grapes.

There are 10 tahsils in Sangli district. KRUSHI UTPANNA BAJAR SAMITI, SANGLI i.e., agricultural produce market committee is situated in Sangli.

Manufacturing process of raisins

Step I - Select the fresh seedless, ripped clean grapes.

Step II- Remove the larger stems from grapes. Wash the grapes in the proper mixture of water, Potassium Carbonate and ethaloleate thoroughly.

Step III- Then collects the grapes on the plastic containers from which air can be circulated around the grapes and use the first dipping procedure.

Step IV- Place the grapes on the iron racks, which are situated at sunny place, when the weather is dry and warm.

Step V- Rotate the grapes every day. The process will be repeated after 3 to 4 days until the grapes become dry.

Step VI- Then use second and third dipping procedure after 3 and 5 days respectively.

Step VII-After 12 to 15 days grapes will be converted into dry fruits as raisins.

Step VIII- Remove the raisins and store them in the dry airtight container in a cool place or storage.

Problems faced by raisin manufacturing industries in Sangli District

- Fluctuation in price:** Weather condition, inelastic demand and global market impact on market of raisin production.
- Inadequate market facility:** Lack of information, lack of storage facility, lack of transportation and fluctuation in price such problems faced by manufacturer of raisins in Sangli district.



3. **Expensive infrastructure:** Cost of worker and cost of machinery required for processing is very high.
4. **Lack of cold storage:** Poor forecasting, Unreliable suppliers, variability in demand and poor monitoring becomes barriers towards storage of product.
5. **Lack of skilled labours:** In sangli district raisin manufactures faced the problem of skilled labours because of Wages problem, lack of education and awareness among workers and lack of training.Labours are involved in different operations, common difficulty faced by producer was no availability of labours in time and shortage of skilled manpower.
6. **Natural hazards:** Indian agriculture is affected by natural hazards. Heavy rainfall affects the raisin product.They are damaged in drying stage during the month of March to May, therefore, the product should be insured during this period. Humid weather changes the colour raisin. Such humid climate affects the pollen germination, cap fall and environmental disease. It affected growth and ultimately on the yield.
7. **High transportation cost:** Raisin producer heavily depend on middlemen or commission agent particularly in the marketing of raisin. In Sangli district more than 85% raisin transported through commission agent. Also, huge commission has to be paid to commission agent of raisin marketing.

Prospects for raisin manufacturing industries in Sangli District

Raisins are composed of important food elements such as sugars, fruit acids, and mineral salts. The sugars provide a good source for carbohydrates. Fruit acids such as folic acid and pantothenic acid, which have been shown to promote growth, are also significant components. Vitamin B6 is found in raisins and is an essential part of human nutrition. Important minerals in raisins include calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus. Additionally, iron, copper, zinc, and other nutrients are found in trace amounts in raisins. In raisin no fat is there, so it is considered as good snack for health.

Sangli district has been in the forefront in the production of grapes. Hence local production of grapes became an important source of raw material for raisin industry in Sangli district; raisin making activity is totally dependent upon local production of grapes.

Some manufacturers from Sangli district market their product in Delhi, Mumbai and other metro cities. Marketing channels help to attract target customers.

The Sangli, Tasgaon, Nashik, Pandharpur centers of Maharashtra and Bijapur in Karnataka supply bulk quantities of raisin to central, western and northern parts of India and some part of the Middle East.

Farmers of Sangli district produce the grapes in scientific manner. The grapes produced in Sangli district are famous all over the India.

Researcher and development work has now given us more than six different seedless varieties of grapes that can be made into raisin and three different commercial techniques that can be used to produce raisins and with different combinations of varieties and harvesting methods the appearance, flavor and texture of the raisin produced do change.

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