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Aroma compounds in wines from Macedonian autochthonous variety Stanusina

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SUMMARY

Every wine has its unique signature, it is defined by its chemical composition (aromatic and phenolic compounds, acids, and others). Numerous factors in the wine making process influence the chemical composition of the produced wine. The more diversity there is in the chemical components in the wine, the more complex the wine will be. Numerous publications for this topic suggest that the formation of the aroma compounds are based on the quantity of nutrients in the grape berries (nitrogen components, amino acids, and others), use of enzymes, yeast strain, temperature conditions during fermentation. Nineteen aromatic compounds were identified in this study which shows that wines from Stanusina can have complex aromatic profile.

Key words: Stanusina, aromatic profile, phenols, yeast strain, sensory evaluation

INTRODUCTION

The grape variety Stanusina is old variety that was grown in Macedonia from long time. Before the period when the phylloxera was spread this was the main variety for producing of red wine in the region. This grape variety was studied by Nastev (1985). In his studies he examines the sugar level (18-23 Brix) and also the level of titratable acids (5-6 g/dm³), vines fruitfulness potential, resistance to drought and others. According to his studies the wines produced from this variety are characterized with lower anthocyanins content (not rich in color), which makes this variety better for producing of high quality rose wines then red wines.

One of the most important parameter which defines the quality of the wine is its aromatic composition. Aromas are the components that gives the wine its uniqueness and distinguished one variety from the others. The highest the number of volatile aromas in the wine the higher the complexity of the wine it is.

The aroma of wine is a function of many diverse and interrelated factors, including: the potential ability of the grape varieties to form aromatic compounds in the grapes; the geographical location where the variety is grown; the climatic and soil conditions of the growing area; the agro-technical activities carried out; the technological conditions of winemaking; the metabolic activity of the yeast microflora used (Gomez et al., 1994; Rapp et al., 1998; Perestrelo et al., 2006; Sanchez-Palomo, 2007; Skinkis et al., 2010).

The esters have the most significant role in the wine aromatic potential. They can be biologically formed – as the metabolic products of yeast microflora, and chemically - by linking the

– (Chobanova, 2012). acids and alcohols of the wine in the aging process (Chobanova, 2012). The esters are characterized by low thresholds of aromatic perception and various aromatic nuances (Tao and Li, 2009).

Li, 2009). (Tao and Li, 2009). The higher alcohols are products of the yeast amino acid metabolism (Vilanova et al., 2013). They are an important element of wine aroma composition. Their influence as a separate component is weak, but as a precursor to the esterification process they have a huge impact on the variety of formed esters in the aging process.

(Vilanova et al., 2013). Significant aromatic influence from the group of alcohols has the aromatic alcohol – phenylethanol (Simpson, 1979). Vilanova et al., (2013) investigate the aromatic composition of white and red wines produced from international varieties grown in northwestern Spain. Both in white and red wines, they detect 2-phenylethanol as a compound with a large quantity.

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Vilanova et al., (2013) 2-phenylethanol as a compound with a large quantity.

al., (2011) (Etievant, 1991). Meng et al., (2011) examine the changes in the aromatic compounds of four wines from Cabernet Sauvignon variety during aging in stainless steel tanks. In all wines they find acetic acid, caproic acid and octanoic acid as normal yeast metabolites.

(Fenoll et al., 2009). Terpenic compounds are a component of the aroma which is of major importance for wines, especially when they are produced by Muscat grapevine varieties (Fenoll et al., 2009). The main representatives of this group in the wine are the terpene alcohols -terpineol, linalool, nerol, geraniol, -citronellol (Chobanova, 2012).

– (Chobanova, 2012). According to the literature references for Stanusina there are no results about the aromatic substances in the produced wines from this variety for

- now. There are no data found about which aroma substances are those that define Stanusina wines aromatic profile.

- *The aim of this study is to determine some of the aroma compounds that are characteristic to this variety and are found in all of the wines produced from this variety. To determine what are the concentration of those components and how do they participate in the overall composition of the wine.*

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Vinification

The production of the wines was carried out according to the red wine production scheme (Yankov, 1992), following the operations: Hand harvesting of the grapes Crushing and destemming of the grapes Adding 50 mg/dm³ SO₂ Inoculation of wine yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) Fermentation for 12 days at temperature 22 ± 3 °C Raking Wine filtration Bottling Storage. After production the wine was subjected to analysis of the volatile aromatic components.

Chemicals and reagents

For the extraction of volatile components in the wine samples, dichloromethane was used, purchased by Sigma Aldrich (USA); Reference standard diethyl succinate, 2-phenyl ethanol, ethyl hexanoate, 1-hexanol, 1-heptanol purchased by Merck (Germany); Isoamyl acetate, purchased from Aldrich Chemicals (USA); The 1-octanol used as an internal standard was purchased by Sigma Aldrich (USA).

Extraction procedure and gas chromatography (GC-MS) analysis

- The volatile components were extracted by liquid-liquid extraction (Ivanova et al., 2012). We transfer 50 ml of the wine sample in 500 ml Erlenmeyer and add 50 ml of the extragent

(Yankov, 1992),

mg/dm³ SO₂
(*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*)
12
22 ± 3 °C

Sigma Aldrich ();
, 1- Merck
();
Aldrich Chemicals (); 1-
Sigma Aldrich ().

(GC-MS)

(Ivanova et al., 2012). 50 ml

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50

ml (),
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 1h.
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 260° 10 min.
 He. 1.5 ml/min.
 GC-MS
 Ivanova et al. (2012).

(dichloromethane), as internal standard
 25 µl 1-octanol was added. We sealed the
 Erlenmayer and put on magnetic stirrer for
 1 hour. After one hour the mixture was
 centrifuged at 3000rpm for 10 min. The
 separated dichloromethane phase was
 then evaporated under a stream of
 nitrogen until dryness. Then we
 rehydrated the evaporated sample with
 100µl dichloromethane and injected into
 the GC-MS. The gas chromatograph used
 was Varian 3900 (Middelburg, The
 Netherlands). The mass spectrometer
 was Varian Saturn 2100T (Middelburg,
 The Netherlands). Parameters of gas
 chromatographic determination were:
 injector temperature – 240 °C, MS source –
 230 °C, MS quad from 150 °C and 280 °C
 transfer line. The initial temperature was
 40 °C for 3 min and then rises to 180 °C
 at a level of 3 °C/min. The temperature
 then rises further to 260 °C at 20 °C/min
 and held at 260 °C for 10 min. The carrier
 gas was He. Its flow rate was 1.5 ml/min.
 Parameters of GC-MS analyzes are
 suggested by Ivanova et al. (2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using the extraction method and
 chromatographic conditions proposed by
 Ivanova et al. (2012), we were able to
 determine 19 volatile components from
 the investigated wines of the local variety
 Stanusina. From the obtained
 chromatogram we separated 5 alcohols,
 11 esters, 1 terpen, 1 furan and 1 fatty
 acid shown in Table 1.

Ivanova et al., 2012,
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Table 1. Aromatic components in three red wines produced from the Stunushina variety

| IDENTIFIED COMPOUNDS, $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$ | (WINES) | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | STANUSHINA I | STANUSHINA II | STANUSHINA III |
| 1. (Higher alcohols) | | | |
| 1-(1-hexanol) | 176,35 | 167,67 | 495,87 |
| 3-(3-hexen-1-ol) | 45,20 | 17,25 | 84,00 |
| 3-(3-(methylthiol)-1-propanol) | 33,22 | 12,65 | 165,62 |
| (Benzyl alcohol) | 113,70 | traces | 15,65 |
| (Phenylethanol) | 12199,38 | 2898,29 | 15597,63 |
| 2. (Esters) | | | |
| (Buthyl formate) | 0,8 | 0,00 | 27,50 |
| (Ethyl butirate) | 2,90 | 8,05 | 77,00 |
| (Isoamylacetate) | 147,20 | 3,45 | 307,20 |
| (Ethyl caprilate) | 172,90 | 59,80 | 88,71 |
| (Diethyl succinate) | 836,67 | 884,50 | 1041,35 |
| (Diethyl malate) | 59,15 | 151,80 | 107,52 |
| (Ethyl caprinate) | 35,65 | 12,08 | 66,70 |
| (Ethyl caproate) | 246,75 | 54,60 | 98,42 |
| (Phenyl ethyl acetate) | 9,30 | 0,00 | 23,00 |
| 2-(2-hydroxy-3-methyl-diethylester) | 107,05 | 23,00 | 44,14 |
| 5-(5-Oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester) | 26,75 | traces | 86,60 |
| 3. (Terpene compounds) | | | |
| – (-terpineol) | 39,45 | 235,75 | 36,40 |
| 4. (Furans) | | | |
| (Dihydrobenzofuran) | 11,95 | 10,65 | ND |
| 5. (Fatty acids) | | | |
| (Octanoic acid) | 1195,49 | 1114,24 | 890,18 |

2898,29 – 15597,63 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$.
Zoecklein et al. (1995)

II (2898.29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

Vilanova et al.(2013)

Anli, 2000).
2012).

III (495.87 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

(2012)

10 mg/dm^3 .

and Li, 2009).

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- From the obtained results it becomes clear that the leading alcohol is phenylethanol with concentration range of 8199.38 to 2898.29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$. According to Zoecklein et al. (1995) this alcohol have very specific flowery rose like odor.

- The concentration range obtained for the presence of this alcohol was quite varied between the three wines examined. The smallest amount of this flavor-determining component was identified in the Stanushina II wine (2898.29 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). In the other two samples, its concentration was four to five times higher. The results for the presence of this alcohol correlate with the study of Vilanova et al (2013) regarding the dominant presence of phenyl ethanol in red wines.

The next identified alcohol in the samples was 1-hexanol. It originates from the raw material and is not a fermented product (Fidan and Anli, 2000). This higher alcohol gives of the wine a herbaceous aroma (Chobanova, 2012). Its presence in high concentrations can be an indicator of poor ripening of grapes used for wine production. 1-hexanol was found at the highest concentration in Stanushina III wine (495.87 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). In the other two wines its quantity was almost three times lower.

According to Chobanova (2012), the content of 1-hexanol in wine ranges from 4 to 10 mg/dm^3 . The results obtained in this study correlate with this finding.

- Established normal 1-hexanol concentrations are a clear indication that the Stanushina grapes used to produce the wine were well ripened.

- 3-hexen-1-ol was found in all the wines examined. This compound gives herbs aroma (Tao and Li, 2009). Of the three wines examined, 3-hexen-1-ol was found to have the highest concentration in Stunushina III wine (84.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

III (84.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).
 II (17.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).
 (I III).
 II
 (Chobanova, 2012).
 3-()-1-
 III (165.62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).
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 (Racamales et al., 2011).
 836.67 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$ – 1041.35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$.
 II
 (3.45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).
 III (307.20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

The lowest content in wine Stanushina II (17.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$) was established.

Benzyl (phenylmethyl) alcohol was found in two of the researched wines (Stanushina I and III). In the wine Stanushina II it was in traces concentration. This alcohol adds the aromatic nuance of jasmine (Chobanova, 2012). The presence of 3-(methylthio)-1-propanol was also found. At the highest concentration, this compound was found in Stanushina III wine (165.62 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). In the other two wine samples its quantity was considerably lower.

Esters are a group of volatile components found in wine, produced by the yeasts during the alcoholic fermentation as a secondary products impacting the wine with pleasant smell. The esters are flavoring components that have the most significant influence on the aromatic potential of the wine. The concentration of this components during ageing can increase or decrease depending of the component and storage conditions. In the present study, 11 esters were found. With the highest amount of this group diethyl succinate was identified. Diethyl succinate is an ester with a concentration that can increase during aging, depending on aging conditions (Racamales et al., 2011). Its quantity for the three wines studied ranges from 836.67 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$ to 1041.35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$.

Another ester found in relatively high levels was isoamyl acetate. In Stanushina II wine it was found in minor levels (3.45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). Its concentration in the other two wines was significantly higher. It was found in the largest amount in the Stanushina III wine (307.20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). Ethyl butyrate has also been identified in the wines. It was found in the highest concentration in Stanushina III wine (77.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). In the other two wines its quantities were a several times

(77.00 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

(Escudero et al., 2004; Li et al., 2008).

246.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$,

172.90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$.

$\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$).

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lower. A characteristic feature of isoamyl acetate and ethyl butyrate is their important contribution to the fruit character of the wines (Escudero et al., 2004, Li et al., 2008).

Ethyl caproate and ethyl caprylate were present in a large quantity in all three wines. Ethyl caproate concentrations range from 54.60 to 246.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$, and ethyl caprylate was present in wines at the concentration range 59.80 to 172.90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$. The next concentration compound was diethyl malate (59.15 - 107.52 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$). In addition to all of these esters, butyl formate, ethyl caprylate, phenylethyl acetate, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-diethyl ester and 5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester at lower concentrations were also found.

The established rich aromatic profile places the wine produced by the indigenous Stanushina vine variety at a good level in terms of aromatic potential. Various components of the ester composition have been identified giving different aromatic nuances.

Regarding to the presence of terpenes, only terpenic alcohol - terpineol was found of this group. Its amounts in Stansushina I and Stunushina III wines were very close – 39.45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$ and 36.40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$, respectively. In Stanushina III wine it was found in the highest concentration – 235.75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$. According to Chobanova (2012), terpineol gives aroma of lily of the valley and its content in wine ranges from 20 to 750 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^3$. The concentrations of this terpene obtained in this study are correlated with this range of variation. No other terpenic alcohols have been identified.

One furan was identified - dihydrobenzofuran. This compound was present in two of the wines - Stanushina I

I
 III
 10.65 µg/dm³ 11.95 µg/dm³.
 (890.18 - 1195.49 µg/dm³). Vilanova et al. (2008)
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 Zhang, 2010).

and Stanushina II. In Stanushina III wine it was not established. Concentrations in which this compound was detected were very low, respectively 10.65 µg/dm³ and 11.95 µg/dm³.

From the fatty acid group octanoic acid was found. This fatty acid was present in all three wines examined in a relatively high concentration range (890.18 - 1195.49 µg/dm³). Vilanova et al. (2008) investigate the volatile composition of two white wines (Blanco Lexitimo and Agudelo, cultivated in Spain) and one red (from the Seradelo cultivated in Spain). They detect the presence of six fatty acids, among them the octanoic acid concentration was the highest for all three wines. The presence of octanoic acid was also found in young Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Gernishet and Chardonnay wines from China's wine region (Jiang and Zhang, 2010).

CONCLUSIONS

The gas chromatographic study carried out on the aromatic composition of wines from Macedonian autochthonous variety Stanushina found 19 aromatic compounds of the main aromatic groups - higher alcohols, esters, terpenes, volatile fatty acids.

From the alcohols group phenyl ethanol has been found at the highest quantity. It exerts a positive influence on the floral sensory of wines.

The ester composition of the wines from Stanushina is diverse, including 11 esters, providing different aromatic nuances of wines. The presence of diethyl succinate was predominant.

One terpene, one furan and one fatty acid were found.

The wines from the Stanushina variety has a diverse and complex aromatic composition, including components leading to a balance of taste typical for high quality wines.

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Influence of the altitude and some summer pruning operations on the parameters of the potential fertility of the winter buds at the vine variety Vranec

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SUMMARY

The influence of some summer pruning operations on the potential fertility parameters of the vine variety Vranec at different altitudes in the Republic of Macedonia has been studied. It was found that in all applied summer pruning variants, the mean values of the potential fertility coefficient and the percentage of fruitfulness in the primary buds is higher for the vines in the lowest altitude - Gevgelija area. In all three areas of cultivation dominate primary fruit buds with 2 and 1 inflorescence. The yield of this variety in Gevgelija is determined mainly by inflorescences with length 550-750 μm from the III group and 350-550 μm from the II group, in Veles and Skopje are inflorescences from group II and III. There is a certain tendency for length reduction of the germinal shoot with the increasing of the altitude from Gevgelija to Skopje. The altitude, together

with the accompanying soil-climatic factors, have mathematically demonstrated a significant impact on most of the studied parameters of the potential fertility of the Vranets varieties.

Key words: Vranec variety, different altitude, indicators of potential fertility, summer pruning operations, comparative analysis

INTRODUCTION

The forming of the potential fertility in the winter buds during the growing season is influenced by many factors, a substantial portion of which are external environmental conditions. In the literature there are research results of the importance of temperature, the biological characteristics of the variety, the varieties of vines with nutrients and others in the different stages of differentiation of the inflorescences on the vine (Yonev, 1970; Carolus, 1970, 1971; Stoev, 1983; Yordanov and Braikov, 1986). The amount of the formed inflorescences in the winter buds on the shoot (potential fruitfulness) is specific to each variety and determines to the deepest extent in its productive potential (Braikov and Roichev, 2002). At the present stage of the vine-growing development, there are a few studies of potential fertility in various vines and dessert varieties of vines in specific areas, micro-regions and agri-environmental zones (Ivanov, 1985; Babrikov, 1977). There is no information on the influence of the altitude on the terrain, where the vineyard is located, on the parameters of the potential fertility of the vine varieties. The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of some summer pruning operations on the potential parameters of fertility of vine variety Vranec grown at different altitudes in the Republic of Macedonia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the months of November and December for three years – 2013,

(Yonev, 1970; Carolus, 1970, 1971; Stoev, 1983; Yordanov and Braikov, 1986).

(Braikov, Roichev 2002).

(Ivanov, 1985; Babrikov, 1977).

– 2013 ., 2014 ., 2015 .
 50 m, – 280 m – 595 m,
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 ; 80%
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 : I 350 µm; II
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 SPSS 17 (Mokreva,
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2014 and 2015 of the sort Vranec, grown
 in three regions with different altitude –
 Gevgelija – 50m, Veles – 280m and
 Skopje - 595m, were collected 40 canes
 with length of 15 winter buds. In all three
 vineyards, the vines were formed to a
 double Guyot system loaded at pruning
 with a total of 20 winter buds - with two
 spurs with two buds each and two canes
 with eight buds each. The following
 variants were included: control – no
 summer pruning applied; by applying
 defoliation from the base of the fruiting
 canes to the place of bunch formation,
 carried out in mid-August at 80% berry
 veraison; by thinning carried out at the
 end of July, leaving 6 grape clusters per
 vine; and leaving 10 clusters per vine at
 the same time. The buds were taken
 through a node and fixed in a 70%
 ethanol solution. Microscopic
 observations were made on the
 anatomical structure of longitudinal slits
 from the winter buds with a stereoscopic
 MBC-2 binocular with an increase of 16x
 (Braikov, 1972, 1981). The average
 values of the most important indicators of
 the potential fertility of the variety Vranec
 for three years and regions were
 identified: percentage of perished of major
 buds, potential fertility factor (K),
 calculated based on the total number of
 buds - healthy and perished, fruitless and
 fruitful winter buds - only healthy buds,
 percentage of fruitful winter buds with 1, 2
 and 3 inflorescences, length of the
 inflorescences divided into four groups: I
 to 350 µm; II from 350 to 550 µm; III from
 550 to 750 µm and IV over 750 µm, the
 length of the germinal shoot. For the data
 obtained from the analysis, in variants,
 average for the fruitful cane by region and
 for the period between 2013-2015, the
 Duncan's test was used, SPSS 17
 software (Mokreva, 2007). During the
 experimental time, the three vineyards
 were maintained in very good
 agrotechnical condition and no negative
 climatic conditions were found.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the obtained experimental results for the potential bud fertility of the grape variety Vranec in all three vineyards the variant – control showed that there are some major differences in the investigated parameters (Table 1). Dead major buds were determined only at the vineyard in Skopje – 0.50%. Average values of potential coefficient of fruitfulness and the percentage of fruitful major buds were higher at the vineyards with lower altitude – vineyard in Gevgelija 1.49/1.49 and 91.33% compared with the other two locations 1.38/1.38 – 1.22/1.22 and 90.59% - 89.78%. The fruitful buds with 2 and 1 inflorescence determine the yield in all tree vineyards where the investigation was performed. Those with 3 inflorescences are with small number only 3.40% in Gevgelija, 2.56% in Veles and 2.50% in Skopje. The smallest inflorescences with length of 350µm at the vineyard in Veles were with higher value of 9.79% and the other two vineyards the results for this parameter were almost the same 4.16 and 4.27%. In the base of the cane (1st to 7th bud) the number of inflorescences from the I group is higher. In contrast to the other two variants, the yield of the variety cultivated in Gevgelija is determined primarily by the inflorescences with length 550-750 µm from III group – 52.70% and 350-550 mm from Group II – 37.57%. In Veles and Skopje, the differences between the established values for this parameters are not known, whereas in the winter buds of the canes dominate the inflorescences, which are related to the II group – 50,97-54,21%, followed by the III group – 33,71-35,94%. Inflorescences with a length of more than 750 µm from group IV occur in equal amounts in the samples from all three locations and their influence on the yield is equal – 5.57%/5.53%/5.58%. There is a certain tendency to reduce the length of the germinated shoot with increasing altitude from Gevgelija to Skopje.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| (| 1). | | |
| | - 0,50%. | | |
| | | | |
| | | - 1,49/1,49 | 91,33% |
| 1,38/1,38 | - 1,22/1,22 | 90,59% | - 89,78%. |
| | | 2 | 1 |
| | | | 3 |
| | | - 3,40% | |
| 2,56% - | | 2,50% - | |
| | | | 350 µm |
| | | - 9,79%, | |
| | | | - 4,16% |
| 4,27%. | | | I |
| | | 1 - 7 | |
| | | | |
| 550-750 µm | III | | - 52,70% |
| 350-550 µm | II | | - 37,57%. |
| | | | |
| | | II | |
| | | III | |
| 50,97-54,21%, | | | |
| 33,71-35,94%. | | | |
| 750 µm | IV | | |
| | | | |
| 5,57%/5,53%/5,58%. | | | |

1.

2013, 2014 2015 .

Table 1. Parameters of potential fertility in winter buds at the Vranet variety cultivated in the Gevgelija, Veles and Skopje area - on variants, average for 2013, 2014 and 2015

| Indicators | / Gevgelija | | | | / Veles | | | | / Skopje | | | | Average |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|
| | Cont rol | Defoliation | 6 With 6 clusters | 10 with 10 clusters | Control | Defoliation | 6 With 6 clusters | 10 with 10 clusters | Cont rol | Defoliation | 6 With 6 clusters | 10 with 10 clusters | |
| 1. Dead major buds, % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0,50 | 5,63 | 1,67 | 11,26 | 1,58 |
| 2. / value based on healthy buds | 1,49 | 1,51 | 1,67 | 1,58 | 1,38 | 1,49 | 1,52 | 1,55 | 1,22 | 1,45 | 1,35 | 1,37 | 1,46 |
| 3. / value based on all buds | 1,49 | 1,51 | 1,67 | 1,58 | 1,38 | 1,49 | 1,52 | 1,55 | 1,22 | 1,37 | 1,35 | 1,31 | 1,45 |
| 4. / Fruitless major buds,% | 8,67 | 9,50 | 3,33 | 5,67 | 9,41 | 7,33 | 8,39 | 6,46 | 10,22 | 9,98 | 7,34 | 6,39 | 7,72 |
| 5. / Fruitfulness major buds, % | 91,33 | 90,50 | 96,67 | 94,33 | 90,59 | 92,67 | 91,61 | 93,54 | 89,78 | 90,02 | 92,66 | 93,61 | 92,28 |
| 6. : Fruitfulness buds with: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I , % I inflorescences,% | 41,56 | 42,25 | 29,19 | 34,04 | 36,64 | 43,26 | 43,20 | 38,13 | 46,31 | 41,98 | 47,60 | 44,87 | 40,75 |
| II , % II inflorescences,% | 55,04 | 52,70 | 68,98 | 65,29 | 60,80 | 54,24 | 55,76 | 60,39 | 51,19 | 57,52 | 51,66 | 55,13 | 57,39 |
| III , % III inflorescences,% | 3,40 | 5,05 | 1,83 | 0,67 | 2,56 | 2,50 | 1,04 | 1,48 | 2,50 | 0,50 | 0,74 | 0,00 | 1,86 |
| 7. : / inflorescences with length: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 350 µm / t 350 µm | 4,16 | 4,20 | 3,37 | 1,00 | 9,79 | 4,22 | 5,08 | 4,89 | 4,27 | 2,92 | 2,41 | 0,00 | 3,86 |
| 350 – 550 µm | 37,57 | 43,94 | 39,91 | 38,01 | 50,97 | 65,16 | 49,13 | 51,62 | 54,21 | 57,59 | 57,16 | 53,37 | 49,88 |
| 550 – 750 µm | 52,70 | 42,72 | 46,19 | 46,78 | 33,71 | 29,39 | 38,08 | 38,90 | 35,94 | 38,62 | 33,04 | 43,49 | 39,97 |
| 750 µm above 750 µm | 5,57 | 9,14 | 10,53 | 14,21 | 5,53 | 1,23 | 7,71 | 4,59 | 5,58 | 0,87 | 7,39 | 3,14 | 6,29 |
| 8. . / Length of the germinal shoot, mm | 0,76 | 0,67 | 0,71 | 0,76 | 0,67 | 0,62 | 0,69 | 0,71 | 0,61 | 0,59 | 0,62 | 0,60 | 0,67 |

/ potential coefficient of fertility

5,63% (1).

1,51/1,51-1,49/1,49-1,45/1,37.

7th 11th - 1,80 1,75 5th
/11-13th - 1,75-1,57 1,72-1,63,
9th -11th - 1,75.

- 90,50%;
92,67% 90,02%.
52,70% - 54,24% - 57,52%.
2 :
2 1 -
3 -
350 μm - 2,92%,
- 4,20% 4,22%.

II
350-550 μm III - 550-750
μm (- 43,94%/42,72%, -
65,16%/29,39% - 57,59%/38,62%).

750 μm IV
9,14%
- 1,23%,
6th -10th 0,87% 12th -15th.

6

At the variants with defoliated vines, dead primary buds were recorded in almost all winter buds only in the highest vineyard located in Skopje, an average of 5.63% (Table 1). The average values of the coefficient of potential fertility decrease slightly from the vineyard in the low to high altitude region – 1.51/1.51-1.49/1.49-1.45/1.37. In Gevgelija and Skopje, the character of the change in the values of these indicators per buds is a two-pointer curve with peaks in the 7th and the 11th bud – 1,80 and 1,75 and the 5th / 11-13th bud – 1, 75-1, 57 and 1.72-1.63, and in Veles - the highest values are in the sector form 9th-11th bud – 1.75. Fruit buds are almost the same in all three regions with average values of 90.50%; 92.67% and 90.02% respectively. In all three locations, the largest number of buds with 2 inflorescences was recorded: 52.70% - 54.24% - 57.52%. The yield in this case is formed from the buds with 2 and 1 inflorescence. The yield of the 3th inflorescence drops as the altitude increases. In the Skopje area, there are relatively fewer inflorescences with length up to 350 μm – 2.92%, compared the other – 4.20% and 4.22%. With the highest average in the crop yield at all three variants are the inflorescences from II group of 350-550μm and III group of 550-750 μm (Gevgelija – 43.94%/42.72%, Veles – 65, 16%/29.39% and Skopje – 57.59%/38.62%). The difference between the percentages of the two groups of inflorescences in the buds at the two vineyards with higher altitude is more distinct than the values on the lowest altitude vineyard. In the area of Gevgelija, the number of inflorescences with the largest length over 750 μm from the IV group is 9.14% and significantly exceeds this indicator in the other variants – 1.23%, established in the 6th-10th sector 0.87% in the 12th-15th bud. As the altitude increases, the length of the germinal shoot slightly decreases.

Only for the variant with 6 clusters vine in the vineyard in Skopje is the

1,67% (1).
 - 1,67/1,67
 - 1,52/1,52
 - 1,35/1,35.
 - 96,67%,
 - 91,61%
 - 92,66%.
 - 68,98%,
 55,76% 51,66%,
 - 29,19%, 43,20% 47,60%.
 1,83/1,04/0,74. III
 550-750 μm
 - 46,19% II
 - 350-550 μm - 39,91%. II
 - 49,13%/57,16% III
 - 38,08%/33,04%. II
 350-550 μm.
 3,37%, - 5,08% IV
 - 2,41%.
 750 μm
 - 10,53%,
 - 7,71% 7,39%.

determined minimum quantity of dead primary buds in the winter buds observed in the sector from 1st-4th bud - 1.67% (Table 1). With highest value is the potential coefficient of fertility in the vineyard in Gevgelija area - 1.67/1.67 compared to Veles - 1.52/1.52 and Skopje - 1.35/1.35. The percentages of fruit buds are high in all three variants, and in this case they are relatively larger in Gevgelija - 96.67%, compared to Veles - 91.61% and Skopje - 92.66%. In all the three vineyards the highest number is at the buds with 2 inflorescences - 68,98%, 55,76% and 51,66%, followed by those with 1 inflorescence - 29,19%, 43,20% and 47,60%. The difference between the values of this indicator is twice as higher in the area of Gevgelija. The buds with 3 inflorescences decrease with the increase of the vineyards' altitude - 1.83/1.04/0.74. The inflorescences from the III group with a length of 550-750 μm on average are with highest number in Gevgelija - 46.19% compared to the II group - 350-550μm - 39.91%. In Veles and Skopje prevail the inflorescences from the II group - 49.13%/57.16% compared to the III group - 38.08%/33.04%. With altitude increment, the percentage of inflorescences with length 350-550μm, group II increases in all three variants. The dynamics of these parameters changes specifically within the buds sectors along the length of the fruit cane. The smallest size inflorescences occur in almost every winter bud at the vineyard in Gevgelija - an average of 3.37%, in Veles - 5.08% and Skopje - 2.41%. The inflorescences from IV group with a length of more than 750 μm are more present in the buds from the vineyard with the lowest altitude - 10.53%, and in the following locations their average quantity slightly decreases - 7.71% and 7.39%. The length of the germinal shoot does not shorten significantly with the increase of the altitude.

Potential fertility ratios in the variant with limited yield of 10 grape

10
(1).
- 11,26%.
1,58/1,58
(1,55/1,55 ()
1,37/1,31 ().
0,83 1 1,80 7
13 1,85.
- 94,33%/93,54%/93,61%,
- 65,29%/60,39%/55,13%.
3
12 -14 - 0,67%
- 1,48%.
- I - 350
µm. -
550-750 µm III
- 46,78%, - II
350-550 µm - 51,62% - II
- 53,37%.
- II
- IV
750 µm
- 14,21%,
4,59% - 3,14%.
- 1,58%,

clusters/vines are not significantly different from the previous variant (Table 1). Dead major buds along the length of the branches were established during the all three years of study only in winter buds of vines in the region of Skopje – 11,26%. Potential coefficient of fertility decreases as the altitude increases from 1,58/1,58 (Gevgelija) to 1,55/1,55 (Veles) and 1,37/1.31 (Skopje). In the lowest vineyard, this indicator increases from 0,83 in 1st to 1,80 in 7th bud, and after dropping in the next few buds, the 13th bud again reaches 1,85. The major fruit buds have approximately the same high average values in the three regions – 94,33%/93,54%/93,61%, in which the dominant value is at the buds with 2 inflorescences – 65,29%/60,39%/55,13%. Minimal buds number with 3 inflorescences was observed in the samples from Gevgelija in the sector from 12th-14th bud – 0.67% and in Veles at the same nodes – 1.48%. In the vineyard located in the region of Skopje inflorescences with the smallest size from the I group (up to 350 µm) were not found. In Gevgelija, the largest number of inflorescences from the III group were measured, length of 550-750 µm – 46.78%, in Veles – from the II group 350-550 µm – 51.62% and Skopje – also from II group – 53.37 %. In this variant, with the increasement of the altitude, the number of the inflorescences from II group increases. The largest inflorescences of the IV group with a length of over 750 µm are relatively more present in the vineyard with the smallest altitude – 14.21%, compared to Veles – 4.59% and Skopje – 3.14%. The length of the germinal shoot slightly shortens as the altitude increases.

The average values of the surveyed indicators from all three vineyards show that Vranec is ampelographically characterized by a low percentage of dead major buds in the winter buds during the vegetation period - 1.58%, high potential coefficient of fertility –

- 1,46 1,45
 - 92,28%
 (1).
 1 - 57,39% 40,75% II
 350-550 μm - 49,88%
 III - 550-750 μm - 39,97%.
 IV
 750 μm - 6,29%.
 2015 . , 2013-
 (2, 3).
 ,
 ,
 () ,
) - 10
 350 μm () -
 , -
 ,
 .
 750 μm -
 , mm-

1.46, and 1.45 and a high percentage of fruitful main buds – 92.28% (Table 1). The yield of this variety is mainly determined by the fruit buds with 2 and 1 inflorescences – 57.39% and 40.75% of the II group with a length of 350-550 μm – 49.88% and of the III group – 550-750 μm – 39.97%. The inflorescences of the IV group with a length of over 750 μm form a small part of its productivity – 6.29%.

The multidimensional comparative analysis of the studied parameters of the potential fertility of the buds by variants and vineyards, on average for the fruit cane during the period 2013-2015 shows that most of them are formed by three distinct groups of evidence (Table 2, Table 3). This means that the altitude, along with its accompanying soil-climatic factors, have proved to have a significant impact on their values, which differ significantly in the different vineyards of Vranec cultivation. The indicators K based on total buds number (Gevgelija and Veles), infertile major buds (Veles and Skopje) – variant 10 clusters/vine and inflorescences up to 350 μm (Gevgelija and Veles) – the defoliation depends less of these factors because the differences between them are not statistically proven. From the studied environment conditions in all investigated vineyards there was no influence on the number of inflorescences with a length of over 750 μm - the control and length of the germinal shoot, mm - in all variants.

2.

2013-2015 .

Table 2. Multidimensional comparative analysis of the studied parameters of the potential fertility of the buds at the Vranec variety by variants and areas, average for the fruit cane and the period 2013-2015 .

| Indicators / Variants | | value based on healthy buds | value based on all buds | Fruitless major buds % | Fruitfulness major buds % | 1 Fruitfulness buds with 1 inflorescences % | 2 Fruitfulness buds with 1 inflorescences % |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| | | Duncan | Duncan | Duncan | Duncan | Duncan | Duncan |
| Control | Gevgelija | 1,49 ^a | 1,49 ^a | 8,67 ^c | 91,33 ^a | 41,56 ^b | 55,04 ^b |
| | Veles | 1,38 ^b | 1,38 ^b | 9,41 ^b | 90,59 ^b | 36,64 ^c | 60,80 ^a |
| | Skopije | 1,22 ^c | 1,22 ^c | 10,22 ^a | 89,78 ^c | 46,31 ^a | 51,19 ^c |
| Defoliantion | Gevgelija | 1,51 ^a | 1,51 ^a | 9,50 ^b | 90,50 ^b | 42,25 ^b | 52,70 ^c |
| | Veles | 1,49 ^b | 1,49 ^b | 7,33 ^c | 92,67 ^a | 43,26 ^a | 54,24 ^b |
| | Skopije | 1,45 ^c | 1,37 ^c | 9,98 ^a | 90,02 ^b | 41,98 ^{bc} | 57,52 ^a |
| 6 6 clusters | Gevgelija | 1,67 ^a | 1,67 ^a | 3,33 ^c | 96,67 ^a | 29,19 ^c | 68,98 ^a |
| | Veles | 1,52 ^b | 1,52 ^b | 8,39 ^a | 91,61 ^{bc} | 43,20 ^b | 55,76 ^b |
| | Skopije | 1,35 ^c | 1,35 ^c | 7,34 ^b | 92,66 ^b | 47,60 ^a | 51,66 ^c |
| 10 10 clusters | Gevgelija | 1,58 ^a | 1,58 ^a | 5,67 ^b | 94,33 ^a | 34,04 ^c | 65,29 ^a |
| | Veles | 1,55 ^a | 1,55 ^a | 6,46 ^a | 93,54 ^{ab} | 38,13 ^b | 60,39 ^b |
| | Skopije | 1,37 ^b | 1,31 ^b | 6,39 ^a | 93,61 ^{ab} | 44,87 ^a | 55,13 ^c |
| | | a, b, c.. Duncan | | | =0,05 | | |
| | | a, b, c.. degree of proof by the method of Duncan error =0,05 | | | | | |
| | | / potential coefficient of fertility | | | | | |

3.

2013-2015 .

Table 3. Multidimensional comparative analysis of the studied parameters of the potential fertility of the buds at the Vranec variety by variants and areas, average for the fruit cane and the period 2013-2015 .

| Indicators/ Variants | | 3 Fruitfulness buds with 1 inflorescences % | 350 µm florescences with length t 350 µm | 350 – 550 µm Inflorescences with length from 350 – 550 µm | 550 – 750 µm Inflorescences with length from 550 – 750 µm | 750 µm Inflorescences with length above 750 µm | Length of the germinal shoot mm |
|----------------------|-----------|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | Duncan 3,40 ^a | Duncan 4,16 ^b | Duncan 37,57 ^c | Duncan 52,70 ^a | Duncan 5,57 ^a | Duncan 0,76 ^a |
| Control | Gevgelija | 2,56 ^b | 9,79 ^a | 50,97 ^b | 33,71 ^b | 5,53 ^a | 0,67 ^a |
| | Veles | 2,50 ^b | 4,27 ^b | 54,21 ^a | 35,94 ^b | 5,58 ^a | 0,61 ^a |
| | Skopije | 5,05 ^a | 4,20 ^a | 43,94 ^c | 42,72 ^a | 9,14 ^a | 0,67 ^a |
| Defoliantion | Gevgelija | 2,50 ^b | 4,22 ^a | 65,16 ^a | 29,39 ^c | 1,23 ^b | 0,62 ^a |
| | Veles | 0,50 ^c | 2,92 ^b | 57,59 ^b | 38,62 ^b | 0,87 ^c | 0,59 ^a |
| | Skopije | 1,83 ^a | 3,37 ^b | 39,91 ^c | 46,19 ^a | 10,53 ^a | 0,71 ^a |
| 6 6 clusters | Gevgelija | 1,04 ^b | 5,08 ^a | 49,13 ^b | 38,08 ^b | 7,71 ^b | 0,69 ^a |
| | Veles | 0,74 ^c | 2,41 ^c | 57,16 ^a | 33,04 ^c | 7,39 ^b | 0,62 ^a |
| | Skopije | 0,67 ^b | 1,00 ^b | 38,01 ^c | 46,78 ^a | 14,21 ^a | 0,76 ^a |
| 10 10 clusters | Gevgelija | 1,48 ^a | 4,89 ^a | 51,62 ^b | 38,90 ^c | 4,59 ^b | 0,71 ^a |
| | Veles | 0,00 ^c | 0,00 ^c | 53,37 ^a | 43,49 ^b | 3,14 ^c | 0,60 ^a |
| | Skopije | a, b, c.. Duncan =0,05 a, b, c.. degree of proof by the method of Duncan error =0,05 | | | | | |

/ potential coefficient of fertility

1. -
-
-
2 1
,
550-750 μm III
350-550 μm II ,
III II

2. ,
-
,
,
2 1
, 3
-
II 350-550
 μm III 550-750 μm .
750 μm ,

3. 6 10
-
1 -4

CONCLUSIONS

1. The average values of the potential coefficient of fertility and the percentage of the fruitful major buds of the variety Vranec planted in three vineyards with different altitude, showed that the control variant of the lowest altitude in Gevgelija have higher values compared to the other two locations. The major fruitful buds with 2 and 1 inflorescence determine the yield in all three vineyards, in Gevgelija it is formed mainly by the inflorescences with length of 550-750 μm from III group and 350-550 μm II group and in Veles and Skopje are dominated by II and III group inflorescences. There is a certain tendency to reduce the length of the germinal shoot with the increase of the altitude from Gevgelija to Skopje.

2. After the defoliation of the vines, dead major buds were recorded only in the highest altitude vineyard in Skopje, and the coefficient of potential fertility decreases as the altitude increases. There are no differences in the percentages of fruitfulness major buds in all three regions where the yield is formed by the buds with 2 and 1 inflorescences, and those with 3 inflorescences decrease as the altitude increases. With the largest average crop share, are the inflorescences from II group 350-550 μm in length and III group with 550-750 μm . In Gevgelija, the number of inflorescences with the largest length of more than 750 μm significantly exceeds this index compared to other regions. The germinal shoot slightly decreases its length by increasing the altitude.

3. At the variant with cluster reduction of 6 and 10 clusters/vine only the vineyard in Skopje is characterized by the minimal presence of dead major buds in the winter buds in the sector from 1st-4th bud. The potential fertility rate and the percentage of fruitful buds with highest

2
 3
 III 550-750 μm
 II - 350-550 μm,
 II
 II
 350-550 μm. IV
 750 μm
 -
 4.
 μm II 2 1
 III 350-550
 IV - 550-750 μm.
 750 μm - 6,29%.
 5.
 350 μm.
 750 μm
 , mm.

values is present in the vineyard in Gevgelija. In all three vineyards, the buds with 2 inflorescences prevail, and those with 3 decrease with increasing of the altitude. Inflorescences from the II group with a length of 550-750 μm are average more in Gevgelija than those from II group – 350-550 μm, while in Veles and Skopje the II group inflorescences prevail. Increasing the altitude increases the inflorescences from II group with a length of 350-550 μm. Inflorescences of IV group with a length of more than 750 μm are more in the buds of the lowest vineyard. The length of the germinal shoot slightly shortens as the altitude increases.

4. The Vranec variety is ampelographically characterized by a low percentage of dead major buds in winter buds during the growing season, a high potential coefficient of fertility and a percentage of fruitful major buds. The yield of this variety is mainly determined by fruit buds with 2 and 1 inflorescence from II group 350-550 μm in length and the II group 550-550 μm. Inflorescences of the IV group with a length of over 750 μm form a small part of its productivity - 6.29%.

5. The altitude, together with its accompanying soil-climatic factors, have mathematically demonstrated a significant impact on most of the studied parameters of the potential buds fertility of the Vranec variety. In some areas of the above-mentioned conditions of the external environment, the K-values based on total buds number, Infertile major buds and inflorescences up to 350 μm in length are less dependent. In all three regions and in all variants, the number of inflorescences with a length of more than 750 μm and the length of the germinal shoot – mm, is not affected.

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Outlook of the transition from conventional to organic (adaptive) viticulture in Ukraine

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SUMMARY

- The global environmental pollution problem, especially concerning agricultural products, forces us to develop and use new ways of farming. In the nearest future an alternative for our conditions should be the adaptive farming, which is based on the usage of new adaptive varieties. An adaptive grape variety must have vast ecological plasticity, be resistant to pests and diseases and consistently high-yielding under a wide range of conditions.

- The resistance basis of the presented genotypes is a complex genetic origin, involving several species of *Vitis*. The resistance of perspective table varieties and hybrids is more than 6.5 points (on a 9-point scale), which is higher than the relative level. The resistance of most of the wine varieties and hybrids is 7 points and higher. These varieties can be grown using a differentiated protection system with 3-5 preventive sprays.

Vitis.
 6,5

(9-),
 .
 7 .

3-5

We would like to mention the stability of high yields and product quality of new varieties and hybrids.

Table grape varieties have shown high marketability and fruit appearance, while wine ones have shown excellent flavor and aromatic properties. Thus, the diversity of available breeding and hybrid gene pool allows replenishing regional assortments with genotypes with high manifestation of valuable traits: yield stability, product quality and resistance to diseases at a level not lower than the relative one.

The usage of such varieties will allow to cultivate grapes with 3-5 (6-7 during epiphytoly) sprayings, which will preserve the environment and provide high-quality and affordable viticulture products for the population.

Key words: grapes, adaptive viticulture, variety, seedling, resistance, yield, product quality, marketability, fruit appearance, quality of wine

INTRODUCTION

The global problem of environmental safety of food products, especially concerning agricultural ones, forces us to look for the ways to provide consumers and producers with products that meet international standards. Such produce has to be free of pesticide residues, heavy metals, nitrates, etc. Pathogens and pests of crops are adapting to environmental conditions. Their aggressiveness and harmfulness are increasing as well. We have to use more toxic pesticides, while pests keep adapting to them. Eventually, prolonged use of chemicals in the fields, gardens and vineyards will cause the increased level of pathogen adaptability compared to permissible levels of pesticide toxicity.

Therefore, the harvest will be either destroyed by pests and diseases or will

- become unfit for human consumption due to pesticide oversaturation.

- In the nearest future, an alternative should be the adaptive (ecological, organic) farming. The basic principles of organic farming are avoiding the use of fungicides, herbicides and artificial fertilizers; using organic fertilizers; using crop rotation to restore the soil; using biological methods of plant protection; using closed-loop farming (plant growing – fodder, cattle breeding - fertilizers). The absence of developed cattle breeding infrastructure in Ukraine, high rates of infection, especially in perennial plantations, climatic peculiarities of our region become significant obstacles for the application of organic and especially biodynamic viticulture. Lack of protection zone between grape plantations, a concentration of large areas in the wine growing regions of Ukraine, insufficient labor force create an additional threat of partial or total loss of yield.

- Adaptive farming, which corresponds to the natural conditions and is based on the usage of industrial agricultural systems with high productivity, preserves ecological balance and uses new adaptive varieties, can be more suitable for our conditions. The above-mentioned conditions apply to vineyards as well. An adaptive grape variety must have following characteristics: vast ecological plasticity, resistance to pests and diseases at a level not lower than the relative one, consistently high yield of organic produce under a wide range of conditions.

- GOAL: Identify the possibility of transition of Ukrainian viticulture to an ecological (adaptive) system of management based on the use of highly adaptive varieties.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was conducted on 22 perspective grape varieties of own

(Aivaziyan and Dokuchaeva, 1960; Lazarevskiy, 1963).

9- (Bankovska, 2007).

8- (Valuiko et al., 2005).

10- Holodryha (1977).

breeding. At all stages of the study agrobiological surveys were conducted on five bushes of each variety and a high degree of adaptability of genotypes, expressed in terms of stable economic performance and other valuable features (Aivaziyan and Dokuchaeva, 1960; Lazarevskiy, 1963).

Stability of genetic resources against fungal diseases evaluated on a 9-point scale natural infectious background (Bankovska, 2007).

Organoleptic evaluation of wines made prototypes for 8-point scale (Valuiko et al., 2005). Organoleptic evaluation of fresh grapes held a 10-point scale, according to the methodology Holodryha (1977).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

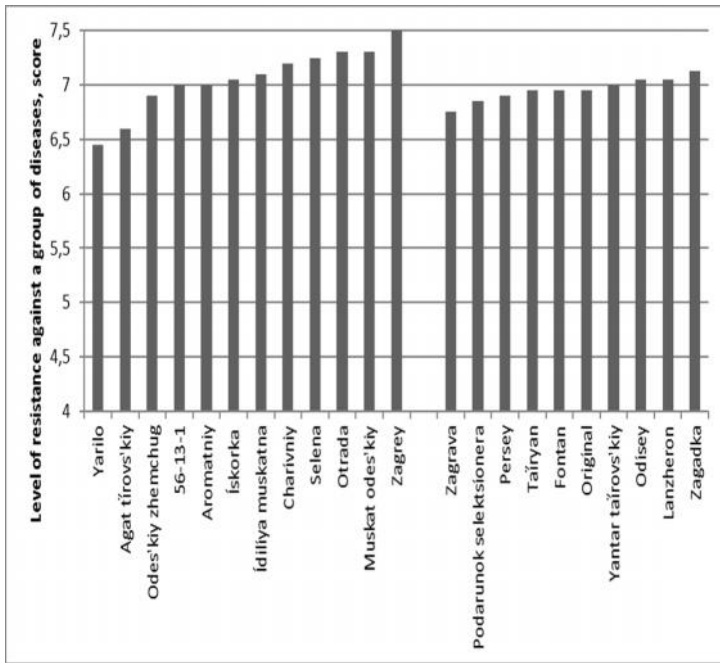
Considering world tendencies, breeders of the Tairov Institute have started the development of a new breeding program, named "Ecological grapes", which is based on the results of "Resistance plus Quality" program (Kovalova et al., 2014; Gerus et al., 2015)

Considering world tendencies, the breeders of the Tairov Institute have started the development of a new breeding program, named "Ecological grapes", which is based on the results of "Resistance plus Quality" program (Kovalova et al., 2014; Gerus et al., 2015)

Vitis. 1
2011 2015
6.5
7
7.5
3-5
5-7

The resistance basis of the presented genotypes is a complex genetic origin, involving several species of Vitis. The Figure 1 shows average resistance level to main pathogens for the period from 2011 to 2015. The resistance of perspective table varieties and hybrids is more than 6.5 points, which is higher than the relative level. The resistance of most of the wine varieties and hybrids is 7 points and higher. Zagrey variety especially stands out. Its resistance level was 7.5 points during five years of study.

These varieties can be grown using a differentiated protection system with 3-5 preventive treatments. During epiphytoty, the number of sprayings can be increased to 5-7 times.



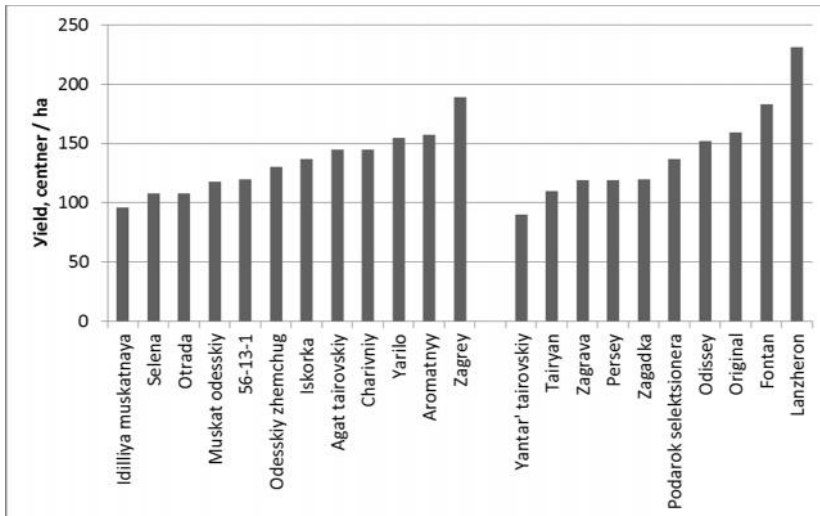
. 1.

2011-2015 .

Fig. 1. The average group resistance level of perspective hybrids to main fungal diseases for the period from 2011 to 2015

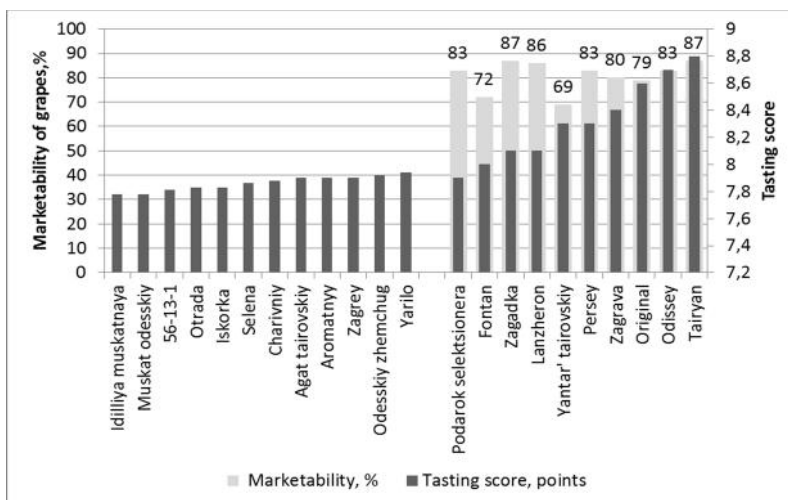
(2)
(3).

Presented table and wine adaptive varieties have stable (Figure 2) and quality yield (Figure 3).



. 2.
2011 2015 .

Fig. 2. The average yield of perspective table and wine hybrids for the period from 2011 to 2015



. 3.

2011 2015 .

Fig. 3. The average level of quality characteristics of perspective table and wine varieties and hybrids for the period from 2011 to 2015

- 10000 kg/ha.
 55-133 centner/ha,
 (Kovalova et al., 2013;
 Vlasov et al., 2014; Kovalova et al.,
 2014).

- Most of presented varieties and hybrids have shown a yield of not less than 10000 kg/ha. Yarilo, Aromatniy, Zagrey, Original, Fontan and Lanzheron hybrids exceeded this figure in 55-133 centner/ha, that, however, did not affect the quality characteristics (Kovalova et al., 2013; Vlasov et al., 2014; Kovalova et al., 2014.).

\ 7.78-7.94
 0-8.
 é

- During five years of studying perspective hybrids have demonstrated high\quality characteristics. For instance, wine tasting score was 7.78-7.94 points using a 0-8 scale. Zagrey, Aromatniy, Odesskiy zhemchug and Yarilo varieties stand out by their exclusive taste and aromatic characteristics. Tropical fruit, fresh tea rose or a wildflower bouquet can be perceived in the aroma of wines made from these varieties.

Quality characteristics of table varieties were evaluated not only by the results of the sensory evaluation but also by the percentage of marketable quality bunches. Original, Odisey and Tairyan have got the highest average tasting scores for five years for their large size,

appearance and harmonious taste. High quality characteristics were confirmed by 80% of marketable quality bunches.

To replenish the grape gene pool of and create highly adaptable genotypes, a series of crosses of genetically and geographically distant varieties were conducted.

The resistance level was assessed on a natural background by maximum damage of plant parts. As expected, wine varieties were more resistant than table ones. In Opaloviy x Burmunk hybrid combination 31 - 77% of seedlings showed resistance to downy and powdery mildew or phomopsis at 7-9 points. In Avgustin x Original hybrid combination 10 - 85% seedlings were resistant (7-9 points) to one of the most common diseases. In Ogonyok tairovskiy x Kardishah hybrid combination 4.2 - 57% of seedlings were resistant to one of these diseases. In Opaloviy x Burmunk, Avgustin x Original and Ogonyok tairovskiy x Kardishah hybrid combinations 18%, 6.6% and 2.5% of seedlings, respectively, demonstrated group resistance to downy mildew, powdery mildew and phomopsis (Figure 4).

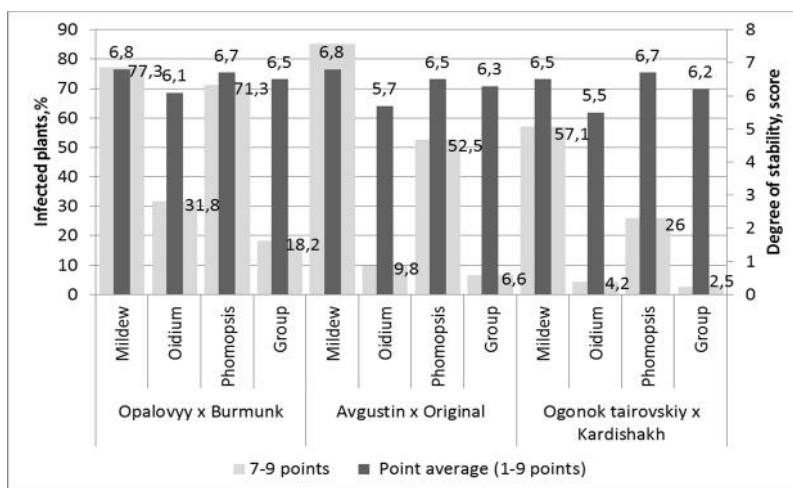
80%

8

5.7%

18%, 6.6% 2.5%

(4).



. 4.

2011 2015 .

Fig. 4. The average resistance level of perspective hybrid combinations for the period from 2011 to 2015

Studying of above-mentioned hybrid combinations continues. Productivity, yield quality and resistance to abiotic environmental factors will be tested in selected perspective resistant genotypes.

CONCLUSIONS

The level of the manifestation of some agronomic traits in perspective table and wine varieties and hybrids has been defined. Highly adaptable and high-yield varieties and hybrids, suitable for use in adaptive farming, have been selected. Perspective hybrid combinations have been determined. They will be used for creating highly adaptable varieties. Thus, the diversity of available breeding and hybrid gene pool allows replenishing regional assortments with genotypes with a high manifestation of valuable traits: yield stability, product quality and resistance to diseases at a level not lower than the relative one. The usage of such varieties will allow cultivating grapes with 3-5 (5-7 during epiphytoty) sprayings, which will preserve the environment and provide local, high-quality and affordable viticulture products for the population.

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Regional aspects of viticulture and wine production development in Bulgaria

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SUMMARY

The variety of factors - soils, climate, labour force, forming the major part of the resource potential of viticulture and wine production in Bulgaria, as well as the specific organizational and economic conditions of their combination, determining the dynamics in the development of grape and wine production at regional level have been examined. With a view of the viticulture and winemaking sector to generate income and employment, it is necessary to assess its contribution to achieving sustainable territorial development as a strategic priority within the framework of the CAP 2014-2020. In pursuance of the set objective, the viticulture place and role for the agriculture development at regional level have been discussed. The dynamics of the harvested areas of vineyards with wine and table grape varieties, the average yields and the production of wine and table grapes and wine per statistical regions has been traced. The varietal and age structure of the vineyard plantations has been examined for identifying the trends of investment activity in viticulture.

- The processes of concentration and specialization of wine and table grapes production have been investigated. The main problems have been pointed out and the opportunities for the regional development of viticulture and wine production have been outlined.

Key words: viticulture, wine production, varietal structure, regional development, opportunities

INTRODUCTION

The Bulgarian grapes and wine sector, within the EU-28, faces the challenges of enhancing its competitiveness, preserving the traditions and increasing its social and environmental role in the rural areas. The production process specificity in viticulture defines it as one of the most intensive sectors of agriculture from the point of view of the input of labor resources. Thus and considering the positive dynamics of the international trade in table grapes and wine, viticulture might be defined as an activity having potential to generate income and employment (Borisov and Radev, 2011; Ivanov et al., 2012, Aleksiev and Roycheva, 2015; OIV, 2017). The analysis of the viticulture and enology sector at national level showed that potential was greatly unused - the share of grapes production from the total plant growing output e has decreased from 5.6% in 2003 to 2.4% in 2015. The area of vineyards as a percentage of the cultivated land during the same period has dropped down from 2.3% to 1.1% and the percentage of wine in the agricultural exports was reduced from 8.8% to almost 1%.

The researches carried out for years on the zoning of vine-growing and vine selection in Bulgaria determined the suitability of the soil and climatic conditions in the country for providing a wide variety of table grapes varieties with different maturation periods as well as a wide range of wines (Stoev et al., 1960;

(Borisov and Radev, 2011; Ivanov et al., 2012; Aleksiev and Roycheva, 2015; OIV, 2017).

| Year | Share of grapes production from the total plant growing output (%) | Area of vineyards as a percentage of the cultivated land (%) | Percentage of wine in the agricultural exports (%) |
|------|--|--|--|
| 2003 | 5.6% | 2.3% | 8.8% |
| 2015 | 2.4% | 1.1% | 1% |

al., 1960; Ivanov et al., 2007; Penkov, 2009, Simeonov et al., 2010; Roychev, 2012; Simeonov, 2016).

(Borisov and Radev, 2011; Kanchev et al., 2012; Miteva, 2015; Kirechev, 2012; Dimitrova and Simeonov, 2016).

Ivanov et al., 2007; Penkov, 2009; Simeonov et al., 2010; Roychev, 2012; Simeonov, 2016). Based on the specificity of the combination of the conditions and organizational and economic relations at regional level, each individual planning region could create sustainable competitive advantages that might have a positive impact on the regional economy (Borisov and Radev, 2011; Kanchev et al., 2012; Miteva, 2015; Kirechev, 2012; Dimitrova and Simeonov, 2016).

The objective of the study was to analyze the development of viticulture and winemaking at regional level, highlighting the main problems and outlining the opportunities for balancing the territorial development through grapes and wine production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Official statistical data were used for the analysis from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) Agricultural Statistics Department, National Statistics Institute (NSI) and Eurostat. By the methods of the comparative and dynamic analysis, the method of statistical clusters, index analysis and graphical method, the trends in the changes of the indicators of cultivated areas of wine and table grapes varieties (ha), average yield (kg/ha), produced wine and table grapes (tons), produced wine (hl) were outlined.

The average values of the main indicators were compared per individual periods, thus neutralizing the annual impact of the weather conditions on the economic activity in the sector. The significance of each administrative region for vine-growing development at national level was assessed on the basis of the ratio of the final production of grapes at regional level to the national value of the indicator (million BGN).

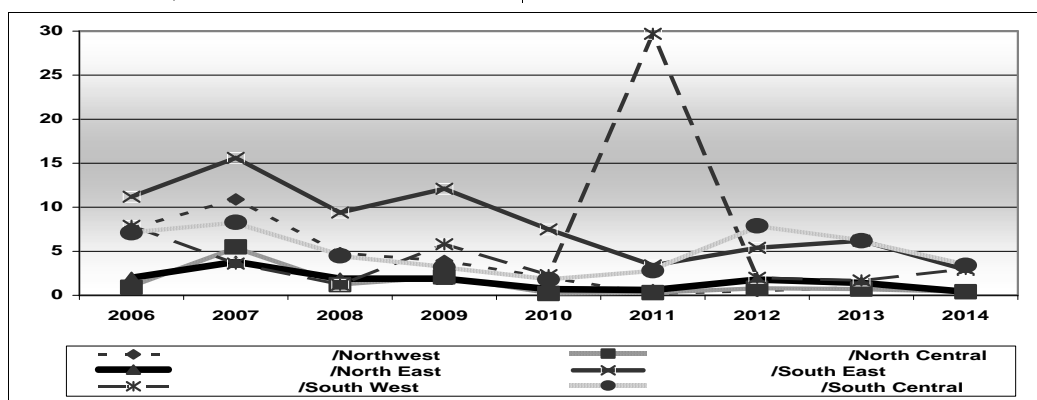
The contribution of viticulture to

agriculture development in the six statistical regions was established on the basis of the ratio of the final grapes output from the total plant growing output (million BGN). The trends in the concentration and specialization of grape production were studied, by means of the number of specialized grapes-growing holdings and the average size of vineyards per holding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the dynamics of the final grapes output from the total value of the plant growing output per statistical regions allowed the assessment of the place and the role of viticulture in the development of the agrarian sector at the regional level. The data illustrated in Figure 1 showed that the contribution of grapes production to the total plant growing output in 2014 was the highest in the South Central Region – 3.4%, followed by the Southwest (3.0%) and the Southeast (2.9%) regions. The significance of viticulture for the agricultural production in the three statistical regions of Northern Bulgaria was extremely small taking into account the grapes production ratio from the total plant growing output – 0.4%.

2014 . -
- 3,4%,
(3,0%) (2,9%)
- 0,4%.



/ Source: Eurostat and own calculation

Fig. 1. Percentage of grapes production from the total plant growing output per statistical regions, %

11,2% 7,6%

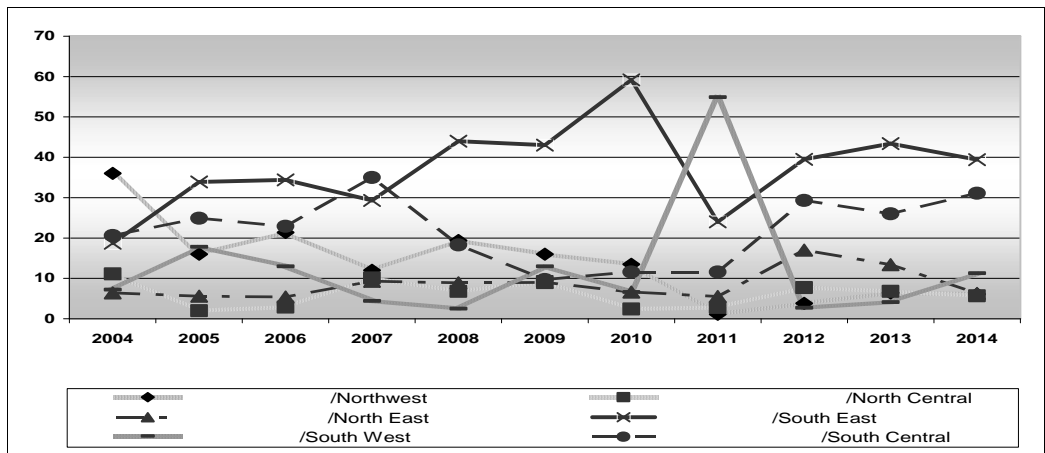
206,3 . . . 131,4 . . . (-36,3%)

2010 . . . (2). 59,2%

2014 . . . 29,7 . . . - 39,4%

Comparing the rates of this indicator values per years had clearly outlined the decreasing contribution of viticulture to the agricultural output at regional level. The negative trend was most pronounced in the Southeast and the Northwest regions where, at the beginning of the study period, the final grapes production represented respectively 11.2% and 7.6% of the total plant growing output. The main reason was the shrinking of the grapes growing production at the constant growth rate of the crop output per regions under the influence of the expanding cereal crops production.

As a synthesized expression of the natural production volume and the price levels, the total output of the viticulture was marked by significant annual fluctuations. The indicator values established at the national level showed a trend of reduction in the period 2006-2013 – from BGN 206.3 million to BGN 131.4 million (-36.3%). The negative trend characterized the production development in almost all statistical regions, more pronouncedly in Northern Bulgaria and more moderately in the southern part of the country. The Southeast Region was the area with the highest ratio from the total output of viticulture, reaching 59.2% in 2010 (fig. 2). The dominant position of the region, kept almost during the entire period of the study, was indicative of the relative stability of the physical volume of the output compared to the other statistical regions, as its value in 2014 amounted to BGN 29.7 million – 39.4% of the total amount of grapes total output in the country.



/ Source: Eurostat and own calculation

Fig. 2. Output ratio per statistical regions compared to the total grapes output, %

2012-2014 . 26,0% 31,1% .

2014 . 6,3%, - 6,1% - 5,7% .

2016 . () - 13 206 , ha (36,1%) .

- 95,8% 4,2% .

12 306 ha (33,7%) ,

The South Central Region was also distinguished with a high ratio in the total value of the grapes output, varying from 26.0% to 31.1% in the period 2012-2014. The Northern regions were significantly worse presented, as their share to the final viticultural output in 2014 was as follows: the Northeast Region – 6.3%, the Northwest Region – 6.1% and the North Central Region – 5.7%.

The presented results were a logical consequence of the production potential concentration in the regions of Southern Bulgaria. In 2016 the cultivated area of the vineyards was the largest in the Southeast statistical region (the districts of Burgas, Sliven, Yambol and Stara Zagora) – 13,206 ha (36.1% of the total grown vineyards in the country). Referring the varietal structure of the vineyards, the share of wine varieties was prevailing – 95.8% of the cultivated area in the region compared to 4.2% for the table grapes varieties.

The area of fruit-bearing vineyards harvested during the same year in the South Central Region was 12,306 ha (33.7% of the total area of vineyards in the country), of which 11,241 ha were planted with wine vineyards (91.3%) and

11 241 ha (91,3%)
 1 065 ha (8,7%)

1,065 ha (8.7%) with table grapes varieties. The advantages that the agroecology of the regions provided in terms of the lower production risk and the reduced need of labor resources as a result of the stem training system of vines cultivation could be pointed as the main reason for the vineyards concentration in the southern regions of the country. In the conditions of the progressive depopulation of the rural areas, the provision of skilled labor has been a major limiting factor determining the organizational capacity of the viticultural production, given its specificity. The total area of the vineyards cultivated in the three northern statistical regions was reduced to a minimum and amounted to 7,547 ha (20.6% of the total area) of which 7, 275 ha (96.4%) were wine varieties, and table grapes varieties – only 272 ha (3.6%).

7 547 ha (20,6%)
 7 275 ha (96,4%),
 272 ha (3,6%).

2012-2016 2002-2006

80,7%
 (1).

80,8%
 – 54,0%

75,6%
 73,5%

– 22,2%

2002-2006
 2008

The reduction of the cultivated area on the average for the period 2012-2016 compared to 2002-2006 was the most pronounced in the North Central and Northeast regions, where the decrease of vineyards with table grapes varieties amounted respectively to 80.8% and 80.7% at the average level for the country – 54.0% (Table 1). For the areas with wine varieties, the reported drop was 75.6% in the North Central Region and 73.5% in the Northeast Region. The lower rate of reduction observed in the Northwest Region was due, on the one hand, to the smaller size of the vineyard areas – 22.2% of the total area of vineyards in the three northern statistical regions on average for the period 2002-2006, as well as to the new distribution of the administrative districts in 2008, when Pleven and Lovech districts were affiliated to the stated region.

1.

, ha

Table 1. Dynamics of the cultivated areas with wine and table grapes varieties, ha

| /Regions | Wine grapes varieties, ha | | | Table grapes varieties, ha | | | Index, % 2012-16/2002-06 | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2002-06 Average | 2007-11 Average | 2012-16 Average | 2002-06 Average | 2007-11 Average | 2012-16 Average | Wine grapes v. | Table grapes v. |
| Northwest | 6910 | 4866 | 3918 | 265 | 226 | 126 | 56,7 | 47,5 |
| North Central | 10003 | 4154 | 2444 | 511 | 143 | 98 | 24,4 | 19,2 |
| North East | 14263 | 4737 | 3776 | 689 | 176 | 133 | 26,5 | 19,3 |
| South East | 20493 | 20370 | 14706 | 997 | 611 | 638 | 71,8 | 64,0 |
| South West | 4916 | 3124 | 3055 | 280 | 156 | 174 | 62,1 | 62,1 |
| South Central | 27567 | 21020 | 13465 | 2025 | 1330 | 1023 | 48,8 | 50,5 |
| /Bulgaria | 84152 | 58271 | 41365 | 4766 | 2642 | 2193 | 49,2 | 46,0 |

“2002-2012”

Source: MAF, Agricultural Statistics Department, Bulletin “Grapes and wine production – harvest 2002-2012” and own calculation

The continued exodus from grapes-growing, despite almost the insignificant financial support provided by the European funds, was an indicator that had a restrictive effect on the future development of production potential in the sector. The analysis of the age structure of vineyards with wine varieties showed that by 2015 the prevailing part of the area – 69,1% exceeded the statutory exploitation period for the vineyards – 25-30 years (Table 2). The plantations in the Southwest, Northeast and North Central Regions had extremely deteriorated age structure, where the percentage of areas with wine varieties over 30 years was higher than the national average level. The creation of new vineyards was taking place at an extremely slow pace, under the impact of a number of socio-economic and market factors. The investment activity was the most pronounced in the Southeast Region and the South Central Region, where the area of not yet fruit-bearing vineyards with wine varieties was 541 ha and 418 ha, respectively. The share of

541 ha 418 ha. - vineyards up to 10 years was 19.5% in
10 the South Central Region and 15.6% in
19,5% the Southeast Region.
15,6%

2.

2015 ., ha

Table 2. Age structure of vineyards with the main wine varieties in Bulgaria per statistical regions by 2015, ha

| /Regions | /Total | | < 3 ./years | | 3-9 ./years | | 10-29 ./years | | ≥ 30 ./years | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | ha | % | ha | % | ha | % | ha | % | ha | % |
| Northwest | 4364 | 100,0 | 145 | 3,4 | 875 | 20,0 | 826 | 18,9 | 2519 | 57,7 |
| North Central | 4443 | 100,0 | 87 | 2,0 | 390 | 8,8 | 594 | 13,3 | 3373 | 75,9 |
| North East | 7076 | 100,0 | 125 | 1,8 | 786 | 11,1 | 581 | 8,2 | 5583 | 78,9 |
| South East | 18992 | 100,0 | 541 | 2,8 | 2967 | 15,6 | 3089 | 16,3 | 12395 | 65,3 |
| South West | 2650 | 100,0 | 33 | 1,2 | 132 | 5,0 | 278 | 10,5 | 2207 | 83,3 |
| South Central | 16798 | 100,0 | 418 | 2,5 | 3273 | 19,5 | 1656 | 9,8 | 11451 | 68,2 |
| /Bulgaria | 54323 | 100,0 | 1349 | 2,5 | 8423 | 15,5 | 7024 | 12,9 | 37538 | 69,1 |

: (extracted on 04.05.2017 .)

Source: Eurostat (extracted on 04.05.2017) and own calculation, <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

- The comparative analysis of the vineyards age structure according to their varietal composition revealed certain deviations from the general picture, largely determined by the regional specificity and the trends of the production activity in viticulture. The greatest investments for the establishment of vineyards with red wine varieties over the past ten years have been made in the South Central Region, where the vineyards not yet fruit-bearing were on an area of 209 ha (1.7% of the area of red wine varieties in the region), while vineyards up to ten years occupied 2,599 ha (21.5%) (Figure 3).

- Greater investments compared to the other four regions were also made in the Southeast statistical region, where the area of not yet fruit-bearing vineyards (107 ha) represented 1.1% of the total area of vineyards with red wine varieties and 15.9% (1 534 ha) was the relative

15,9% (1 534 ha)

30 . – 76,7%,

ha

(256)

(56,8%)

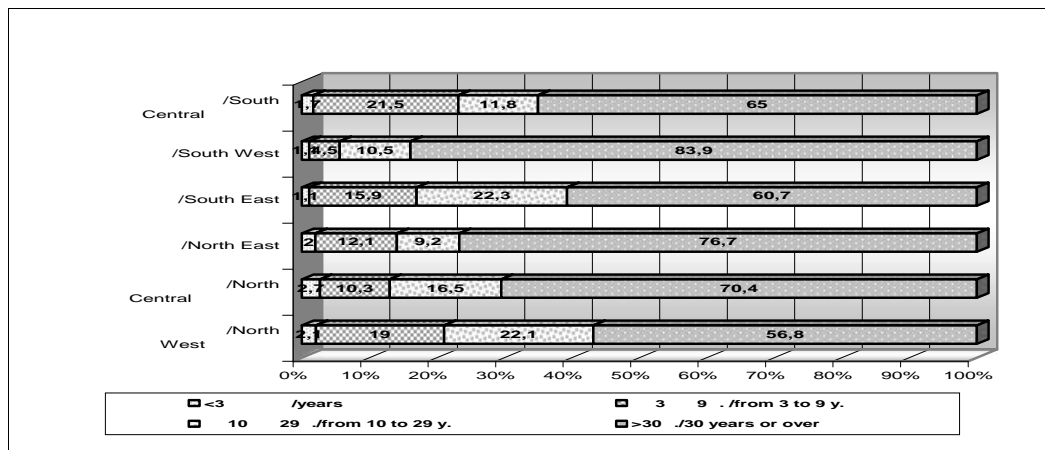
10 .

– 19,0%,

share of the area of the vineyards up to 10 years.

The Northeast Region stood out with the largest share of the area with red wine varieties over 30 years – 76.7%, respectively the lowest investment activity (256 ha were the vineyards up to 10 years), which was a logical result of the product specialization in making of mainly white wines. In the Northwest Region, the vineyards with an expired depreciation period occupied the smallest relative share (56.8%) in the structure of the cultivated area with red wine varieties at regional level.

At the same time, the share of the vineyards up to 10 years old was relatively high compared to the other regions – 19.0%, which indicated striving for achievement of some sustainability and future development of red wine grapes production in the region.



(extracted on 04.05.2017 .)

Source: Eurostat (extracted on 04.05.2017) and own calculation, <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

. 3.

2015 ., %

Fig. 3. Age structure of vineyards with red wine varieties by 2015, %

The implementation of the investment intentions of the entrepreneurs in viticulture has resulted in an increase of the areas of the introduced red wine varieties - Merlot and

2015 . 31,3%

29,7% 2009 . (MAF, 2009).

40,8%

32,7% 23,6%.

2009 . 23,7%,

2015 . 29,1%.

- 38,0%

34,0%, - 31,7%

- 28,9%.

2015 . 3 . 14 ha 195

2009 . 3 9 .

49,5% - 459 ha

- 79,7%, -

(16,2%)

3 ha,

2012 2015

(762 ha), 499 ha

Cabernet Sauvignon. The percentage of the areas cultivated with Merlot variety in 2015 represented 31.3% of the total area of red wine varieties compared to 29.7% in 2009 (MAF, 2009). The variety was the most widely spread in the South Central Region – 40.8% of the total area, followed by the Southeast and the Northwest regions, respectively 32.7% and 23.6%. The trend of development and the distribution of Cabernet Sauvignon variety were similar, as its share in the total vineyard area of red wine varieties in 2009 was 23.7% while in 2015 it increased to 29.1%. The variety was the most widely represented in the North Central Region – 38.0% of the area of the red wine vineyards at the regional level, followed by the Northwest Region – 34.0%, the Southeast Region – 31.7% and the South Central Region - 28.9%.

The traditional local red wine varieties, bearers of cultural values and national identity – Gamza, Pamid, Mavrud and Shiroka Melnishka Loza, were more progressively substituted in the varietal structure of the red wine vineyards as a result of the very low investment interest. Vineyards under 3 years old with Mavrud variety in 2015 occupied only 14 ha versus 195 ha in 2009, while in the group from 3 to 9 years at present they were 459 ha or by 49.5% less compared to the base year. Considering that this variety was the most typical for the Asenovgrad region, the cultivated areas were concentrated mainly in the South Central Region – 79.7% and a much smaller share (16.2%) was located in the Southeast Region. The vineyards not yet fruit-bearing with Pamid variety were 3 ha and for Gamza and Shiroka Melnishka Loza there were no stated areas in this group.

An interesting fact reflecting the entrepreneurial interest in grapes production during the years 2012 to 2015 was the more serious investment activity in the creation of vineyards with white wine grape varieties (762 ha compared to

(Roychev, 2012).

3 . – 4,5% (405 ha)

(4).

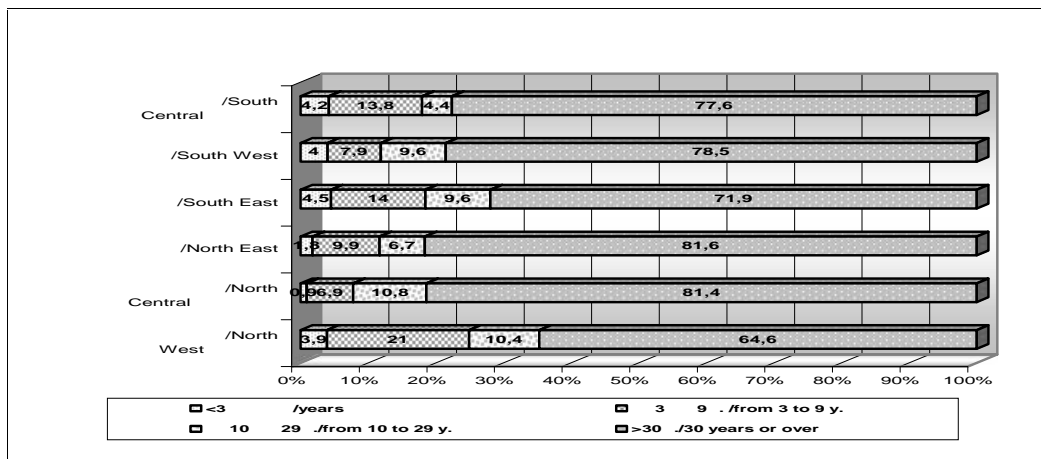
– 4,2% (195

ha).

76,0%

30
65,4%

499 ha of red wine varieties). That was due on the one hand to the extremely high rate of reduction of the cultivated vineyards for white wine grapes production and the concentrated entrepreneurial initiative in the Southeast Region on the other hand where the soil and weather conditions were suitable for the development of this trend of viticulture and there has been built winemaking infrastructure (Roychev, 2012). That could explain the high percentage of vineyards up to 3 years – 4.5% (405 ha) in the vineyards structure of white wine grape varieties in this region (Figure 4). The percentage of white wine vineyards not yet fruit-bearing located within the South Central Region was also relatively high – 4.2% (195 ha). Generally, the age structure of white wine grape varieties was less favorable than that of red wine varieties with a view that more than 30 years old were 76.0% of the vineyards for white wine grapes production compared to 65.4% of the vineyards with red wine varieties.



(extracted on 04.05.2017 .)
Source: Eurostat (extracted on 04.05.2017) and own calculation, <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

Fig. 4. Age structure of vineyards with white wine varieties by 2015, %

The local Bulgarian varieties Muscat red and Dimiat had still occupied

| | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| 2009 | 11,6% | 2015 | 19,4% |
| 13,2% | | 30 | |
| | | 9 ha, | |
| | | 38 ha, | |
| 20,2% | | 4 205 ha | |
| 94,5% | | 2009 | 15,7% |
| | | 10 | |
| | | 3 170 ha | 14,2% |
| | | 2009 | 11,9% |
| | | 1 129 ha | |
| | | 1 086 ha | |
| | | 10 | |
| | | 1296 ha | |
| 1130 ha. | | | |

a relatively high ratio in the structure of white wine grape varieties.

The comparison with 2009 showed that the share of Dimiat grew from 11.6% to 13.2%, however that was mainly due to the significant decrease in the total area of the white wine grape varieties but not to the development of the entrepreneurial interest. In 2015, the vineyards not yet fruit-bearing grown with that variety were located on an area of 9 ha, and in the group of 3-9 years – 38 ha, which did not raise expectations for a positive development of white wine varieties production in this market segment. With regard to Muscat red variety, there was a decrease from 20.2% in 2009 to 19.4% in 2015, and it had been extremely worrying that 94.5% of the cultivated vineyards with that variety were over 30 years.

Contrary to the trend in the local white wine varieties, for the introduced varieties most widely distributed in Bulgaria – Muscat Ottonel and Chardonnay, there was an increase of the areas, both in absolute and relative aspect. The white wine variety Muscat Ottonel occupied an area of 4,205 ha (18.8% of the area of white wine varieties compared to 15.7% in 2009), as the vineyards not yet fruit-bearing covered 264 ha, mainly concentrated in the Southeast Region, and the vineyards up to 10 years – 976 ha. Chardonnay vineyards were 3,170 ha and occupied 14.2% of the area of white wine varieties to 11.9% compared to 2009, as 1,129 ha were located in the Southeast Region and 1,086 ha in the Northeast Region. The area of the vineyards up to 10 years of age exceeded that of the plantations with expired depreciation period, 1,296 ha and 1,130 ha respectively.

The tendency of the diminishing significance of the local and the expanding importance of the foreign

2012-2016 . 2002-2006 .,
 – 41,2%
 57,7%
 (3).

6128 kg/ha,

– 8323 kg/ha.

varieties in the varietal composition of the wine vineyards in the country revealed that the tradition and the authentic taste were not enough stimuli for maintaining the varietal diversity. With a view of the fact that the local varieties were unique carriers of genetic potential and cultural values, the reduction of their area had been a negative phenomenon, even economically justified to some extent, given the more serious production risk. Although wine production based on the combination of local and introduced wine varieties has been increasingly used product-marketing strategy by the wineries, at present it did not have a tangible positive effect on the development of the production potential from local wine varieties.

In contrast to the negative trend observed in the cultivated areas, the average yields for both periods 2012-2016 and 2002-2006 showed a tendency of growing – 41.2% for wine varieties and 57.7% for the table grapes varieties (Table 3).

The achieved increase in the average productivity per unit area could be explained by the elimination of part of the sorted and unprofitable vineyards, the creation of new vineyards and the improvement of the cultivation practices.

The highest average yields of wine grapes during the period 2012-2016 were obtained in the Southeast Region – 6,128 kg/ha, and only in 2015 the level of the indicator accounted for the region almost reached that determined by the biological potential of the varieties – 8323 kg/ha.

3.

2002-2016 , kg/ha

Table 3. Average yield from the cultivated wine and table grapes vineyards per statistical regions during the period 2002-2016, kg/ha

| /Regions | Wine grapes varieties, kg/ha | | | Table grapes varieties, kg/ha | | | Index, % | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | 2002-06 | 2007-11 | 2012-16 | 2002-06 | 2007-11 | 2012-16 | 2012-16/2002-06 | |
| | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | Wine grapes varieties | Table grapes varieties |
| Northwest | 3310 | 4066 | 4442 | 3219 | 4004 | 4492 | 134,2 | 139,5 |
| North Central | 3324 | 4166 | 5448 | 2256 | 5314 | 4561 | 163,9 | 202,2 |
| North East | 3523 | 4935 | 4623 | 2209 | 3210 | 3579 | 131,2 | 162,0 |
| South East | 4036 | 5050 | 6128 | 3492 | 3326 | 5826 | 151,8 | 166,8 |
| South West | 5177 | 5504 | 6193 | 3375 | 6474 | 6098 | 119,6 | 180,7 |
| South Central | 3958 | 4557 | 5006 | 4089 | 6404 | 5389 | 126,5 | 131,8 |
| /Bulgaria | 3846 | 4742 | 5430 | 3406 | 5219 | 5371 | 141,2 | 157,7 |

"2003-2016"

Source: MAF, Agricultural Statistics Department, Bulletin "Grapes and wine production - harvest 2003-2016" and own calculation

For the table grape vineyards, the highest productivity per unit area was achieved in the Southwest Region, where the increase compared to the average rate of the indicator for the period 2002-2006 was 80.7% and the average yields in 2016 reached 9322 kg/ha. The average yields of the table grapes in the Southeast and the South Central Region were above the average for the country, where the raise compared to the base period was 66.8% and 31.8%, respectively.

The increased level of the average yields could not compensate for the reduction in the cultivated areas, which explained the reported drop of grapes production. The physical volume of wine grape production had decreased by 30.6% in the period 2012-2016 compared to the base period and the drop for the

4). 27,4% (

8,9%,
- 6,7%

2002-2006

- 12,2%.

(40,1%

2012-2016 . 31,6%
)
(30,0%

46,8%

).

table grapes was 27.4% (Table 4).

- An exception was observed in the production growth in the Southeast Region, where the quantity of the produced wine grapes grew by 8.9% and of the table grapes by 6.7% compared to the average production level for the period 2002-2006.

- An increase in the production of table grapes was also observed in the Southwest Region by 12.2%. The highest share of wine and table grapes production belonged to the Southeast Region (40.1% of the total wine grapes production in the country average for the period 2012-2016 and 31.6% of the table grapes) and the South Central Region (30.0% of the total wine grapes production and 46.8% of the total table grapes).

4.

2002-2016

Table 4. Production of wine and table grapes per statistical regions during the period 2002-2016

| /Regions | Wine grapes, tons | | | Table grapes, t | | | Index, % 2012-16/2002-06 | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | 2002-06 | 2007-11 | 2012-16 | 2002-06 | 2007-11 | 2012-16 | Wine grapes | Table grapes |
| | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | Average | | |
| Northwest | 22872 | 19783 | 17404 | 853 | 905 | 566 | 76,1 | 66,3 |
| North Central | 33253 | 17306 | 13316 | 1153 | 760 | 447 | 40,0 | 38,8 |
| North East | 50252 | 23377 | 17456 | 1522 | 565 | 476 | 34,7 | 31,2 |
| South East | 82701 | 102875 | 90121 | 3482 | 2032 | 3717 | 108,9 | 106,7 |
| South West | 25452 | 17196 | 18919 | 945 | 1010 | 1061 | 74,3 | 112,2 |
| South Central | 109121 | 95778 | 67406 | 8281 | 8517 | 5513 | 61,8 | 66,6 |
| /Bulgaria | 323652 | 276315 | 224621 | 16235 | 13789 | 11779 | 69,4 | 72,6 |

2003-2016"

Source: MAF, Agricultural Statistics Department, Bulletin "Grapes and wine production - harvest 2003-2016" and own calculation

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|---------|--|--|
| - | , | | | | |
| | | 65,3% | 60,0%, | | |
| 68,8% | 61,2%. | | | | |
| | - | | | | |
| . | | | | | |
| | | 2013 | 12 080, | | |
| | | 23,4% | | | |
| | (| 5). | | | |
| - | | | | | |
| (33,0% | , | (32,4%) |), | | |
| | | (25,3%), | | | |
| | , | | | | |
| | , | | | | |
| | | - 5,6% | | | |
| | , | 9,6% | | | |
| | | 19,6% | | | |
| . | , | | | | |
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The decline in the production was the most severe in the Northeast and the North Central Regions, where the quantity of the wine grapes had dropped down by 65.3% and 60.0% respectively and the quantity of the table grapes by 68.8% and 61.2%.

The dynamics of the grape production development in a regional aspect had been a direct consequence of the organizational and economic conditions of the production factors combination. The number of the specialized grapes growing holdings in the country in 2013 was 12,080, representing 23.4% of the total number of all farms involved in viticulture (Table 5). The degree of specialization in grapes production was the highest in the South Central Region (33.0% of all production units, cultivating vineyards), followed by the Southeast Region (32.4%) and the Southwest Region (25.3%), which was indicative of the preserved traditions and the role of viticulture as a livelihood for not a small part of the local population. The situation in Northern Bulgaria was just the opposite where the percentage of the specialized vineyards from the total number of farms growing vines was quite below the average at national level – 5.6% in the North Central Region, 9.6% in the Northwest Region and 19.6 % in the Northeast Region. The combination of viticulture with other types of agricultural production had been the preferred option in these areas of the country given the extremely high production and market risks arising mainly from the impact of the adverse weather conditions and the limited, purchase capacity of the domestic market due to the lower income level of the population.

5.

2003-2013 .

Table 5. Change in the number, cultivated area and the average size of the specialized grapes growing holdings in the period 2003-2013

| /Regions | Holdings, number | | | Area, ha | | | Average size, ha | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| | 2003 | 2013 | 2013/ 2003,% | 2003 | 2013 | 2013/ 2003,% | 2003 | 2013 | 2013/ 2003,% |
| Northwest | 3190 | 810 | 25,4 | 1630 | 2760 | 169,3 | 0,5 | 3,4 | 666,7 |
| North Central | 1390 | 320 | 23,0 | 2520 | 2140 | 84,9 | 1,8 | 6,7 | 372,2 |
| North East | 1820 | 950 | 52,2 | 4040 | 2770 | 68,6 | 2,2 | 2,9 | 131,8 |
| South East | 6210 | 3320 | 53,5 | 8110 | 8740 | 107,8 | 1,4 | 2,6 | 185,7 |
| South West | 3320 | 2230 | 67,2 | 2160 | 2310 | 106,9 | 0,7 | 1,0 | 142,9 |
| South Central | 6720 | 4450 | 66,2 | 9420 | 10710 | 113,6 | 1,4 | 2,4 | 171,4 |
| /Bulgaria | 22650 | 12080 | 53,3 | 27880 | 29430 | 105,6 | 1,2 | 2,4 | 200,0 |

04.05.2017) : (extracted on 04.05.2017 .)

/Source: Eurostat (extracted on

2013 . 2003 .
46,7%
- 77,0%.
-
33,8% 32,8%.
(42,0%
65 .)
(35 .)
130 . (2,9%
) 90 . (2,7%).
2013 . 2003 .,

The comparison of the number of the holdings specialized in grapes production in 2013 compared to 2003 showed a decrease of 46.7% at national level, most pronounced in the North Central Region by 77.0%. The decline of grapes growing was the lowest in the South Central and Southwest Regions where the number of the holdings was reduced by 33.8% and 32.8%, respectively. With a view of the unfavorable age structure of the owners of farms involved in grapes growing (about 42.0% were over 65 years), the expectations were for continued exodus from viticulture. More significant interest in grapes production by young farmers (up to 35 years) was observed in the South Central and Southeast Regions, where the holdings managed by them were respectively 130 (2.9% of the total number of holdings specializing in viticulture) and 90 (2.7%).

Regarding the area of the vineyards in the specialized holdings there has been an increase in 2013 compared to 2003, total for the country

5,6%).

(7,8%) (13,6%), (6,9%).

2008 .

2003-2013 .

2,4 ha
2,6 ha

2000 EUR

67,9%
94,0%

1550 ha (by 5.6%). The positive change in the size of the cultivated area was the result of the increase in the South Central (13.6%), the Southeast (7.8%) and the Southwest (6.9%) regions.

The rise in the area of the Northwest Region was rather due to the newly introduced territorial division of the regions as of 2008.

The simultaneous decrease of the holdings specializing in viticulture and the increase of the cultivated area had an effect on increasing the concentration of grapes production. The average physical size per holding was doubled over the period 2003-2013 at national level. The consolidation of production ran at the strongest pace in the North Central and the Northwest Regions, due to the stronger denial of practicing vineyard activity mostly in the small and fragmented vineyards owned by private persons. In the regions of Southern Bulgaria, providing the main part of the grapes production for the country, the size of the vineyards per holding was 2.4 ha in the South Central Region and 2.6 ha in the Southeast Region, as the rates of this indicator were around the average for the country.

Despite the increased concentration of production, the majority of the specialized farms had little economic potential – below EUR 2000 standard production volume.

Their ratio in the total number of specialized farms varied from 67.9% in the North Central Region to 94.0% in the Northeast Region that was a problem, both in terms of the possibilities of organizing cost-effective production and for the implementation of marketing and logistics activities, which had been increasingly important in the context of the dynamic market changes.

The state of the production potential in wine grapes growing, the

2013-2015 .
19,8%
2004-2006 . (6).
75,1%), (46,9%) (66,5%),
(12,8%).
50,5% 13,6%.
57,0%
2015 . 2013

- changes in its geographical concentration and the vineyards productivity had an impact on wine-making development. On the average for the period 2013-2015, wine production at national level showed a decrease of 19.8% compared to the average level of the indicator for the period 2004-2006 (Table 6). The total drop in the production volume was due to the shrinkage of the output in the North East Region (75.1%), the North Central (66.5%), the South Central (46.9%) and the Northwest Region (12.8%). At the same time, the quantity of the produced wine grew in the Southeast and the Southwest Regions by 50.5% and 13.6%, respectively. The concentration of the production potential, the availability of processing capacities as well as the opportunities for marketing the output through tourism were the main factors determining the wine production development in the Southeast Region that had a leading position, providing 57.0% of the total quantity of wine produced in the country on the average for the three years from 2013 to 2015.

6.

2004-2015 .

Table 6. Wine production per statistical regions during 2004-2015, hectoliters

| /Regions | 2004-06 | 2007-09 | 2010-12 | 2013-15 | Index, % | Index, % |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Average | Average | Average | Average | 2013-15/ 2004-06 | 2013-15/ 2010-12 |
| Northwest | 65810 | 127083 | 84666 | 57375 | 87,2 | 67,8 |
| North Central | 197213 | 180933 | 115562 | 66076 | 33,5 | 57,2 |
| North East | 284696 | 121012 | 50651 | 70748 | 24,9 | 139,7 |
| South East | 473733 | 477747 | 476042 | 712815 | 150,5 | 149,7 |
| South West | 95475 | 67654 | 58792 | 108500 | 113,6 | 184,5 |
| South Central | 442402 | 327061 | 268761 | 234767 | 53,1 | 87,4 |
| /Bulgaria | 1559328 | 1301489 | 1054475 | 1250281 | 80,2 | 118,6 |

'2005-2013', " " – 2014-2016

Source: MAF, Agricultural Statistics Department, Bulletin "Grapes and wine production - harvest 2005-2013", Agrarian Report – 2014-2016 and own calculation

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | | | |
| | | | 28,4% | |
| 2004-2006 | | 18,8% | | |
| () – | | | | |
| | () | | | |
| | () - | | | |

The negative dynamics with regard to the cultivated area and wine grapes production in the South Central Region resulted in reduction of the absolute quantity of the wine produced as well as decrease of the relative share of the region in the total output volume from 28.4% based on the average quantity for the period 2004-2006 to 18.8% over the last three-year period.

In general, the discussed trends showed that the area of the cultivated vineyards was declining, wine and table grapes and wine production was shrinking and viticulture continued to lose its economic significance for the development of agriculture at national and regional level. In the context of the pressing demographic and socio-economic problems more pronounced in the regions of northern Bulgaria, the potential of grape and wine production as a source of income and employment should not be overlooked. Viticulture and wine production development in the conditions of a highly competitive market, increasing demands and dynamic changes in consumer tastes and preferences necessitated the application of innovative organizational-management and marketing approaches tailored to the specifics of the regional agro-ecological, social and economic conditions.

Over the last decades, a combination of traditions and innovations has emerged as a leading marketing and organizational concept dictated by the drive for sustainable development of the wine sector, as a synthesis of comparative advantages and uniqueness of the terroir, specified within a certain geographic region. The production of wines with a geographical indication (GI) – with a protected designation of origin (PDO) and a protected geographical indication (PGI) sign – a marketing tool used for years for positioning wine in a

al., 2013).

39,0%

2015 . (AF, 2016).

51,0% 24,2%

13 968
2,2%

higher price range, acquired a new meaning in the context of necessity for preserving the local production with a focus on the typical Bulgarian varieties. As part of the EU quality policy, the geographical indications have integrated social and economic goals into the regional development aspect. The effect from the application of the geographical indications as a mechanism for the local production protection and development could be also sought in the direction of the overall improvement of the socio-economic environment, maintenance of the productive activity in the region, consolidation and flexibility of the supply chains, a stronger focus on the output quality, better satisfaction of local consumer demand, employment creation and profitability for the population (Aragrande et al., 2013). In Bulgaria, the production of regional wines (PGI) represented 39.0% of the total wine output in the country for 2015 (MAF, 2016). The highest share belonged again to the Southeast and the South Central Regions, respectively 51.0% and 24.2% of the total PGI production. With geographical designation PDO 13,968 hl of wine were produced, representing only 2.2% of the total quantity of wine produced in the country. That fact could be considered as unfavorable, because except the technological requirements related to the traditions of wine production, the PDO meant local raw material, and its supply was the function of the viability of the grapes-growing holdings.

A very widely discussed and recommended approach for enhancing the competitive advantages of the regional viticulture and wine production has been the cluster organization. Regardless the numerous attempts for implementation of this form, including in Northern Bulgaria, there is still no tangible effect on the sustainability of the holdings in viticulture and winemaking at regional and local level at this stage.

The problem of table grapes growing had been even more serious, where the competitive pressure on the domestic and international markets was a cause for the consolidation of production and shortening of the link between the producer and the end-user. Due to the small size and fragmentation of table grapes production, the processes of horizontal (association between table grapes growers) or vertical integration (within the distribution channel) were extremely slow. Despite the funding opportunities for the establishment of producers' organizations through the European funds, no progress has been made in the past programming period for table grapes viticulture. The low level of specialization of the production, the small physical size of the holdings and their poor economic potential were the factors that give rise to doubts as to the degree of applicability of the regime to increase the competitiveness of the table grapes growing at regional level in the current programming period, too. From a regional point of view, the farmers' efforts should be directed towards establishing producer groups to bring together fruit growers with table grapes growers. There have been already successfully functioning organizations based on this principle.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of viticulture and winemaking development analysis have revealed a serious regional imbalance. The production potential, respectively table and wine grapes growing and winemaking was concentrated in Southern Bulgaria. The impact was negative not only on the opportunities for wider product differentiation as a means of improving the market position of the sector as a whole, but also as regards the achievement of the potential social benefits for the regions of Northern Bulgaria lagging behind in their economic

development.

The Southeast Region was the only administrative area where more pronounced positive trends in the development of viticulture and wine-making were observed – higher investment activity compared to the other regions, an increase in the production of table and wine grapes and wine.

In the South Central Region the production of grapes and wine was shrinking, which, while maintaining the trend in the medium term, would affect negatively the overall development of the sub-sector, given the high percentage share of the region in the total output.

The socio-economic importance of viticulture has been decreasing in all statistical regions. The stabilization of the sector as a means of achieving a balance in the regional economic development and synergy in social and environmental terms has been a function not only of technological innovation but mainly of organizational and marketing strategic solutions to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of production in line with the current market requirements.

In addition to having export potential, viticulture and winemaking should be seen as opportunities for family business development, contributing to the viability of the local communities and regions, preserving the traditions, the diversity of genetic resources, and the specifics of the viticultural landscape for the future generations.

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