

THE VITICULTURE IN THE BRAZILIAN SEMI-ARID

Patrícia Coelho de Souza Leão

Embrapa Semi Árido, CP 23, CEP 56.300-970, Petrolina, PE, Brasil, patricia@cpatsa.embrapa.br

Grapevine is cultivated in different Brazilian states. The most important production regions are the South (43, 961 ha), Southeast (11, 968 ha) and Northeast (6, 100 ha). The Brazilian semi-arid presents competitive advantages, based on the excellent climatic conditions for vine growing, that allows harvest during the whole year and on the trading capability of the grape exporters. The Northeast region stands out as the main region producing and exporting table grapes in Brazil. The species grown is *Vitis vinifera* L., and 80% of the production are concentrated in the cv. Italia and its mutations Benitaka and Brazil, Red Globe and Patrícia (hybrid originated from Instituto Agronômico de Campinas Breeding Program). The seedless varieties Superior Seedless, also known as Festival, and Crimson Seedless have acquired great importance, increasing the cultivated areas. The main wine varieties for young and aromatic wines are Petit Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon (black), Chenin Blanc and Moscato Canelli (white). The average yield of table grapes is about 40 tons/ha/year (seeded grapes) and 20tons/ha/year (seedless grapes). The vineyard cropping includes two production prunnings per year. The cycle from pruning to harvest is about 90 to 130 days, depending on the variety and the season of the year. The domestic market is the most important, only 10% of the table grapes are exported, and the main destination is Europe.