

110. Sviluppo di di nuove varietà apirene di uva da tavola per aree tropicali e sub-tropicali

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Under tropical and subtropical climates, the physiological and sanitary behavior of most table grape varieties introduced from traditional temperate regions can be quite different and not proper to commercial growing. Developing new grape cultivars is one approach to withdraw some of these barriers to the progress of tropical and subtropical viticulture.

Embrapa Grape and Wine has managed a hybridization program aiming the development of new seedless table grape cultivars. High stable yields and resistance/tolerance to the main grape diseases are the main purposes of the breeding program.

In last years, three new seedless table grape cultivars adapted to tropical conditions were developed and released by Embrapa Grape and Wine.

'ERS Clara' : seedless yellowish, almost golden, grape, adapted to Brazilian tropical and subtropical regions. It was obtained from the 'CNPUV 154-147' and 'Centennial Seedless' cross. It is very fertile under natural conditions and very productive (25-30 t/ha) and with a high sugar potential, easily reaching 20° Brix. Bunches are great, naturally loose, and the berries reach 17 mm upon giberellic acid use, having a slight muscat flavor. Disease behavior is similar to 'Itália', but 'BRS Clara' presents tolerance to bacterial canker (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *viticola*). Protected cultivar.

'BRS Linda' : seedless white or light green grape, adapted to Brazilian tropical and subtropical conditions. Berry diameter is 22 mm upon giberellic acid use – which is particularly large for a white seedless variety. 'BRS Linda' is a seedling of 'CNPUV 154-90'

and 'Saturn' cross. Yields are very high yields (30-35 t/ ha); sugar content (14-15°Brix) and acidity are low, resulting in a pleasant neutral flavor. Bunches are great and loose, berry thinning being unnecessary. It is highly resistant to berry drop . Disease behavior is similar to 'Itália', but 'BRS Linda' is particularly susceptible to powdery mildew. Protected cultivar. 'BRS Morena': seedless black grape, developed for tropical and subtropical Brazilian conditions grown; resulting from the 'Marroo Seedless' X 'Centennial Seedless' cross. It is highly fertile and productive (20-25 t/ha). Bunches are very loose and proper management is necessary to obtain adequate fruit set. Berries can reach 20 mm diameter (upon gibberellic acid), having crunchy texture. Sugar content is high (18°- 19°Brix) and the flavor is pleasant. It is very sensitive to berry drop, then it requires proper packaging. Disease behavior is similar to 'Itália'. Protected cultivar.

Fruit producer international companies from South Africa, Chile and Mexico became interested in these three new table grapes and they are being tested in these countries.

Currently, about 200 table grape selections are under evaluation and about and five advanced selections are under validation on grower areas. These point to the perspective of development and release of new tropical and subtropical grapes in the next years.