FOREWORD

Grapes hold a key position in the country's economy for its merit, both in domestic consumption and exports. India has witnessed a tremendous growth in the grape sector in the last two decades. The estimates (2020-21) indicate grapes cultivation on 1.52 lakh ha in India with a production of 3.2 million tons. Maharashtra is the leading state with 76% production of the country. The states of Karnataka, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Punjab produce bulk of the remaining 24% of India's grape production. India exported about 1,93,691 tons grapes worth Rs. 2176.87 crore (APEDA 2020).

In India, double pruning and single cropping pattern is followed with a state of art production practices to produce locally and globally competitive grapes. However, fluctuating vagaries of nature, emergence of new pests and diseases, untimely rains, hailstorms, drought and salinity stress have brought to the fore a global conundrum in viticulture. The mission of year round grape production in India had been threatened by dynamic regulatory norms in the global market. Simultaneously, the razor edge technology comprising of nano encapsulated pheromones and fertilizers, canopy modulation to suits mechanization, plant-based sensors, use of bio-chips amalgamated with Artificial Intelligence and robotics, nutraceutical and secondary viticulture have encouraged the scientists and academia to tread the uncharted path of development. This necessitates a dedicated platform for showcasing the new ideas, innovation and review of old ones by the research workers in grapes.

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the Society for Advancement of Viticulture and Enology (SAVE) is set to publish the inaugural issue of the journal "Grape Insight". I hope that the journal will provide opportunities to all stakeholders of grapes supply and value chain to exchange scientific knowledge, experience, policies and ideas for the development of viticulture in India.

I wish the journal a great success.

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(Himanshu Pathak)