Strategic Development of Varietal Vineyards in the Czech Republic

SEDLO Jiří, TOMŠÍK Pavel, CHLÁDKOVÁ Helena, GURSKÁ Sylvie

Mendel University in Brno, Winegrower Association of the Czech Republic - CZ
jiri.sedlo@svcr.cz, tomsik@mendelu.cz, chlad@mendelu.cz, sylvie.gurska@mendelu.cz

The paper describes strategic changes in the structure of grapevine (Vitis vinifera L.) varieties grown in the Czech Republic. In 2004-2005, (i.e. after the admission of the Czech Republic into the EU) expenditures associated with restructurisation and transformation of vineyards amounted for CZK 25.423 thousand. The authors examine the development taking place in this domain within the last 50 years (i.e. from 1960 to 2010) and pay detailed attention to the period of 1989 to 2010. The paper analyses reasons of these changes and tries to describe the future development expected after 2010. The current production potential of the Czech Republic is 19,633.45 hectares of vineyards. For the time being, there are in average 1.07 wine growers per hectare of vineyards.

As compared with 1960, the acreage of vineyards has doubled up and the number of the most frequent varieties has also increased. Within the period of 1989 - 1990, four varieties (i.e. Müller Thurgau, Green Veltliner, Italian Riesling and Sankt Laurent) occupied more than 60% of the total vineyards area in the Czech Republic, whereas at present there are altogether 8 varieties (Müller Thurgau, Green Veltliner, Italian Riesling, Rhein Riesling, Sauvignon, Sankt Laurent, Blaufrankish, and Zweigeltrebe) at the nearly the same acreage.

As far as the percentages of Müller Thurgau, Green Veltliner, Italian Riesling and Sankt Laurent varieties is concerned, it is anticipated that their acreages will further decrease, whereas those of Rhein Riesling, Sauvignon, Blaufrankish and Zweigeltrebe are expected to grow. The industry is under pressure of all Porter’s five forces of competition from external sources.

Keywords: Strategy; structure; attractiveness; trends; grapevine varieties; development; popularity of varieties; vineyard area