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Biodiversity in the Vineyard as a Positive Factor for Tourism **Enric BARTRA, J. ROCHARD**

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Abstract

The main objective of the project Life + Biodivine was to analyze and improve the biodiversity in vineyard landscapes. The project has contributed to the preservation of biodiversity by the enhancement of sustainable practices and establishment, recovery and management of vineyard landscape. In Catalonia, the project involved 16 growers who incorporated or improved their landscape management with studies of fauna, flora, landscape elements and many used the actions for informative sessions with increasing interest for visitors: enotourism and ecotourism.

Introduction

The main actions of the Life+ Biodivine project were:

- evaluation of the biodiversity linked to the vineyard landscapes,
- improvement of management of landscape elements to favor biodiversity,

The project was developed in several vineyard areas with local partners:

- Bordeaux, Limoux, Costières de Nîmes and Bourgogne in France,
- Rioja and Penedes in Spain,
- Alto Douro in Portugal.

Methods

The project involved three years of studies of landscape elements, biodiversity richness: arthropods, birds, mammals, plants, soil activity and recommendations to growers in applying cover crops, hedges, stone walls, non chemical protection, and non cultivated fallows. It included as well dissemination actions with growers, students and general public open door sessions.

Results

Using a common protocol, it was possible to highlight a rich biodiversity living in the vineyard areas landscapes such as creeks, forests and open spaces. In the Penedes area, studying 20 vineyard sites and neighboring area, there were registered 98 bird species, 11 bats, 12 other mammals, 3 fish, 5 amphibian, 8 reptiles, 49 plants, 450 morpho species of arthropods (from 22740 individuals) and several types of yeast isolated from the grapes.

The improvement actions, following the project proposals were:

- more than 25 ha of vineyards with cover crops.
- Planting more than 3 km of local vegetation on the hedges of the vineyard plots.
- Building or renewal of more than 100 m of dry stone walls.
- Enlargement of the surface of control of grape moth *Lobesia botrana* with pheromones.
- Keeping more than 7 ha of fallows: areas not cultivated or with diverse vegetation.

Most environmental respectful practices can be shown to the visitors and reflect the winery values. Many wineries participating on the project are offering visits, videos, or activities such photography contests centred in these actions and have had a remarkable success.

The project Life+ Biodivine has been founded partially by the Life+ program aimed to promote actions to preserve nature, especially innovative actions and demonstration projects in line with the environment European policy. Partners of the Biodivine project are mostly research centres, associations or institutes who work for the innovation and development of the grape and wine sector.

Conclusions

Improvement of the management methods in vineyard landscape can be made with cover crops, diverse hedges, stone walls, non chemical protection and not cultivated fallows depending on vineyard sites. These methods are positive towards the improvement of biodiversity and may be regarded as positive as well by tourists and prospective visitors. Many wineries participating in the project are already offering visits oriented to the environment respect practices.