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Profitability Factors of Grape Production in the Czech Republic

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The paper analyses relations between the profitability of viticulture on one hand and sugar content and yield of grapes in the Czech viticulture in 1995 – 2014 on the other hand. The aim of this paper is to find out what has influenced the profitability of viticulture in Czech Republic in the last twenty years.

It has been very often discussed if it is possible to get high content of sugar (or at least higher than average) with high yield of grapes. Another question targets the profitability of production for sale. There are two main ways how to figure it out. One way is the micro assessment (repeatable experiments or experiments performed multiple times) and the second one is the macro assessment - collection of average data of the observed and evaluated area. Here the macro assessment, the statistical one, was chosen. Specifically, the Czech Republic during the years 1995 – 2014 was evaluated. This series of 20 years comes from the annual investigation of the members of Winegrowers union in Czech Republic (Svaz vinařů České republiky). The grape prices in Czech Republic are usually set in the relation to the harvest and sugar content.

From the 20-years statistic in CR it is obvious that the profitability of grape production for the purpose of sale is not made with achieved sugar content but the quantity (yield of grapes). The yield should be between 5.5 to 7 t/ha with the average sugar content of 18.5 to 21 °NM (11.0 to 12.5 % vol. of potential alcohol). The yield of grapes above 6 t/ha does not increase the profitability.

Keywords: profitability, grape production, sugar content, yield