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Impacts of climate change on the grape production in Tokaj wine region

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Changes in the climate of the past 100 years of measurements made in the Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology, Tokaj is well demonstrated. Increase in temperature itself does not mean a big change, but weather changes related to it can basically determine the conditions of grape and wine production. Examining the extremes of the vintages since 2000 brought new records of temperature, rainfall, plant health, etc. One of the tasks of our institute is to prepare for the inevitable changes with selecting clones and rootstocks which are able to tolerate extreme circumstances; meanwhile they meet the quality requirements as well. We analyzed the air temperature conditions of the last 100 years in the Tokaj wine region. Drought tolerance of some rootstock varieties and Furmint clones, susceptibility to bunch rot contamination of Furmint clones in humid weather conditions were examined in field experiments. On the basis of these results we try to suggest application of Furmint clones and rootstocks varieties adapting to the changing climate.

Biography

Zoltán Bihari has completed his PhD from Debrecen University, Hungary. He taught 15 years in the University of Debrecen. Currently, he is the Director of Research Institute for Viticulture and Oenology, Tokaj, Hungary.

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