

## Early Grapes: A High Value Crop for Resource-Poor Farmers

### Challenge:



Grapes (cv. Perlette) at NARC

- Grape is one of the most remunerative summer fruit crops, native to warm & temperate zone including mountainous and sub-mountainous areas which are highly suitable for its cultivation.
- In 1980s, grapes were used to be grown on area of ....ha with a total production of .....tonnes in
- Monsoon rain during summer results in fungal diseases and rotting of berries
- Challenge was to:
  - select varieties which could escape the summer rain and mature before the monsoon season and
  - introduce a crop like grapes for resource poor farmers of potohar region.

### Intervention:

- In 1988-89 under Italian project (FVOP), 5 exotic grape cultivars were acquired and planted at NARC for evaluation.
- In 1992-93, PARC selected three early maturity varieties for commercial production.
- Since 1995, PARC undertook the task of commercial production of these early maturing varieties for Pothwar.

### Outcomes:

- PARC has released three early maturing varieties namely; Flame Seedless, King's Ruby and Perlette. These can be harvested by the end of June, escaping the monsoon rain damage. The early crop has given the higher returns to the farmers.
- PARC developed a complete package for production technology which includes: availability of plants, planting methods (plant to plant 2.6m, row to row 3.3m), trellising and training on two parallel wires attached with the pole along with each plant (cane system), punning at dormant stage, bunch thinning at flowering stage leaving 25 healthy bunches per plant, irrigation at weekly intervals, fertilization N:P:K (1:1:1) during mid February, and harvesting at fully ripe stage.
- As a result of PARC interventions, these cultivars are being presently grown on large scale in Bahawalpur, Bakhar, Layyah and Pothwar region and area & production have increased to the tune of 15,000 hectares and 65,000 tones, respectively.

### Way Forward:

- Scale up production of planting material of grapes through public-private partnership to ensure true to type and certified nursery plants



Grapes (cv. King's Ruby) at NARC



Grapes vineyard