



PRESS RELEASE

OIV enlargement reaches the Far East

India joins the OIV as its 45th Member State

- ***The 44 OIV Member Countries unanimously voted in favour of India's entrance in the OIV***
- ***His Excellency Ranjan Mathai, India's Ambassador to France, credited as a key person for promoting the adhesion to OIV***
- ***Vineyard surface in India grew by 66% between 1998 and 2008 covering some 71.400 hectares, for a table grape production of 15.940 quintals***

Paris (France), 11th July 2011

As of 12th July 2011, the Republic of India is the 45th Member Country of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), the main intergovernmental scientific and technical organisation with an internationally recognised competence in the domains of vine, wine and other vine-derived products.

Indian authorities, together with grape growers and winemakers, decided six months ago to make their voice heard worldwide in the wine sector, asking for OIV membership. With a vineyard surface that grew spectacularly by 66% between 1998 and 2008, reaching an extent of some 71.400 hectares, the second most populous country in the world could not receive but an affirmative answer from the 44 OIV Member Countries.

Indian ambassador to France, Mr. Ranjan Mathai, who will be as of 1st August India's Foreign Secretary, has to be credited for tirelessly promoting an agreement from both sides. "One of the most significant features of the whole process is that OIV Member Countries voted unanimously 'yes' to India's candidature, thanks to the hard work developed by key authorities such as Mr. Mathai", stated Mr. Federico Castellucci, OIV Director General.

As of today, the 71,400 hectares of Indian vineyard are mainly oriented towards production of table grape, which in 2008 reached some 15.940 quintals. The peculiar Indian climate – warm and wet all-year long- even allows Indian grape growers to do the harvest twice a year in some areas. India's vineyards are mainly located in three regions: Maharashtra (west coast), Bangalore (south) and Himachal (north).

Note for the editors:

The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), which replaced the pre-existing International Vine and Wine Office, was established by the Agreement of 3 April 2001. As from June 20, 2011, the OIV is made up of 44 member states.

The OIV is defined as an intergovernmental organisation of a scientific and technical nature or recognised competence for its works concerning vines, wine, wine-based beverages, table grapes, raisins and other vine-based products.

In the framework of its competence, the objectives of the OIV shall be as follows:

- a) to inform its members of measures whereby the concerns of producers, consumers and other players in the vine and wine products sector may be taken into consideration;
- b) to assist other international organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, especially those which carry out standardisation activities;
- c) to contribute to international harmonisation of existing practices and standards and, as necessary, to the preparation of new international standards in order to improve the conditions for producing and marketing vine and wine products, and to help ensure that the interests of consumers are taken into account.

[To know more about the OIV](#)

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