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Decree on Wine Production

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DECREE ON WINE PRODUCTION -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 21 Sept 51

The Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (CC of BCP) point out that in spite of the favorable soil and climatic conditions the development of viticulture in Bulgaria is lagging. The primary reason for this is that until 9 Sept 44 viticulture in Bulgaria was scattered about on a small scale and was the object of unrestrained capitalist exploitation.

The uprooting of vineyards to use land for planting grain and seed-oil crops, the restricted planting of new vineyards by private farmers, the frosts in 1947, 1949 and 1950 and the consecutive droughts in the country during the last 4 to 5 years has caused the area planted with vineyards to decrease each year.

A large part of the existing vineyards are old and worn out and should be replaced by new ones. The agrotechnique of cultivating vineyards is still at a low level. The cultivation and turning of the soil is not performed everywhere. The fight against diseases and pests, especially against the peronospora, is not pursued regularly and adequately, and therefore, the grape crops sustain considerable loss. Mechanized cultivation of vineyards has not been introduced.

The grape crop is not sufficient for totally satisfying the needs of the working people for this exceptionally wholesome food.

The scientific and research institutes do not work on the problems which face Bulgarian viticulture. The new vineyards are not being planted with selected high-grade vines.

Wine is produced under very inadequate conditions.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry have not taken the necessary measures to train personnel for viticulture and wine production, although there is a great need for such men.

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substituting new vines for the rotten ones in existing vineyards.

The placing of rotten vines with new ones must be completed by the end of 1955; in 1953 30 percent of the rotten vines should be replaced and 35 percent should be replaced annually in 1954 and 1955.

The Ministry of Agriculture is required to include in its yearly plans the necessary plants for replanting vineyards.

13. The Ministry of Agriculture and the People's Soviets are required to organize and carry out the regrafting of frost-bitten, barren and low-grade vines in vineyards.

The uprooting of vineyards can be done only with a written order from the agriculture section of the respective okoliya People's Soviet.

Okrug, okoliya and local people's soviets and the okrug and okoliya committees and primary organizations of the BCP are required to extend any kind of aid necessary to state farms and farm workers' cooperatives in the planting of new vineyards and in the improvement of existing ones.

15. The Ministry of Agriculture is required to:

(a) train 50 junior viticulture technicians annually in the viticultural and wine production schools at Pleven and Perushtitsa;

(b) organize in okrug and okoliya centers, in accordance with the yearly plans, 45-day courses for training viticulture technicians of state farms and farm workers' cooperatives;

(c) organize, by the end of February, annual courses at okoliya people's soviets, for training pruners, brigade members and group leaders from the viticultural brigades of farm workers' cooperatives.

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With the achievement of such enormous successes in the building of farm workers' cooperatives excellent conditions are created for organizing an industrial viticulture by planting large areas with high-grade varieties of table and wine grapes. Mechanized cultivation and advanced agricultural techniques can be applied in these areas

Since the Bulgarian State Alcohol Monopoly is in complete charge of processing the grape crop, conditions are in existence for enlarging and rationalizing the grape-processing industry and for setting Bulgarian wine production on a solid, scientific and technological basis for the production of high-grade alcoholic beverages.

In order to achieve a speedy and proper development of viticulture and wine production, to increase the production of grapes and grape products and to satisfy the needs of the nation's working people and of export demands, the Council of Ministers and the CC of the BCP decree the following:

I. VITICULTURE

1. It is required of the Ministry of Agriculture to organize the planting of one million decares with new industrial type vines, of which 650,000 decares will be planted with wine grapes and 350,000 decares with table grape varieties.

The planting of the new industrial vines should be done primarily on state farms and farm workers' cooperatives.

2. The "Vinprom" (Wine Industry) State Economic Enterprise must sign contracts with state farms and farm workers' cooperatives and with the general cooperatives for the cultivation of cuttings-- smooth planting material -- and root-grafted vines of the wine-grape varieties, and with state farms and farm workers' cooper-

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atives for planting industrial type vines and wine-grape varieties. It should also determine the proportion of selected vines and provide the necessary root-grafted vines, according to the yearly plans.

3. The Central Cooperative Federation must sign contracts with state farms, farm workers' cooperatives and the general cooperatives for the production and distribution of cuttings and root-grafted vines of table-grape varieties, in accordance with the yearly plans.

4. The planting of new vineyards should be done yearly, within a period of 10 years, as follows:

Year	Wine Varieties in Decares		Total Wine Varieties in Decares	Table Varieties in Decares grafted vines	Total Vines of Wine and Table Varieties in Decares
	non-grafted vines	grafted vines			
1951	25,000	17,600	42,600	8,400	51,000
1952	20,000	20,000	40,000	6,000	46,000
1953	25,000	10,000	35,000	20,000	55,000
1954	30,000	15,000	45,000	20,000	65,000
1955	35,000	15,000	50,000	30,000	80,000
1956	-	60,000	60,000	35,000	95,000
1957	-	70,000	70,000	45,000	115,000
1958	-	100,000	100,000	55,000	155,000
1959	-	100,000	100,000	60,000	160,000
1960	-	107,400	107,400	70,600	178,000
Total	132,000	515,000	650,000	350,000	1,000,000

The planting of the new industrial wine and table grapes should be done in the typical viticultural rayons primarily in the following okoliyas: Petrich, Sandanski, Blagoevgrad, Gotse

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Delchev, Stanke Kimitrov, Vratsa, Mikhaylovgrad, Berkovitsa, Vidin, Lom, Oryakhovo, Byala Siatina, Lukovit, Pleven, Lovech, Sevlievo, Nikopol, Svishtov, Pavlikeni, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Turnovo, Popovo, Ruse, Turgovishte, Preslav, Kolarovgrad, Stalin, Pomorie, Burgas, Aytos, Karnobat, Kotel, Yambol, Sliven, Nova Zagora, Stara Zagora, Chirpan, Plovdiv, Karlovo, Asenovgrad and Pazardzhik.

The new industrial vineyards should be planted in the typical viticultural localities, to be determined by a commission composed of the following: representatives of the respective okoliya People's Soviet. The protocols of the commissions must be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

5. The different varieties of grapes must be planted in each okoliya as follows:

(a) broad Melnik vine and "deratsuda" -- in Petrich, Sandanski, and Gotse Delchev okoliyas;

(b) "gunza" -- in Vidin, Lukovit, Pleven, Lovech, Svishtov, Pavlikeni, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Sevlievo, Turnovo and Nikopol Okoliyas;

(c) "mavrud" -- in Plovdiv, Asenovgrad, Pazardzhik and Chirpan okoliyas;

(d) "zarchin" -- in Berkovitsa, Mikhaylovgrad, Vratsa, Blagoevgrad, Stanke Dimitrov, Vidin, Pleven, Svishtov and Sliven okoliyas;

(e) "pamid" -- Pazardzhik, Berkovitsa, Mikhaylovgrad, Vratsa, Stanke Dimitrov, Blagoevgrad and Plovdiv okoliyas;

(f) red muscat -- in Karlovo, Karnobat, Kotel, Aytos, Pomorie, Burgas, Nova Zagora, Sliven, Yambol and Stalin okoliyas;

(g) "tamyanika" -- in Stara Zagora, Chirpan, Pazardzhik, Petrich, and Sandanski okoliyas;

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(h) "dimyat" -- In Pomorie, Burgas, Preslav, Stalin, Chirpan, Stara Zagora, Nova Zagora, Kolarovgrad, Ruse, Turgovishte, Plovdiv, Turnovo, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Pavlikeni, Sliven, Aytos and Popovo okoliyas;

(i) "kokorko" -- in Stalin, Karnobat, Kotel, Karlovo and Gorna Oryakhovitsa okoliyas;

(j) "vinenka" -- in Karnobat, Kotel, Sliven and Karlovo okoliyas;

(k) "bolgar" -- in Pleven, Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, Svishtov, Vidin, Lom, Oryakhovo, Byala Slatina, Ruse, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Pavlikeni, Turnovo, Preslav, Chirpan, Turgovishte, Nikopol and Popovo okoliyas;

(l) "chaush" -- in Plovdiv, Chirpan, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Vidin, Pleven, Svishtov, Asenovgrad and Stara Zagora okoliyas;

(m) Italian Riesling, Uni-Blanc, Aligote, Pinot-noir, Cabernet and Sauvignon -- in Stalin, Preslav, Karnobat, Kotel, Karlovo, Sliven and Pomorie okoliyas;

(n) Perle du Ksaba, Joanen, Chasla Dore and other early varieties -- around the large industrial and summer resort centers;

(o) seedless grapes -- in Petrich, Sandanski, Stara Zagora, Nova Zagora and Chirpan okoliyas.

6. Planting original varieties of vines and varieties not specified in the present decree can be done only by permission of the Ministry of Agriculture.

7. In order to assure the planting of new vineyards the Ministry of Agriculture and the okrug and okoliya People's Soviets are required to do the following:

(a) Organize the selection of the different varieties so

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that the sprouts which are most productive and give the highest-grade grapes can be found. The sprouts which have been chosen in this way should be preserved for grafting and for direct planting in sandy soil.

Officials of the "Vinprom" Enterprise should also participate in choosing the most suitable sprouts.

(b) Plan the planting, of 12,000 decares of new vine sprouts, on state farms and farm workers' cooperatives in the industrial viticultural rayons to continue until the end of 1952.

(c) Organize the production and the supply of state farms and farm workers' cooperatives with enough sprouts for planting new industrial vineyards according to the yearly plans, by assuring a supply of from 400 to 420 vine sprouts per decare.

The Ministry of Agriculture is required to prepare, by the end of 1951, a new set of rules for the supervision and production of vine sprouts for planting. The Ministry of Agriculture has jurisdiction over the production of planting vines.

(d) Organize the planting of new industrial vineyards, in accordance with the yearly plans;

(e) Create enough nursery vineyards on state farms and farm workers' cooperatives by the end of 1960 to test 5,000 decares of table-grape varieties, 10,000 decares of wine-grape varieties and 5,000 decares of Soviet, French and other foreign and domestic varieties of grapes;

(f) Complete, by the end of 1952, the plotting of the land of farm workers' cooperatives in the localities where industrial vineyards are planted.

8. The Ministry of Forests is required to deliver, on a yearly contractual basis, the necessary number of poles for supporting the grape vines. The order must be submitted by the Central

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Cooperative Federation before the end of September of the preceding year.

9. In accordance with Decree 1733 of the Council of Ministers of 1950, the Bulgarian Investment Bank is required to grant loans to farm workers' cooperatives which plant new industrial vineyards, and, in accordance with the present decree, as follows: up to 15,000 leva for each decare of vineyard and up to 8,000 leva for each decare of nursery vineyard. The loan is granted for a period of 10 years. During the first 3 years only the interest is paid; the payment of the loan itself takes place during the last 7 years.

The financing of state farms for vineyard planting should be done in the same manner as for state enterprises -- out of un-designated capital investment funds.

10. The Bulgarian National Bank is required to grant short term loans (up to a year) to farm workers' cooperatives which have vineyards, nursery vineyards and graft-stock plots for meeting the expenses of their cultivation, for procuring poles, bast, wire, nails, plumbs, scissors, knives, saw, lumber for making crates, vine cuttings, rods for grafting, moss and wood shavings.

11. The Ministry of Agriculture and the People's Soviets are required to:

- (a) each year organize the obligatory autumn deep plowing and turning of the vineyards;
- (b) organize and carry out a constant and well-timed fight against diseases and pests in the vineyards;
- (c) organize regular cultivation and mulching of the soil with manure and mineral fertilizers.

12. The Ministry of Agriculture and the People's Soviets are required to prepare concrete plans, by the end of 1952, for

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16. The "Georgi Dimitrov" Agricultural Academy at Sofia is annually required to train 25 agronomists, specialized in viticulture. The "Vasil Kolarov" Superior Agricultural Institute at Plovdiv must annually train 50 agronomists, specialized in viticulture and fruit growing.

17. The Ministry of Agriculture is allowed to send, during 1951 and 1952, three agronomists to specialize in the study of viticulture in the Soviet Union.

II. WINE PRODUCTION

18. "Spirten Monopol" (Alcohol Monopoly) State Economic Enterprise is renamed the "Vinarska Promishlenost" (Wine Industry) State Economic Enterprise, or abbreviated the "Vinprom" DSP, for the production of wines and other alcoholic beverages, wine distillate, sweetened alcoholic beverages, and other alcoholic products for wholesale trade.

19. It is required of the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry -- the "Vinprom" enterprise, to plan construct and furnish the following:

(a) new wine production cellars with a capacity of 120 million liters by the end of 1960;

(b) modern storage cellars with a capacity of 20 million liters -- 10 million liters at Sofia, 5 million liters at Plovdiv and 5 million liters at Burgas;

(c) 4 modern distilleries in the large wine distillate production centers -- 2 in southern and 2 in northern Bulgaria -- by the end of 1960;

(d) 30 sheds at the wine cellars, distilleries and storage cellars for storing the transporting barrels, cases and other materials -- by the end of 1960;

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(e) 30 cooling installations for the large wine cellars, by the end of 1954, in order to eliminate the danger of high temperature during the fermentation period;

(f) two modern distilleries by the end of 1955 -- one in southern and one in northern Bulgaria for processing the wine mud and residue into brandy, calcium tartrate, "evantov" ether, et cetera;

(g) to set and mount 100 dephlegmators for the calender (presses) and the brandy cauldrons.

20. It is required of the "Vinprom" Enterprise to:

(a) store at the Sofia storage cellar a bottled collection of the different types of wine for sweetening their contents;

(b) organize and furnish the Sofia wine storage cellar with a section for the production of Bulgarian champagne by 1953;

(c) create a section in the Sofia wine storage cellar for the production of fruit and herb liqueurs by 1960;

(d) organize the production of natural Bulgarian cognac by 1952;

(e) create, at the Sofia wine storage cellar, a section for fruit wines -- cider, et cetera;

(f) construct premises for aging wine distillate, liqueurs, wines, brandies and other beverages at the cellars at Pomorie, Karlovo and Troyan. From the highest grade wines, produced by the grape varieties "gumza", "mavrüd", "broad Melnik vine", "muscat" and "dimyat" a total of 1,500 to 2,000 tons of wine should be put aside each year for aging, to insure that after 1954 each year the indicated quantities of aged wines will be put on the market;

(g) improve the quality of brandies by the usage of calenders;

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(h) organize the total utilization of by-products and waste in wine production to obtain calcium tartrate, "evantov" ether, et cetera:

21. The Ministry of Supply and Food Industry is required to submit to the Council of Ministers, within a month, a proposal for measures to be taken to improve the quality of popular wine brands.

22. The Ministry of Supply and Food Industry is required to organize 3-month courses in 1952 and 1953 for training 100 persons as wine production technicians.

The Ministry of Supply and Food Industry is permitted to ask for three specialists in wine production from the Soviet Union in 1952, namely, one specialist in the technology of distilled wines, wine distillate and cognac, one specialist in the technology of bubbling wines and champagne and one specialist in the technology of making sweet wines.

23. The Artisan Associations Federation is required to organize, by the end of 1951 at Pleven and at Sofia, repair shops for wine production machinery and equipment.

24. The Ministry of Agriculture is required to allow the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry to freely use, after the termination of the 1951 school year, the agricultural trade schools at Syngulare, Karnobat Okoliya, and at Pavlikeni for training personnel in wine production. The schools are to be turned over in their entirety, with the farms and all school and other buildings, inventories and appliances.

25. The Ministries of Agriculture and Supply and Food Industry are required to publish a periodical on wine production and viticulture, beginning in 1952.

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26. The "Vasil Kolarov" Superior Agricultural Institute at Plovdiv is required to train annually 15 engineer-technologists -- specialists in wine production. For that purpose a number of the students should start specializing in that field at once, so that the first group can graduate in 1953.

27. The Ministry of Industry will turn over, gratuitously, through its subordinate, the "Khimicheska Industriya" (Chemical Industry) State Industrial Enterprise, to the "Vinprom" Enterprise, which is subordinate to the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry, the "Vinkis" State Industrial Enterprise at Reka Devnya, Stalin Okoliya.

28. The wine cellar at Chirpan, with all its inventory and equipment, property of the Bulgarian National Bank, is to be turned over, gratuitously, to the "Vinprom" Enterprise.

III. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

29. The Viticultural-Wine Production Research Institute at Pleven, the Fruit-Growing Experimental Station at Plovdiv and the Experimental Station for Southern Cultures at Pomorie are enlarged so that they can cope with the following: scientific study of the problems connected with increasing vineyards in the country and the preservation of existing and newly planted vineyards and applying theory in cultivation to obtain greater yields and better grade products. The Viticultural-Wine Research Institute at Pleven shall establish, by 1 Jan 52, the following sections and experimental fields:

- (a) ampelography, selection and testing of varieties;
- (b) agricultural techniques and physiology;
- (c) mechanization;

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- (d) planning and economics;
- (e) plant protection;
- (f) wine micro-biology;
- (g) chemistry and wine technology;
- (h) administrative section;
- (i) an experimental field in Novo Selo, Vidin okoliya;
- (j) an experimental field at Stalin;
- (k) an experimental field at Sandanski.

At the above-named experimental fields, experimental vineyards and laboratories with an adequate number of technical personnel should be established by the end of 1954.

30. The "G. Dimitrov" Agricultural Academy at Sofia and the "V Kolarov" Superior Agricultural Institute at Plovdiv are required to accept and train 10 agronomists by the end of 1952.

31. The Ministry of Agriculture must do the following:

(a) select suitable persons and send them to superior schools for training;

(b) assure the supply of the Viticultural-Wine Production Research Institute in 1952 with reference books, chemicals, laboratory glassware, apparatus, appliances, et cetera, which are necessary for the theoretical and practical work at the Institute and the experimental fields;

(c) assure up to 800 decares of land to the Institute for experimental vineyards and 100 decares for the experimental fields.

32. The Ministry of Agriculture must assure the performance of the following scientific agrotechnical studies in the field of viticulture by the end of 1955:

(a) by individual selection of sprouts from the existing varieties of vines having the highest fertility and the best grapes;

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(b) cross-breed varieties to create hybrids with high-grade grapes and high fertility;

(c) determine the best time and manner for pruning the most important table and wine varieties of vines;

(d) determine the best time and manner for the green pruning of industrial vines and of finves which have been hit by hail and frost;

(e) determine the most appropriate agricultural technique of grafting, stratification and rooting in the production of root-grafted vines;

(f) examine the effect of natural and mineral fertilizers on the development and yield of vines and the quality of the grapes and to determine the manner, time and amount of fertilizers which should be used on vineyards.

The Ministry of Agriculture is required, with an order and by name, to assign tasks to each of the scientists.

33. To facilitate the solution of viticultural problems and their application in practice, the wine section at the Central Agricultural Research Institute at Sofia is to be turned over gratuitously on 1 Jan 52 to the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry. The wine section will be transformed into a Scientific Research and Control Institute for wine production. The apparatus and the equipment are turned over gratuitously according to an agreement reached between the Ministries of Agriculture and Supply and Food Industry.

The Institute will have the following sections:

- (a) table wine technology;
- (b) special wine technology;
- (c) wine distillate, cognac, liqueur, and sweetened alcoholic beverage technology;

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- (d) wine micro-biology;
- (e) by-product technology in wine production;
- (f) non-alcoholic grape and fruit beverages;
- (g) control of wines and alcoholic beverages.

34. The Institute for Wine Production will have to solve the following problems by the end of 1955:

(a) make a complete technological study of the industrial wine grape varieties "pamid", "Gumza", broad Melnik vine, "zarchin", "tamyanka", "kokorko", "damyat", red muscat, and "vinenka", so that high-grade popular, table, distillate, sweetened and bubbling wines can be produced from them. The responsible official should be the Director of the Institute.

(b) draw up and determine methods for producing and aging popular Bulgarian sweetened wines;

(c) determine the natural Bulgarian cognac type and establish the ways and means for its rapid aging;

(d) determine the possibilities and the methods for producing bubbling wines and champagne;

(e) find yeast from Bulgarian herbs for vermouth production;

(f) determine the ways for producing fruit and herb liqueurs;

(g) gather the best varieties of ferments to be used in beverage production.

(h) determine the most rational methods for the production of calcium tartrate, calcium bitartrate and "evantov" ether;

(i) make complete chemical and physico-chemical analysis of wines and alcoholic beverage to aid in controlling and improving production;

(j) exercise regular control over wines and alcoholic beverages;

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(k) set up laboratories for elementary analysis at all large wine cellars.

After the establishment of the Institute of Wine Production, the Minister of Supply and Food Industry should assign by order and by name the tasks which should be assumed by each scientist.

35. The scientific workers from the Scientific Research Control Institute for Wine Production, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry, have the same rights and privileges as the scientific workers under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

36. It is required of the Ministry of Supply and Food Industry to constitute a Central Degustation Commission, to evaluate the quality and determine the different types of wines.

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