Wine Track 2016: traceability and authenticity in vitiviniculture

Today, food safety, guarantees of authenticity and origin and the range of healthy agri-food products on offer are three of the main consumer concerns in the vitivinicultural sector. For these reasons, traceability has become a useful and necessary tool for safeguarding the proper functioning and knowledge of the process of production, development and marketing of wine, grapes and all other products of vitivinicultural origin.

The objective of Wine Track was to create a suitable environment in which to disseminate and discuss the current situation with regard to the global context of the traceability of grapevines and wine, with the vitivinicultural sector. During the conference, different aspects were addressed – such as the need to guarantee the authenticity and origin (from the start to the end of the process of production, development and marketing), both from a standardisation and market perspective, as well as from a technical and scientific one – through contributions making it possible to understand and identify the most appropriate procedures and methods for controlling traceability.

This year was the first time that the Wine Track conference on traceability was celebrated in Spain, and the first time the conference has dealt with traceability in viticulture. OIV was represented by Vicente Sotés Ruiz, the Organisation's Vice-President, and Mario de la Fuente Lloreda, Head of the Viticulture Unit, who also gave a presentation.

For the OIV, ensuring traceability is a priority within the vitivinicultural sector. This is evidenced by its adoption of Resolution OIV CST 1/2007 on 'Traceability guidelines in the vitivinicultural sector', within which general guidelines are given on the application of traceability systems in our sector.

In relation to viticulture, Mario de la Fuente stated that traceability in this area is key, given that it is the first point of control for the entire production chain of the vitivinicultural sector. This viticultural traceability has critical control points (collections and banks of varieties, nurseries, multiplication fields, customs facilities, etc.) that should be controlled in both senses to assure the quality of the final product.

This is why the Genetic Resources and Vine Selection (GENET) and Vine Protection and Viticultural Techniques (PROTEC) working groups are developing two key resolutions with the aim of helping to improve the traceability of viticultural products:

- ✓ **VITI-GENET 14-539.** “OIV guidelines for recognising grapevine collections”. The resolution's main objective is to establish the minimum criteria necessary to standardise existing ampelographic collections (and update the existing OIV directory).
- ✓ **VITI-GENET 14-565**. “OIV recommendations for production, certification and trading of viticultural plant material”. These recommendations are based on genetic (VITI-GENET 565B) and health (VITI-PROTEC 565A) aspects, providing general minimum guidelines for standardising protocols at an international level. Key points such as varietal and sanitary verification; traceability in the vineyard and the labelling of cuttings, grafted or rooted plants, buds and all plant material; control of packaging up to the point of sale and distribution; inspections for certification, etc. will be detailed in both standards. In addition, it will have annexes such as the OIV list of quarantine pests (with useful information from the official organisations of each country in relation to the sanitary requirements for the import/export of viticultural plant material) or an OIV international variety identification protocol (draft resolution).

Finally, it should be noted that other actions have been ongoing over the last few years within the "Viticulture" Commission that may contribute to the management of viticultural traceability. A good example is the updating of the international list of vine varieties and their synonyms and the OIV descriptor list (2009-2012), or the definition of clonal selection processes (VITI 1/1991) and polyclonal selection processes.

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