

Summary of progress during this quarter

Over the January to March quarter the New Zealand wine industry's attention turns to harvesting grapes for the current vintage. For the SB2.0 programme, the focus has been on setting up a new multi-institutional team to deliver the program's objectives. This involved negotiating workplans and science leadership with key research partners, reviewing planned activities with international experts, and building additional research capacity within the Bragato Research Institute.

With winter soon approaching, efforts were made to collect viable plant material, so that research can continue in specialised growth chambers whilst outside the vines enter dormancy. This was supported by our industry grantors, who identified vines showing diverse traits in commercial vineyards and submitted these via the OddVine.co.nz web-app.

Key highlights and achievements

- Subcontracts have been negotiated with key research partners, and science leaders identified.
- A new grapevine improvement laboratory was established by Bragato Research Institute on the Lincoln University campus and a research technician appointed.
- A new DNA sequencer, which will be the most advanced in New Zealand, arrived from the UK and was installed in the grapevine improvement lab to enable rapid screening of new traits.
- Commercial grantors began identifying Sauvignon Blanc diversity in vineyards around New Zealand. This material will be submitted to a central collection for genetic testing and, ultimately, field trials.
- Grapevine material was established in cultures, allowing new vine production and testing to continue throughout the winter.
- Grapes were harvested from a prior trial population of vines produced with the aim of maximising clonal diversity.

Upcoming

- Research teams from participating institutes will meet to outline the coming year's workplans and finalise budgets.
- Planning for the first industry workshop will begin.
- A new trial to identify rootstock with the best traits to complement improved Sauvignon Blanc vines is being detailed.

- Membership of the Technical and Commercial advisory groups will be finalised.

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 82,672	\$ 55,114	\$ 137,786
Programme to date	\$ 129,755	\$ 86,503	\$ 216,259