

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2.0

Public Summary - September 2022

Summary of progress during this quarter

The planned increase in production of new Sauvignon Blanc vines to 5,000 in the second programme year, up from 1,000 in year 1, is on schedule. Both Bragato Research Institute and Plant and Food Research are now working to maximise the growth of the young plantlets ahead of next winter. New staff have joined the BRI's grapevine Improvement team to support the establishment of the young vines in the nursery and identification of novel genetic traits with the potential to improve the resilience, productivity, and sustainability of Sauvignon Blanc viticulture.

Key highlights and achievements

- Three programme positions at BRI were filled with PhD-qualified researchers, bringing skills in plant tissue culture, genetics, and bioinformatics.
- A research subcontract was signed with Lincoln University, including fees and stipend for a doctoral student working to improve the characterisation of genetic diversity in the grapevine population.
- The first set of 800 vines from the programmes' second year of production were delivered.
- Vines with unique traits were identified by industry participants via the OddVine.co.nz project and the first of these have been added to the collection.

Upcoming

- Hundreds of new vines representing new Sauvignon Blanc diversity will be grown from immature plantlets to potted vines in preparation for dormancy in winter 2023.
- A new doctoral student will be appointed to support research into the genetic characterisation of NZ Sauvignon Blanc.
- The bioinformatic challenge of assembling sequence data into reference genomes will begin.
- Work on a database for new vine genetic and physical traits will get underway.
- The rootstock trial will be planted, and a bespoke irrigation system installed to allow future water use efficiency trials.

Investment

Investment period	Industry cash	Industry in-kind	MPI cash	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 198,873	\$ 0	\$ 132,582	\$ 331,456
Programme to date	\$ 679,987	\$ 0	\$ 453,324	\$ 1,133,311