

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2.0

Public Summary - December 2022

Summary of progress during this quarter

Establishing a large population of diverse Sauvignon Blanc vines is the key goal of the first half of this programme. Despite starting at a difficult time in the season, plant production is now ahead of schedule. Over the summer the aim is to grow the new plantlets into strong vines that are well-prepared for winter dormancy. While material is still available, techniques to purify DNA and new sequencing techniques to rapidly identify genetic changes from small leaf samples are being established.

Key highlights and achievements

- Successful meetings of Programme Grantors and the Commercial Advisory Group were held, with member attendance close to 100%. Attendees proved keen to understand and engage with the programme.
- Plant production is still tracking ahead of schedule, with over 4,500 unique plants successfully potted and transferred to glasshouses for further growth.
- New techniques have been used to sequence very long intact sections of the grapevine genome, providing the data needed to assemble a reference genome for NZ's Sauvignon Blanc that will be used to detect unique genetic traits among the new vines.
- A rootstock trial comprising 1,000 vines and 15 different rootstocks has been planted in Marlborough. It is designed to compare the performance of different rootstocks under conditions of reduced water availability.

Upcoming

- Plant production for this season will be completed in the coming quarter, with a goal of 6,000 vines established by winter.
- A draft genome assembly will be prepared for Sauvignon Blanc. Comparing the DNA of new vines with this assembly will allow unique genetic changes to be identified before the plants are mature enough to display them.
- Technical reports for individual projects will be submitted, so that they can be reviewed and discussed with the Programme's Technical Advisory Group.

Investment

Investment period	Industry cash	Industry in-kind	MPI cash	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 261,483	\$ 71,823	\$ 174,322	\$ 435,806
Programme to date	\$ 935,747	\$ 71,823	\$ 623,831	\$ 1,559,578