

SAUVIGNON BLANC 2.0

Public Summary - December 2023

Summary of progress during this quarter

In November, industry representatives from eighteen grantor companies met at Bragato Research Institute in Blenheim for the second annual Programme Grantors' Workshop. Over an interactive morning of presentations and conversation, the grantors reviewed the programme progress over the past year and discussed the approaches being used to develop and select New Zealand's own future clones.

The arrival of spring has brought the delivery of the first new Sauvignon blanc plantlets. Before the end of the year 1,000 vines were well established in the glasshouse. Each plant has been given a unique identifier and entered into a new online database where records of their growth and development will be collected. For those sufficiently developed, leaf samples have been taken as a source of DNA for genetic sequencing.

In the next quarter, researchers will focus on maximising the number of plants that can be produced throughout the summer, so that genetic selection can begin over the winter months.

Key highlights and achievements

- New Sauvignon blanc plants produced this season have been successfully transferred to the greenhouse and are growing well.
- A bespoke database for storing plant trait and genetic data is now live.
- An updated plant management plan has been established in consultation with members of the wine industry.
- In November, representatives of the Programme grantors met in Blenheim for the second annual Grantors' Workshop.
- The Programme Commercial Advisory Group met to provide input that will guide the development of commercial aspects of the programme.
- Programme researchers discovered how to detect and compare the genetic differences between clones of the same variety, based on the DNA sequence of commercial Sauvignon Blanc varieties.

Upcoming

- New Sauvignon blanc clone production will continue at pace, taking advantage of the growing season.
- DNA from the regenerated Sauvignon blanc plantlets will be sequenced as part of a trial for gene-based selection of new clones.
- A physical leaf-based test for powdery mildew resistance will be developed and tested.

Investment

| Investment period | Industry cash | Industry in-kind | MPI cash | Total investment |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| During this quarter | \$ 153,659 | \$ 15,985 | \$ 113,096 | \$ 282,740 |
| Programme to date | \$ 1,846,868 | \$ 144,602 | \$ 1,327,646 | \$ 3,319,116 |