

NEXT GENERATION VITICULTURE (NGV)

Public Summary - September 2024

Summary of progress during this quarter

This quarter marks the launch of the programme, which was announced by Agriculture Minister Todd McClay and New Zealand Wine on 30 September. Work began setting the programme up between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Bragato Research Institute (BRI) and work has continued on the field trials and winemaking.

2022 – 2024 Pilot study

This programme is building on work already started as a pilot study, funded by BRI. There has been significant investment to date by BRI and industry in pilot trials between 2022 and 2024. The results from these pilot trials have played a pivotal role in providing data, informing the business case and research trial designs which have enabled greater confidence from both industry and government to now invest in the seven-year research programme.

During the conception phase of NGV, preliminary research was initiated to investigate how fundamental viticultural principles could be explored to inform and guide developments towards the step change required for future winegrowing in New Zealand. The NGV pilot provided opportunities to engage with the industry, stimulate interest and get buy-in, test the potential of different training systems, and collect new, non-existing data and information to build the NGV business case.

Project establishment

Activity to establish the partnership commenced in March 2024 under a go-early agreement. Throughout the period the field trials on seven vineyards owned and managed by the co-investors - Cloudy Bay Vineyards, Framingham Wines, Stanley Estate, Constellation Brands New Zealand, Indevin Group, Whitehaven Wine Company and Treasury Wine Estates (Matua), were used to grow vines under the four treatments and wines made from each treatment.

Early results from the trial and work from the pilot study are showing value to industry in plant responses and juice and berry composition.

This period also provided opportunities to engage and interact with the co-investors during group meetings and in-field workshops.

Key highlights and achievements

- The trial was successfully established across a total of seven sites. Some sites have now been monitored over two seasons, including winemaking from all sites and all treatments.
- All data collected from the 2023-24 growing season was collated, cleaned and safely stored in a database.
- Key results were presented to co-investors to maintain their interest and engagement in the project.
- The programme launch was broadly communicated via industry and public media and received a very positive response.

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$ 62,121	\$ 41,414	\$ 103,536
Programme to date	\$ 310,271	\$ 206,848	\$ 517,119