



BRAGATO
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
RANGAHAU KAREPE, WĀINA O AOTEAROA

BRI Research Strategy 2025-2030

The Bragato Research Institute Strategy has been co-designed in partnership with industry. The Strategy provides a framework for guiding future investment aligned with industry-chosen priorities. It has been designed to maximise the value of members' levy contributions, while targeting research that has the greatest potential to deliver meaningful impact for the industry.

AN INDUSTRY VISION

To be globally desired for our distinctive, sustainably crafted, fresh, premium wine by embracing innovation and driving prosperity, while caring for people and our place.

MISSION

Leading quality research and innovation that enables the New Zealand wine industry to thrive.

RESEARCH THEMES

Each of BRI's seven research priority outcomes align with BRI's four research themes: Grapevine Improvement, Vineyard Innovation, Winemaking Innovation, and Sustainable Winegrowing, which ensure research outcomes are directly relevant and contribute to the long-term success of New Zealand's wine industry.

GRAPEVINE IMPROVEMENT	Advancing innovative breeding strategies and partnerships to develop vines that will strengthen industry reputation, sustainability and resilience.
VINEYARD INNOVATION	Driving innovation in the vineyard to continuously improve quality, productivity and sustainability.
WINEMAKING INNOVATION	Enhancing winemaking capabilities through innovation, to support winegrowers in making consistently exceptional wine.
SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING	Supporting winegrowers in their role as guardians of the environment for future generations.

RESEARCH PRIORITY OUTCOMES

The BRI Research Strategy is aligned to seven research priority outcomes that have been co-developed with industry. Each priority targets areas where research can deliver the greatest impact.

Enhanced plant genetic resilience against environmental challenges	Research to develop and select premium vines optimised for future growing conditions. This includes reduced disease and frost susceptibility, improved water use efficiency, and iconic typicity under future climate conditions. It also includes lowering vulnerability to biosecurity threats.
Improved vine productivity and grape quality	Research to ensure New Zealand vineyards are highly productive and efficient while maintaining premium grape quality for our wines. This includes efforts to reduce seasonal variation, disassociate relationships between vineyard yield and wine quality, and improve vineyard longevity.
Advanced vineyard efficiency and agritech adoption	Developing innovative growing systems to improve vineyard profitability and productivity while maintaining or improving wine quality. Where there is still a research knowledge gap to address, this could mean trialing, testing, and validating new technology and machinery (start-ups or new-to-wine) to improve vineyard management effectiveness and efficiency.
Reduced chemical inputs and adoption of biological control solutions	Research that allows winegrowers to achieve sustainability targets by reducing spray applications, while maintaining productivity and quality. This includes vines with enhanced pathogen tolerance, targeted and sustainable novel technologies, systems and models for more efficient disease management, and biological control solutions.
Improved soil health & protecting water quality and supply	Research that delivers management tools to help improve soil organic matter, fertility, water holding capacity and biodiversity. Research that identifies techniques to manage water use more effectively in vineyards and wineries while protecting existing water resources and quality.
Improved grape and wine circularity	Research that adds value to winery and/or vineyard waste streams through reduction of waste and/or the creation of secondary products. Research supporting the Roadmap to Net Zero, e.g. reduction of carbon footprint, or the development of new and improved sustainable packaging solutions.
New innovative wine products	Research that aims to provide winemakers with new winemaking additives, innovative techniques and new technology that will improve wine quality, and/or winery productivity, and retain wine quality through to the consumer. This could encompass research that supports the development of new product streams such as NOLO and DRV, or bulk shipment improvements.

WORK PILLARS

BRI has three overarching work pillars: Research, Knowledge Transfer, and Commercial. Each of these areas has workstreams within them, and have short, medium, and long-term goals for outcomes set against them.

Research	BRI will ensure its research portfolio is aligned to industry-led strategic priorities, to deliver industry outcomes.
Knowledge Transfer	The Knowledge Transfer pillar is based on a two-way exchange: translating science findings into practical applications for industry, while also channelling industry insights back into research. As part of this, BRI will measure adoption and track benefits and impacts, to ensure research delivers value and return on investment for members.
Commercial	BRI offers in-confidence commercial services for members, research collaborators and commercial partners. Revenue from these services is reinvested into research to ensure continued value and impact for the industry.

ASSETS AND CAPABILITY

BRI's Research Winery, Breeding Vineyard, Molecular Laboratory, and additional capabilities, support the delivery of BRI's research and enable BRI to explore additional funding streams.

ASSETS	
Research Winery	Home to the southern hemisphere's most technically-advanced research winery. The Blenheim-based winery allows BRI to partner with industry and other research organisations to set the national research agenda, trial world-first technologies, conduct commercial trials, and connect educators and students to science and industry.
Breeding Vineyard	BRI's dedicated grapevine breeding vineyard supports cutting-edge programmes like Sauvignon Blanc 2.0, housing a unique collection of next-generation Sauvignon Blanc clones along with the germplasm of the National Vine Collection.
Molecular Laboratory	The Lincoln-based BRI Molecular Laboratory allows for advanced DNA testing, sequencing, high throughput imaging and bioinformatics services that support BRI-led and collaborative research programmes, alongside commercial diagnostic and molecular services for the wine industry.
ADDITIONAL CAPABILITIES	
Commercial Trials Unit (CTU)	Conducts objective scientific trials of agrichemical and biological products for regulatory approval required for industry use, partnering with the BRI Research Winery to monitor impact on wine quality. The CTU undertakes agritech proof-of-concept trials to benefit the industry.

FUNDING

BRI has three funding streams: **levy, government, and commercial**. These work in tandem and enable BRI to leverage levy contributions through strategic partnerships and co-investment, thereby extending its reach and meaning it can deliver outcomes beyond what could be achieved through levy funding alone.

