

January - March 2015 - High-performance Manuka Plantations Executive Summary

High Performance Manuka Plantations PGP Programme

Summary of progress during this quarter

- The Partners have carried out preliminary strategic discussions for commercialising the IP that will be generated by the PGP. As a result MRPL and Comvita Limited will undertake initial scoping of opportunities and potential business models with a view to developing Business Plans for sign off by the directors by October 2015. The Business Plans will identify the best pathways for engaging industry and commercial participants to encourage rapid and large scale uptake of mānuka plantations on marginal land and riparian strips.
- Final drafts are being reviewed for two scientific papers, one covering the completed soils trial and the other covering studies on the effects of mānuka genetics on nectar yield and quality.
- All nectar samples collected in the 2014/15 season have been analysed for DHA and total sugar composition.
- Preliminary statistical analysis was completed of a water stress glasshouse trial.

Key highlights and achievements

- The order of flowering of the trial varieties and native mānuka has not changed after 3 years of plantation trials on four sites even though the climate in a given season may cause earlier or later flowering overall. This finding shows that although climate has a large influence on flowering period, the same varieties appear to remain early or late flowering, suggesting (as was thought) that time of flowering is genetically linked.
- Some of the mānuka trial varieties have consistently over three seasons produced nectar with two-times the level of dihydroxyacetone compared with general mānuka growing in the same district
- Under controlled conditions, soil factors influence plant development and flowering when climate conditions are kept constant.
- A PGP Variation Agreement and associated co-investor agreements were completed in early 2015 with the addition of two new co-investors (Landcorp Farming Ltd and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council) and the expansion of the existing PGP work programme. Te Tumu Paeroa has become a shareholder of Manuka Research Partnership (NZ) Limited.

Collaboration with other PGP programmes

- Knowledge gained from analytical techniques developed in PhD studies in the High Performance Mānuka Plantations PGP programme are being applied in the Dairy Value Chain PGP programme.

Upcoming

- A "Manuka and Profitable Marginal Land Use" seminar is planned for 6 May 2015 in Napier, run by Woodnet in partnership with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. The PGP programme will be featured at this seminar.

- “Land Use Opportunities” symposium is planned for 16th and 17th of June 2015 in Rotorua run by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The programme will be featured at the seminar.

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$63,405.00	\$0	\$63,405.00
Programme To Date	\$ 768,541.00	\$505,207.00	\$1,273,748.00