

QUARTERLY PROGRESS SUMMARY: January – March 2018

High Performance Mānuka Plantations PGP Programme

Summary of progress during this quarter

- Results from the trial mānuka plantation sites in 2017/18 are encouraging with some honey samples meeting the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) definition for monofloral mānuka honey.
- Good progress is being made in developing the mānuka plantation modeling tool for scoping the business case for plantation mānuka, with validation now underway.

Key highlights and achievements

- Several honey samples from research hives on the 130 hectare mānuka plantation at Tutira (north of Napier) meet the MPI standard for monofloral mānuka honey. The UMF® grade for these fresh honey samples taken in December 2017 at the end of mānuka flowering, ranged from 4.7 to 10.6. Accredited laboratory projections predict UMF® values for the honey from this trial location of UMF®14 to UMF®28, if the honey were stored. The UMF® grade of the mānuka honey from the plantation is expected to improve as the plantation matures due to less dilution by nectar from other sources with increasing flower density and canopy closure.

Upcoming

- Complete analysis of honey samples from trial sites and wild stands of mānuka, including pollen analysis.
- Continued development and validation of the mānuka plantation modeling tool for plantation mānuka.
- End of programme planning, including communications activities and commercialisation of IP through Manuka Farming New Zealand Ltd services.

Communications and Technology Transfer

- Interviews were held with Radio Live Rural Exchange <http://www.radiolive.co.nz/home/articles/rex/2018/03/farmed-bees-vs-wild-bees-.html> and the National Business Review.

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$41,095	\$31,734	\$72,829
Programme To Date	\$1,507,925	\$1,395,000	\$2,902,925