

The benefits of automation in agriculture.

Automation is far from a new concept – but it has proven key to helping many industries become more productive, efficient and profitable. In agriculture, including vineyards, mechanisation and automation have led to the development and introduction of a whole new era of machines that introduce all manner of efficiencies to the grape harvesting process.



Kallie Roets
WesBank Head of Agriculture

These complex machines cover almost the entire lifespan of a grape - from planting to harvesting, and even to crushing, fermenting and bottling. As with every step in the winemaking process, timing is everything. With the correct equipment you can transform a process that takes weeks into one that takes mere days, not only saving time but also ensuring your produce stays fresher for longer.

Needless to say, introducing automation in certain areas of your vineyard can make a key difference during harvesting season. Many international studies have also been conducted to highlight the financial benefits, which include lowering output costs and driving down unit costs.

Of course, the large capital outlay for acquiring the relevant automated machines, should not be forgotten. That's where WesBank Corporate can help your business grow. With innovative financing solutions, we can help bring higher productivity to your vineyard during harvesting season and beyond.

Additionally, with more than four decades of experience in this field, WesBank Corporate has longstanding agreements with major agriculture equipment manufacturers and suppliers. Not only can these relationships help you source the exact machines you need, but there are also opportunities to benefit from preferential pricing and rebates.

Once you've decided on the assets you require, our experts will assist in analysing your business needs and affordability to help structure a suitable finance package. You'll have the option to make repayments on terms that suit the cash flow of your business, with the choice of making monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annual payments that cover both capital and interest.

To find out more about how WesBank Corporate finance can assist your business, speak to our Corporate finance experts. They will be able to perform a needs analysis and tailor a solution that suits your business and budget.

For more information contact Kallie Roets; WesBank Head of Agriculture at KRoets@wesbank.co.za or call him on (011) 632 5723.

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- 1 Doringbay Sauvignon Blanc 2015 R80** This west coast Sauvignon Blanc delivers typical varietal characteristics. Green peppers and asparagus on the nose, with a striking acidity complemented by crushed shells and spiciness on the palate. It has a lengthy finish that is carried through by the acidity.
- 2 Solara Sauvignon Blanc 2014 R80** An organic Sauvignon Blanc that starts with a delicate nose, peeling off with different flavour profiles as one swirls the wine more. Lots of ripe star fruit and a bit of raisin polish up the edges. Light on the palate, with pockets of bottle-ageing characteristics.
- 3 Bellingham Pinopasso 2014 R55** A lovely berry nose with a lot of ripe, juicy red fruit. The wine has plush tannins and spicy oak. Great wood backbone that is well integrated with the tannins and fruit flavours. Elegant wine and a bargain at this price.