

Foreword

ARS Grape and Wine Industry Workshop July 10-12, 2005

Assessment and Opportunities

A significant first step in fostering a partnership between the U.S. Grape Industry and ARS was the predominant assessment of the Workshop participants.

The Workshop had two objectives – to provide an overview of the current ARS program of research on grape and grape products funded at \$13.5 million, and to provide the Industry with the opportunity to identify, define and prioritize knowledge and technology gaps amendable to scientific research.

These objectives were achieved, and this documents, in as complete form as possible, the presentations, discussions and conclusions of the Workshop. In addition, the Appendices include a list of Workshop Participants, the ARS Grape Research Summaries distributed prior to the Workshop, and an interactive map of ARS grape research locations and contact personnel for each.

The success of this endeavor resides not in the documentation of the Workshop, but in the resultant communication and interaction that it initiated. The Industry is making extraordinary advances in establishing a vision, objectives and research priorities within the framework of the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI). The NGWI document together with the Workshop priorities, provide resources and foundation for a continuing dialogue on knowledge and technology gaps and the means to address them.

Continuation of this dialogue is essential for ARS to ensure that its programs are addressing Industry and stakeholder priorities. One opportunity to sustain the dialogue might be an USDA/ARS annual or biannual conference/workshop to update research progress and accomplishments and provide a forum for stakeholder and clientele response. Such a conference could be held alternately on the east and west coasts. Comments or questions on this concept should be directed to anyone of the following: Judy St. John, Dwayne Buxton, Edwin Civerolo, or Wilda Martinez. Comments or questions on the presentations should be made directly to the presenters. Requests for additional copies of this disc should be addressed to Barbara Zapp. For contact information, see Appendix I.

Hopefully, this first step is but one of many next steps in the strengthening of the ARS-Industry partnership.