

Biotech and innovative breeding for the new Agri-Food System CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)

10th Asia-Pacific Biotech Congress, Bangkok Thailand

P. Ellul, Senior Officer CGIAR System Organization 25-27 July 2016

Yield increase and the Green Revolution



- Pilot program (1940s-50s) for developing semi-dwarf, highyield and disease-resistant varieties
- Mexico self-sufficient in wheat in the 1950s
- Varieties imported by India and Pakistan => Green Revolution



Norman Borlaug 1970 Nobel Peace Price

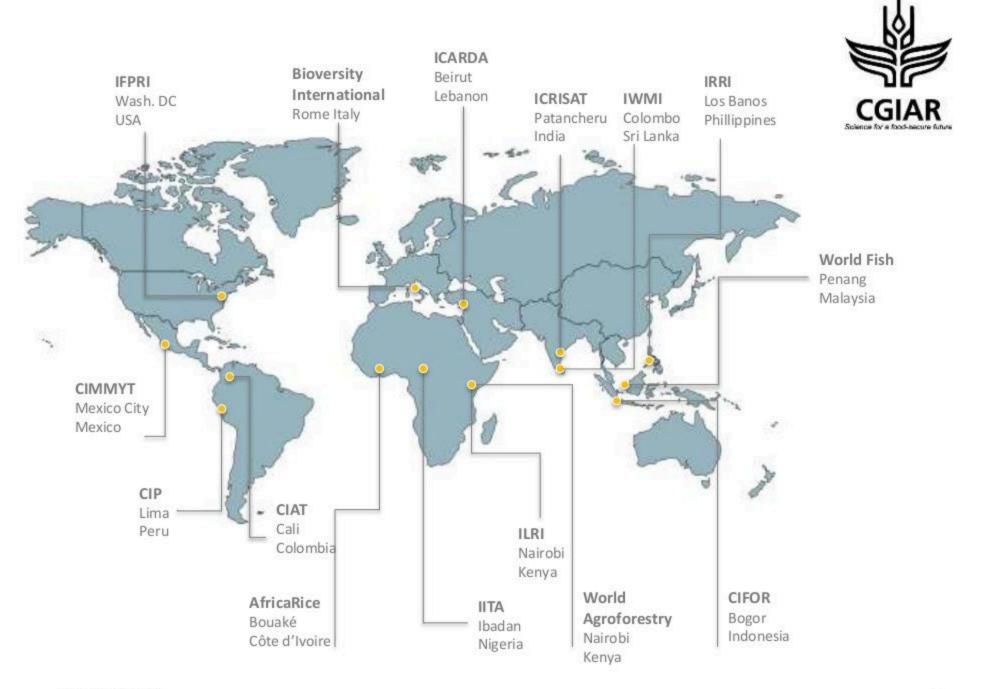


 CIMMYT created in 1966 (Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, and the Mexican Government)

CGIAR from 1971 to 2011



	Integration and	
2011 USD 673 million	transformation	CGIAR Consortium CGIAR Fund
	Reform	
2010		15 CGIAR Centers 64 Members, including
USD 673 million	Rethink	25 from the developing world
2000		16 CGIAR Centers
USD 331 million		58 Members, including 22 from the developing world
	Expansion	
1990 USD 235 million		16 CGIAR Centers 40 Members, including 6 from the developing world
	Multidisciplinary	
1980		13 CGIAR Centers
USD 123 million		35 Members, including 4 from the developing world
	Disciplinary	
1971 USD 20 million		4 CGIAR Centers 18 Members



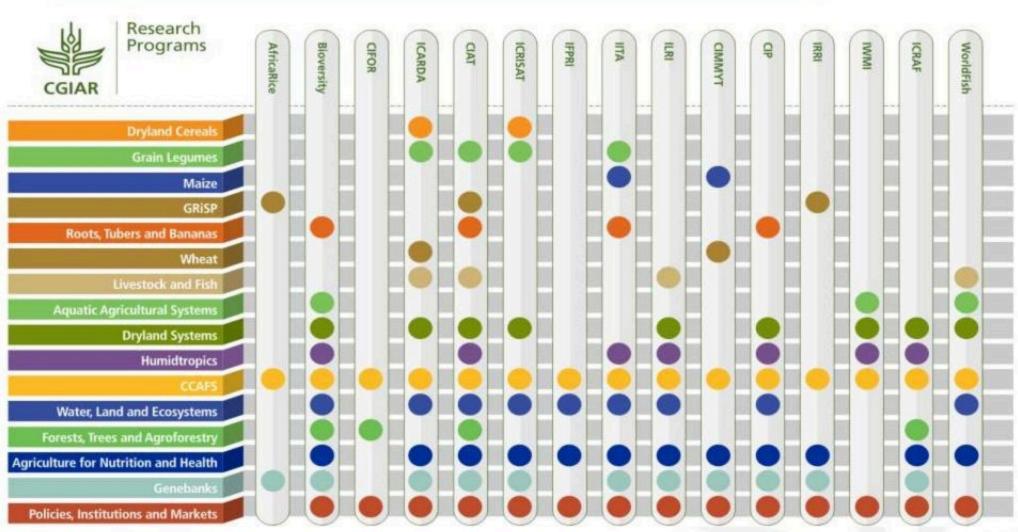
1st Strategic Research Framework (2008)



- Donors united in CGIAR Fund
- 15 Centers collaborating in transversal cross-cutting CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)
- 1st Portfolio of 16 CRPs
- 80% part of CGIAR's work, through CRPs
- Focused on delivering + development outcomes
- CGIAR funding average growth ... from \$0.7B USD (2011) to \$1B USD in 2014

16 CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)





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16 CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)



- MAIZE
- WHEAT
- GRISP (Global Rice Science Partnership)
- Roots, Tubers & Bananas
- Dryland Cereals
- Grain Legumes
- Livestock & Fish

- CRP for Managing & Sustaining Crop Collections
- Policies, Institutions & Market
- Agriculture for Nutrition & Health
- Humid Tropics
- Aquatic Agricultural Systems
- Dryland Systems
- Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)
- Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)

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CGIAR Strategy 2017–2030



2nd CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) 2017–2030 is ambitious. It defines our aspirations and strategic actions to deliver on our mission.

Our vision: A world free of poverty, hunger and environmental degradation.

Our Mission: To advance agri-food science and innovation to enable poor people, especially poor women, to increase agricultural productivity and resilience, share in economic growth, feed themselves and their families better, and conserve natural resources in the face of climate change and other threats.

New SRF and the second generation of CRPs



New SRF guides the development and implementation of an ambitious portfolio of "second-generation" CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)

Focuses on selected grand challenges, and is articulated in 3 strategic goals, or System Level Outcomes (SLOs), which by 2030 will contribute significantly to the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)







System Level Outcome (SLO) 1 Reduced Poverty



Targets for 2030



- 350 million more farm households should have adopted improved varieties, breeds or trees, and/or improved management practices
- 100 million people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty































System level Outcome (SLO) 2 Improved Food & Nutrition Security for Health



Targets for 2030



- Yield increase rate of major food staples from current <2.0 to 2.5%/yr.
- 150 million more people, of which 50% are women, meeting minimum dietary energy requirements
- 500 million more people, of which 50% are women, without deficiencies of one or more of the essential micronutrients
- 33% reduction of women in reproductive age who are consuming less than the adequate number of food groups

































System level Outcome (SLO) 3 Improved Natural Resource Systems & Ecosystem Services



Targets for 2030



- 20% increase in water and nutrient (inorganic, biological) use efficiency in agro-ecosystems, including through recycling and reuse
- Reduce agriculturally-related greenhouse gas emissions by 0.8 Gt CO2-e yr-1 (15%) compared with a business as usual scenario in 2030
- 190 million hectares (ha) degraded land restored
- 7.5 million ha of forest saved from deforestation



























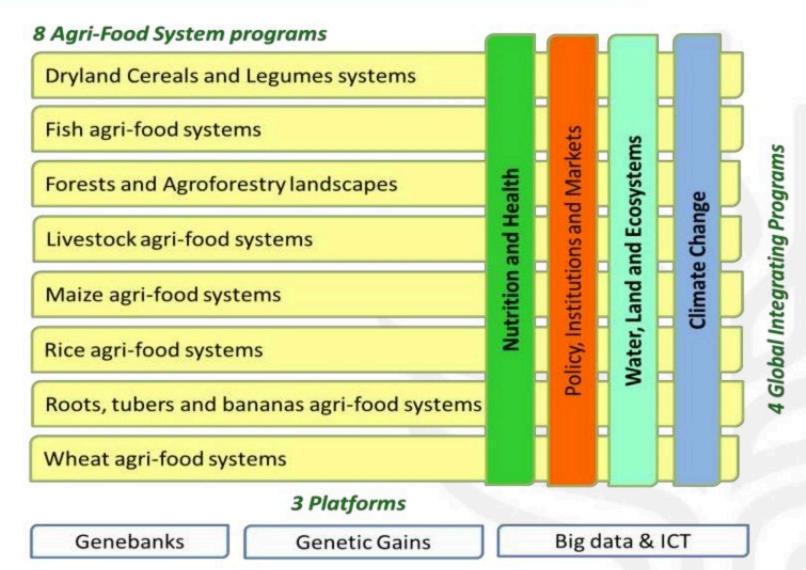






The 2nd generation of CRPs (2017-22)





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CGIAR Genebanks (CRP / Platform) 25 food crops and 740,000 accessions



		Accessions
AfricaRice	Rice	20,000
Bioversity	Banana, Plantain	1,298
CIAT	Beans, Cassava, Tropical forages	65,635
CIMMYT	Maize, Wheat	155,129
CIP	Potato, Sweet potato, Andean Roots & Tubers	16,495
ICARDA	Grain legumes, Wheat, Barley, Forage & range crops	135,406
ICRAF	Trees	5,144
ICRISAT	Dryland cereals, Grain cereals	156,313
IITA	Banana, Plantain, Maize, Cowpea, Cassava, Yam	28,286
ILRI	Tropical forages	18,291
IRRI	Rice	116,817
Total		712,568

Agri-Food System's workflow & biotech



Genetic Diversity

Trait Discovery

Variety Improvement

Seed Systems Value chain, systems' analysis, etc...

- PGR managers
- Researchers
- (Pre-breeders)
- Genebanks & passport data
- Genotyping/genomic data (GbS, Reseq.)
- Phenotypic data
- Geo-location data

- Pre-breeders
- Researchers
- Breeders
- Mapping lines
- QTL discovery
- Gene discovery
- SNP discovery
- · Doubled Haploids
- Mutagenesis
- · Genetic engineering
- Reverse breeding
- Trait performance

- Breeders
- Implementers/ technicians
- ✓ SNP validation
- ✓ Gene pyramiding
- ✓ MAS
- ✓ Genomic Selection
- ✓ Genome editing
- ✓ Genetic engineering
- ✓ Multi-location field trials

- > Seed Researchers
- Implementers, developers
 - Seed multiplication
 - Seed Quality Control
 - Seed storage
 - Seed dissemination

- Multidisc. Res. (ecology, social sciences,...)
- Foresight
- Cropping systems
- Value chain
- Scaling out
- Post harvesting technologies
- Capacity building
- Other SAI approaches

Agri-Food System's workflow & biotech



Genetic Diversity Trait Discovery

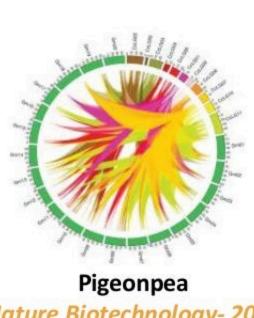
Variety Improvement Seed Systems Value chain, systems' analysis, etc...

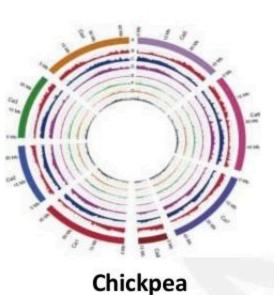
- > Pre-breeders
- Researchers
- Breeders
- Mapping lines
- QTL discovery
- Gene discovery
- SNP discovery
- · Doubled Haploids
- Mutagenesis
- Genetic engineering
- Reverse breeding
- Trait performance

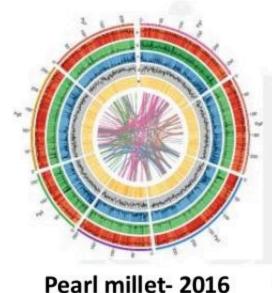
- > Breeders
- Implementers/ technicians
- ✓ SNP validation
- ✓ Gene pyramiding
- ✓ MAS
- ✓ Genomic Selection
- ✓ Genome editing
- ✓ Genetic engineering
- ✓ Multi-location field trials

Leading international sequencing consortia **ICRISAT / Grain Legumes & Dryland Cereals CRPs**









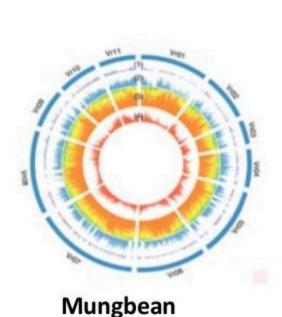
(Nature Biotechnology- 2013)

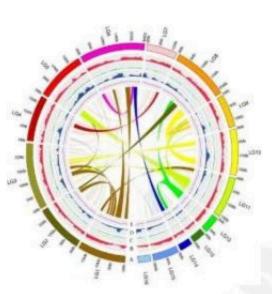
(Nature Biotechnology- 2012)

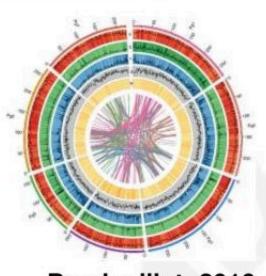
Kindly provided by Dr Rajeev Varshney (ICRISAT/ Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals)

Co-leading international sequencing consortia ICRISAT / Grain Legumes & Dryland Cereals CRPs









Pearl millet- 2016 (in revision)

Sesame

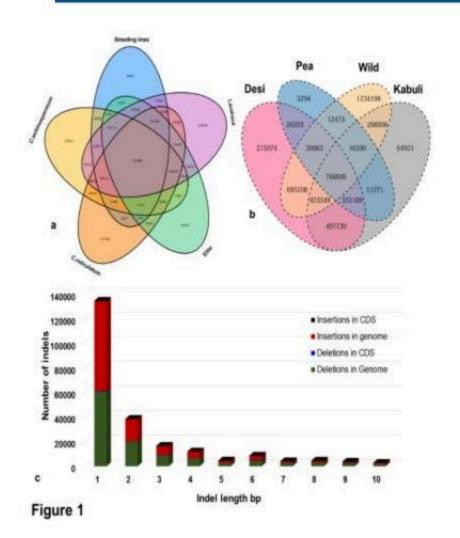
(Genome Biology 2014)

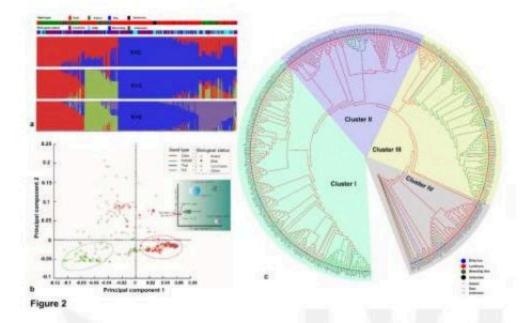
(Nature Communication- 2014)

Kindly provided by Dr Rajeev Varshney (ICRISAT/ Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals)

From re-sequencing 300 chickpea accessions... to the 3K genome initiative





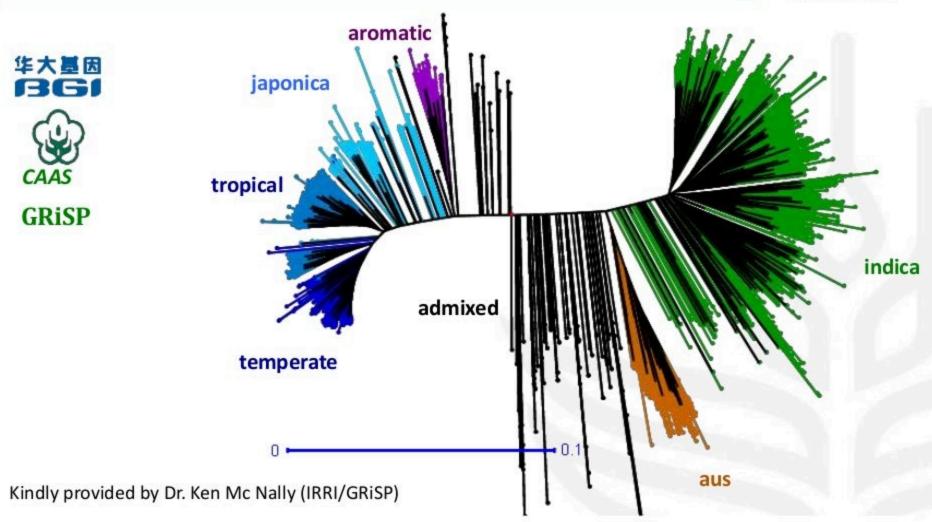


- > 4.9 Million SNPs
- > 596,000 indels
- > 512,000 CNVs

Kindly provided by Dr Rajeev Varshney (ICRISAT/ Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals)

Sequencing 3,000 rice accessions





From Alexandrov, et al. SNP-Seek database of SNPs derived from 3000 rice genomes. Nucl. Acids Res. 2015;43(D1):D1023-D1027

Rice SNP-Seek database / 20 Million SNPs





Rice SNP-Seek Database







This site provides Genotype, Phenotype, and Variety Information for rice (Oryza sativa L.). SNP genotyping data (called against Nipponbare reference Os-Nipponbare-Reference-IRGSP-1.0) came from 3,000 Rice Genomes Project. Phenotype and passport data for the 3,000 rice varieties came from the International Rice Information System (IRIS). We are a part of an ongoing effort by the International Rice Information access to rice research data and provide computational tools to facilitate rice improvement via discovery of new gene-trait associations and accelerated breeding.

To cite this resource. Alexandrov, et al. SNP-Seek database of SNPs derived from 3000 rice genomes. Nucl. Acids Res. 2015;43(D1):D1023-D1027



Query for SNPs from the 3000 genome



Varieties Query for Variety passport and



JBrowse Rice Genome Browser



Help and documentation

From Alexandrov, et al. SNP-Seek database of SNPs derived from 3000 rice genomes. Nucl. Acids Res. 2015;43(D1):D1023-D1027

High density genotyping: Seed of Discovery

http://seedsofdiscovery.org





High density genotyping: Seed of Discovery

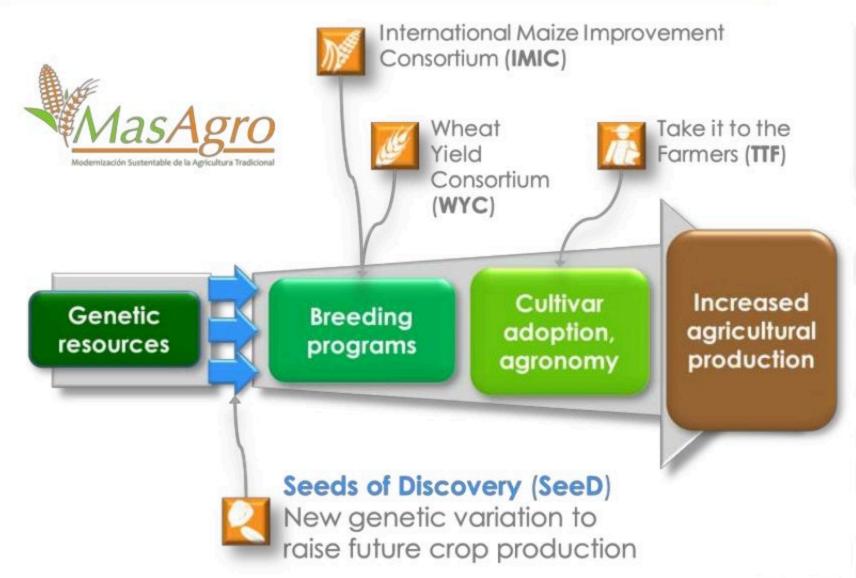


- Maize: ~27,000 accessions in CIMMYT's genebank
 - Developed new GbS method for composite DNA samples (30 plants per accession); the method simultaneously
 - Quantifies allele frequencies within accessions (SNP), and
 - Estimates genetic distances among accessions
 - Completed the sequencing of 20,000 accessions → diversity analysis in progress
- Wheat: ~140,000 accessions in CIMMYT's genebank
 - Completed sequencing of 42,000 accessions
 - Data being used to assemble AM panels

Kindly provided by Dr. Peter Wenzl, ex-SeeD Project leader at CIMMYT; currently Genebank Manager at CIAT

High density genotyping: Seed of Discovery

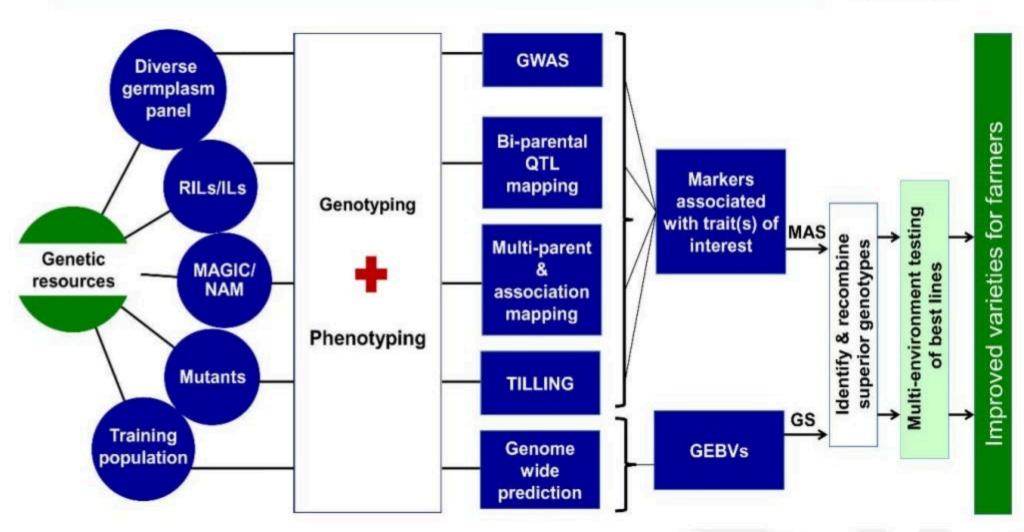




Translational genomics for agriculture

From Varshney et al., PLOS Biology 2014







SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

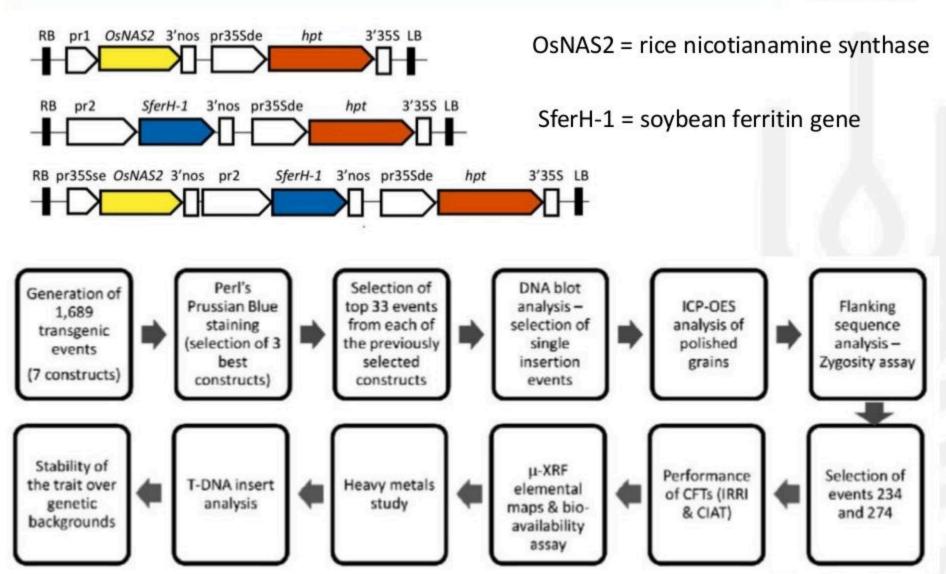
OPEN Biofortified indica rice attains iron and zinc nutrition dietary targets in the field

Received: 11 September 2015 Accepted: 07 December 2015 Published: 25 January 2016

Kurniawan R. Trijatmiko^{3,30}, Conrado Dueñas¹, Nikolaos Tsakirpaloglou¹, Lina Torrizo¹, Felichi Mae Arines¹, Cheryl Adeva¹, Jeanette Balindong¹, Norman Oliva¹, Maria V. Sapasap¹, Jaime Borrero², Jessica Rey¹, Perigio Francisco¹, Andy Nelson^{3,4}, Hiromi Nakanishi⁵, Enzo Lombi⁶, Elad Tako⁷, Raymond P. Glahn⁷, James Stangoulis⁸, Prabhjit Chadha-Mohanty¹, Alexander A. T. Johnson⁹, Joe Tohme², Gerard Barry¹ & Inez H. Slamet-Loedin^{1,11}

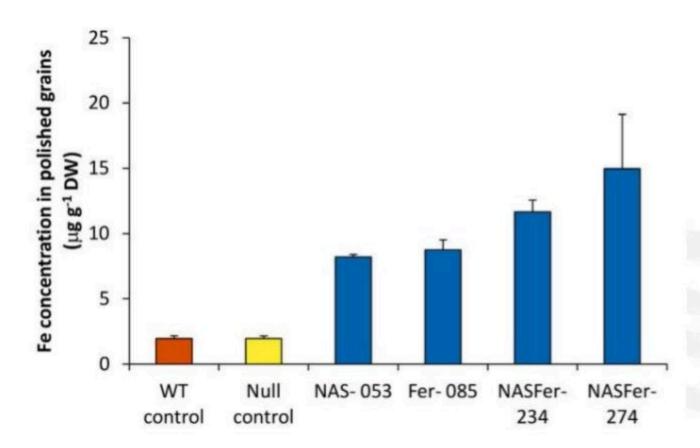
More than two billion people are micronutrient deficient. Polished grains of popular rice varieties have concentration of approximately 2 µg q -1 iron (Fe) and 16 µg q -1 zinc (Zn). The HarvestPlus breeding programs for biofortified rice target 13 µg g⁻¹Fe and 28 µg g⁻¹Zn to reach approximately 30% of the estimated average requirement (EAR). Reports on engineering Fe content in rice have shown an increase up to 18 µg g-1 in glasshouse settings; in contrast, under field conditions, 4 µg g-1 was the highest reported concentration. Here, we report on selected transgenic events, field evaluated in two countries, showing 15 µg g-1Fe and 45.7 µg g-1Zn in polished grain. Rigorous selection was applied to 1,689 IR64 transgenic events for insert cleanliness and, trait and agronomic performances. Event NASFer-274 containing rice nicotianamine synthase (OsNAS2) and soybean ferritin (SferH-1) genes showed a single locus insertion without a yield penalty or altered grain quality. Endosperm Fe and Zn enrichment was visualized by X-ray fluorescence imaging. The Caco-2 cell assay indicated that Fe is bioavailable. No harmful heavy metals were detected in the grain. The trait remained stable in different genotype backgrounds.



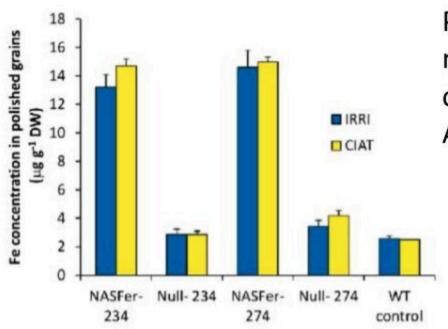




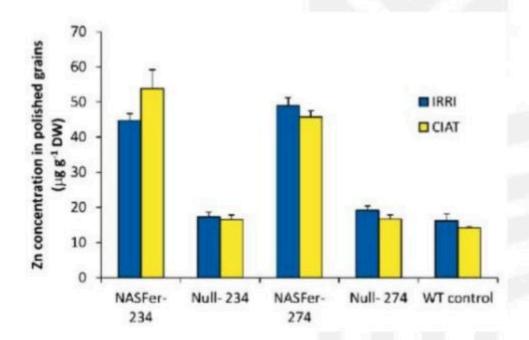
Fe concentration (μ g g-1 DW) of **polished seeds** harvested from T1 homozygous plants of representative NAS, Fer, and NASFer events, null segregant, and non-transformed rice under greenhouse conditions.







Proof of concept = attaining Fe/Zn nutritional targets under flooded field conditions to fulfil 30% of EAR (Estimated Average Requirement) in the human diet



Impacting research for development => multi-institutional + multi-disciplinary



- Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology Division, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, <u>Philippines</u>.
- Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Cali, Colombia.
- 3. Social Sciences Division, IRRI, Manila, Philippines
- Faculty of Geo-Information and Earth Observation (ITC), University of Twente, <u>The</u> <u>Netherlands</u>.
- Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Japan.
- Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia, <u>Australia.</u>
- United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, Cornell University, <u>USA</u>.
- 8. School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia.
- School of Botany, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia.
- Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development, Bogor, <u>Indonesia</u>.
- 11. Research Center for Biotechnology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Cibinong, Indonesia.

Sweet potato: a naturally transgenic crop? Root, Tubers and Bananas CRP



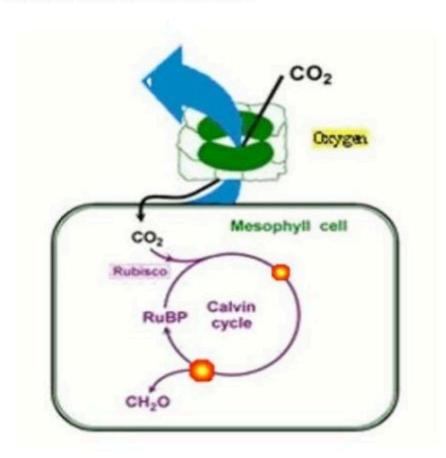
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America CURRENT ISSUE // ARCHIVE // NEWS & MULTIMEDIA // AUTHORS // ABOUT COLLECTED ARTICLES // BROWSE BY TOPIC // EARLY EDITION // FRONT MATTER > Current Issue > vol. 112 no. 18 > Tina Kyndt. 5844-5849, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1419685112. This Issue CrossMark May 5, 2015 vol. 112 no. 18 The genome of cultivated sweet potato contains Masthead (PDF) Table of Contents Agrobacterium T-DNAs with expressed genes: An example of a naturally transgenic food crop ◆ PREV ARTICLE NEXT ARTICLE ▶ Tina Kyndt^{e,1}, Dora Quispe^{e,b,1}, Hong Zhai^e, Robert Jarret^d, Marc Ghislain^b, Qingchang Liu^e, Godelieve Gheysen*, and Jan F. Kreuzeb,2 Don't Miss Author Affiliations = Thinking of submitting your next paper to PNAS? Learn tips in our Edited by Eugene W. Nester, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and approved March 16, 2015 (received for review October PNAS tutorial videos. 13, 2014) Abstract Full Text Authors & Info Figures SI Metrics Related Content PDF PDF + SI Article Tools Article Alerts Significance Export Citation Save for Later We communicate the rather remarkable observation that among 291 tested accessions of cultivated © Request Permission sweet potato, all contain one or more transfer DNA (T-DNA) sequences. These sequences, which are shown to be expressed in a cultivated sweet potato clone ("Huachano") that was analyzed in detail, suggest that an Agrobacterium infection occurred in evolutionary times. One of the T-DNAs is Share apparently present in all cultivated sweet potato clones, but not in the crop's closely related wild relatives, suggesting the T-DNA provided a trait or traits that were selected for during domestication. This finding draws attention to the importance of plant-microbe interactions, and given that this crop has been eaten for millennia, it may change the paradigm governing the "unnatural" status of transgenic crops. Published online before print April 20, 2015, doi:

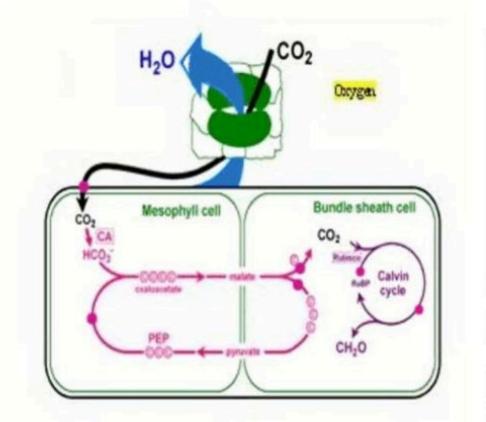
Blue sky biotech research: the C4 rice project



C₃ Photosynthesis: Rubisco

C4 Photosynthesis: PEP Carboxylase then Rubisco

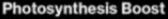




www.c4rice.irri.org

Challenge: Kranz (C4) anatomy into C3 plants

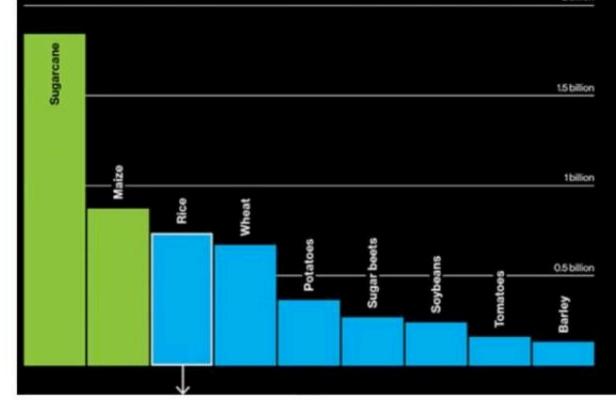




The world's highest-production crops use a super-efficient form of photosynthesis. It's known as C4 photosynthesis because the first step is the formation of a four-carbon molecule. C3 photosynthesis, found in most plant species, starts with a three-carbon molecule.

Major | C4 and C3 crops (annual production in metric tons)

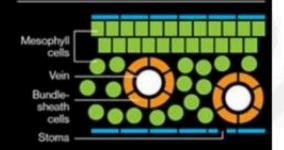
2 billion



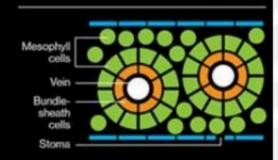
Carbon Concentrators

In C4 plants, a wreathlike arrangement of cells (lower image) helps concentrate carbon dioxide. A ring of mesophyll cells (green) captures the carbon dioxide, which is conveyed to an inner ring of bundle-sheath cells (orange). The arrangement is known as the Kranz anatomy, after the German word for wreath.

C3

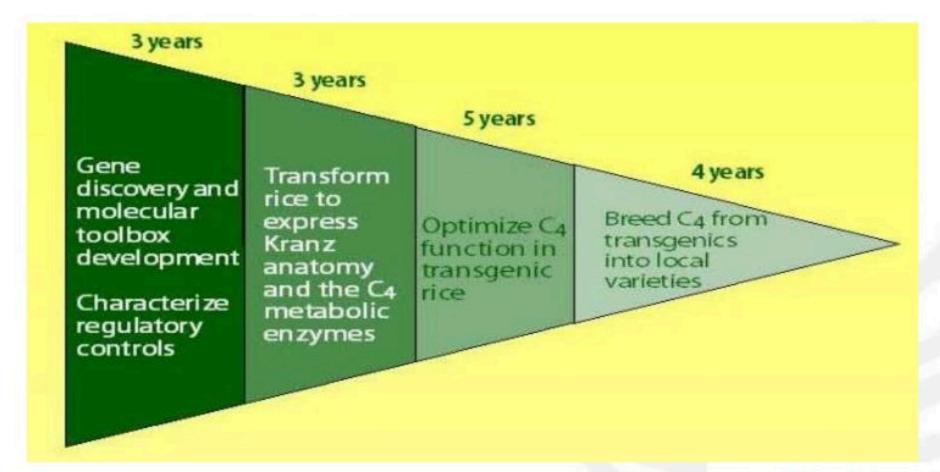


C4



Roadmap of the C4 rice project





www.c4rice.irri.org

C4 rice principal investigators



An, Gynheung Kyung Hee University, Republic of Korea

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Cousins, Asaph Washington State University, USA
Edwards, Gerry Washington State University, USA

Furbank, Robert ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis / CSIRO , Australia

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Murchie, Erik University of Nottingham, UK

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von Caemmerer, Susanne The Australian National University, Canberra Australia

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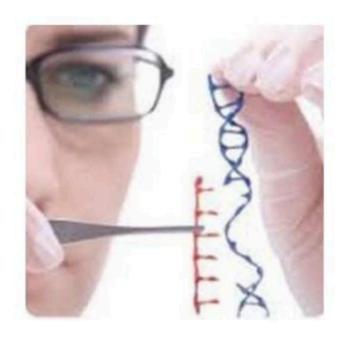
Yu, Su May National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Zhu, Xinguang PICB, Shanghai China

Disruptive technology: Genome Editing (GE)



GE is the process of precise genome modification using engineered endonucleases





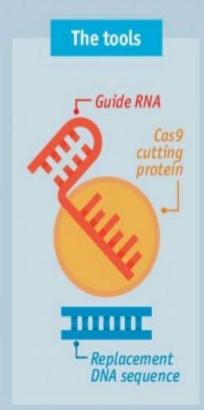
Nucleotides can be

- added
- deleted
- replaced

Disruptive technologies: Genome Editing



Using CRISPR









Source: The Economist

Economist.com

Pigs edited to protect them against African Swine Fever (Roselyn Institute, University Edinburgh)







Article | OPEN

Mammalian interspecies substitution of immune modulatory alleles by genome editing

Simon G. Lillico, Chris Proudfoot, Tim J. King, Wenfang Tan, Lei Zhang, Rachel Mardjuki, David E. Paschon, Edward J. Rebar, Fyodor D. Urnov, Alan J. Mileham, David G. McLaren & C. Bruce A. Whitelaw

Scientific Reports 6, Article number: 21645
(2016)
doi:10.1038/srep21645
Download Citation
Genetic engineering

Received: 20 October 2015 Accepted: 27 January 2016 Published online: 22 February 2016

GE => Interspecies allele introgression in one generation



- RELA (transcription factor) is one of the pig genes associated with ASFV infection.
- RELA gene causes the immune system to overreact with devastating effects
- Warthogs and bush pigs both more resilient to ASFV - carry a different allelic version of the RELA gene



=> by changing 'only' 5 nucleotides in the pig RELA gene, it is converted into the resistant-gene that is found in the warthog.

From Science Daily, 23 February 2016.

Genetic engineering or Genome editing?

From "Root, Tubers and Bananas" CRP full proposal



Cassava:

- Cassava starch composition by switching on/off genes of the starch synthesis pathway using genome editing.
- Modifying alleles for herbicide tolerance or carotenoid production (editing ALS and PSY genes).
- Cassava virus replication can be altered by modifying host protein required for their replication and movement. Proof-of-concept work at Danforth Center and ETH, Switzerland, and the National Agricultural Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), Uganda, has demonstrated efficacy of transgenic approaches.
- Bacterial effectors of Xanthomonas pathogens affecting cassava have been recently identified, together with some of their cognate genes in the host.

Potato:

- Cisgenes for LB, virus Y, and leafroll exist; transgenes for bacterial wilt disease appear promising.
- Bacterial effectors of Ralstonia, pathogens, have been recently identified together
 with some of their cognate genes in the host. This opens the way to edit
 susceptibility genes as well as adding executor genes (Kyndt et al. 2015; Nyabonga
 et al. 2014).
- Gene editing to alter day-length sensitivity, early tuberization, and heat tolerance in potato.
- Potatoes with 3R genes from wild relatives have been able to withstand LB disease in the absence of any fungicide protections in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Uganda. NARS partners are now engaged in event selection and soon in multilocational trials.

Genetic engineering or Genome editing?

From "Root, Tubers and Bananas" CRP full proposal



Sweetpotato:

Bt and RNAi technology for weevils and virus disease resistance.

Yam:

RNAi and transgenes are under the concept phase for nematode resistance.

Banana and plantain:

- Transgenes and RNAi for control of Banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) and aphids; resistance to nematodes using cystatins, synthetic peptides, and targeting the expression of genes to roots only.
- Gene editing to inactivate integrated Banana streak virus copies so they cannot reconstitute infections after tissue culture or other stresses.
- Transgenic bananas with resistance to Xanthomonas wilt have passed successfully the proof-of-concept stage using constitutive expression of sweetpotato genes conferring disease resistance. National partners are now in the first stages of multilocational trials.

http://www.cgiar.org/our-strategy/second-call-for-cgiar-research-programs/cgiar-research-programs-platforms-full-proposals-for-review/

Genome Editing (GE) & Freedom To Operate?



PIPRA

Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture



Conclusions



- ⇒ CGIAR Portfolio 2017-22 addresses the [3 SLOs s + n SDGs]
- ⇒ 8 Agri-Food System (AFS), 4 Global Integrating CRPs and 3 platforms (Excellence in breeding, Genebank, Big data)
- ⇒ Genomic characterization (sequencing and re-sequencing)
- ⇒ High throughput genotyping and phenotyping
- ⇒ Translational genomics and pre-breeding: Molecular Assisted Selection (MAS), Genomic Selection (GS), Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS), etc...
- ⇒ Genetic engineering for specific traits
- ⇒ Genome editing for specific traits

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World Bank



Thank you

