



# THE ROLE OF FLUIDS IN FUTURE CROP MANAGEMENT

Vatren Jurin  
December 2016

# THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL IMPERATIVE

Together we must nearly double global agricultural output by 2050 to respond to a rapidly growing population and to meet the consumer demands of an expanding middle class.<sup>1</sup>

How will we be able to produce the food, feed, fiber and fuel the world is going to need at mid-century — and do it sustainably?



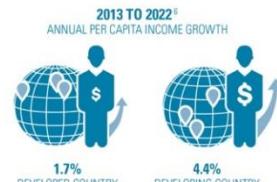
2015  
WORLD POPULATION  
7.3 billion



By 2050, the world's population will increase from 7.3 billion in 2015 to 9.7 billion.<sup>2</sup>

More than half of this growth will occur in Africa.<sup>3</sup>

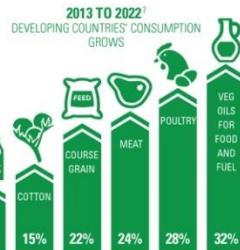
Urban areas will grow by more than 2.5 billion people — half the world is urban now, and two-thirds urban by 2050.<sup>4</sup> The world's rural population will decline, reducing labor available in rural areas for growing food.



Between 2013 and 2022, developing country annual per capita income will grow 4.4% versus 1.7% in developed countries, resulting in **high demand for meat, crops, fiber and fuel**.

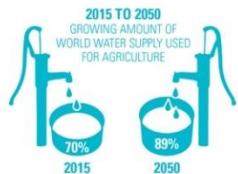


2015 GAP Report<sup>®</sup>



**Demand for agricultural products** in developing countries outpaces local production and creates a gap that must be filled with trade.<sup>4</sup>

**Doubling agriculture output** to meet this growing demand and achieve food security, if not done sustainably by conserving the environment, will increase pressure on natural resources and thereby threaten global capacity to produce.



**Water:** 70% of the water extracted from the world's rivers, lakes and aquifers is used for agriculture and this will rise to 89% by 2050. In developing countries, irrigation **already uses 89%** of extracted water.<sup>5</sup>

**Soil:** 37% of the world's land is presently used for agriculture.<sup>6</sup>  
Expanding land for agriculture reduces biodiversity, increases soil erosion and releases stored carbon from soil, contributing to greenhouse gas emission.



**Climate change and weather variability** will fundamentally alter global food production patterns.<sup>14</sup>

Changing rainfall patterns and higher nighttime temperatures will require adaptation practices in low latitude and tropical regions, but may benefit high latitude regions.<sup>15</sup>

Climate change may reduce renewable surface water and groundwater in most dry subtropical regions, intensifying competition for water.<sup>16</sup>



**Food Waste:**  
2 to 18% of post-harvest cereal crops and up to 50% of fruits and vegetables are lost in developing countries, depending on country, season or product.<sup>11, 12</sup>



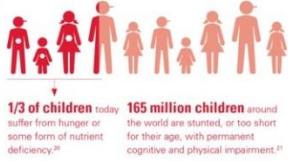
**Meeting nutritional needs requires increasing** the availability, affordability and consumption of nutrient-rich foods across all regions of the world.

**GOOD NEWS<sup>16, 19</sup>**  
GLOBAL PROPORTION OF UNDERNOURISHED DECREASED



The world has made **progress in reducing** the proportion of **undernourished people** since 1990.

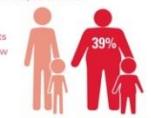
**BAD NEWS<sup>19</sup>**  
BOTH HUNGER AND OBESITY IMPACT HEALTH



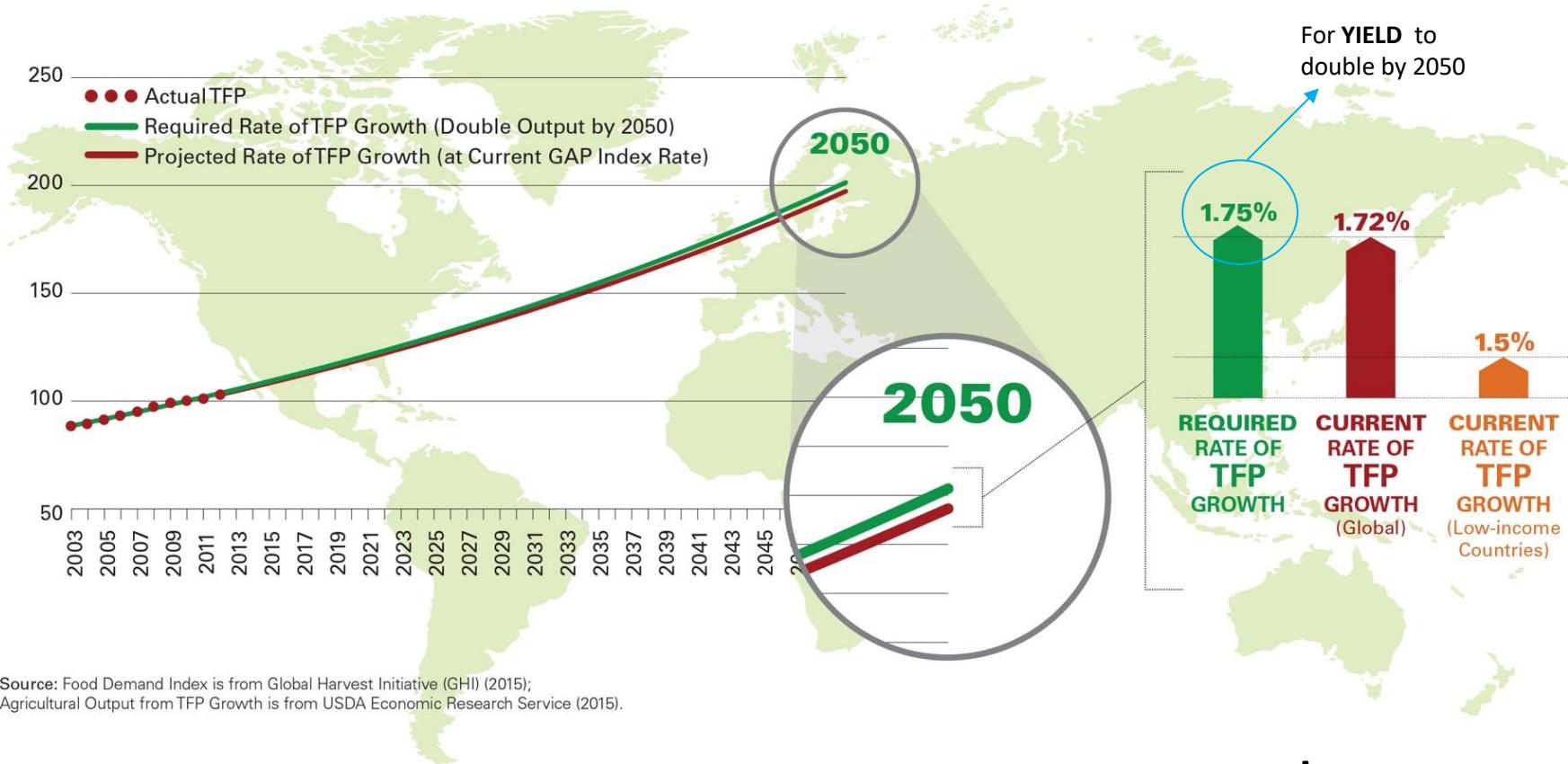
Childhood **obesity is increasing rapidly in developing countries**, with a rate of increase more than 30% higher than that of developed countries.<sup>22</sup>

Proportion of the world's adults who are **overweight** is now 39%, nearly doubling since 1980.<sup>23</sup>

**GROWING SOLUTIONS**



# THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY (GAP) INDEX™



2015 GAP Report®

Total  
Factor  
Productivity



Is the measure of output per unit of growth. By examining the **TFP** we can get the information needed to improve our agricultural systems. ...

Global Harvest Initiative | 2015 GAP Report

### EXPANSION

- USING MORE LAND
- EXPANDING IRRIGATION TO LAND THAT'S NOT IRRIGATED

### INTENSIFICATION

- INCREASED USE OF FERTILIZER, LABOR, MACHINERY AND OTHER INPUTS

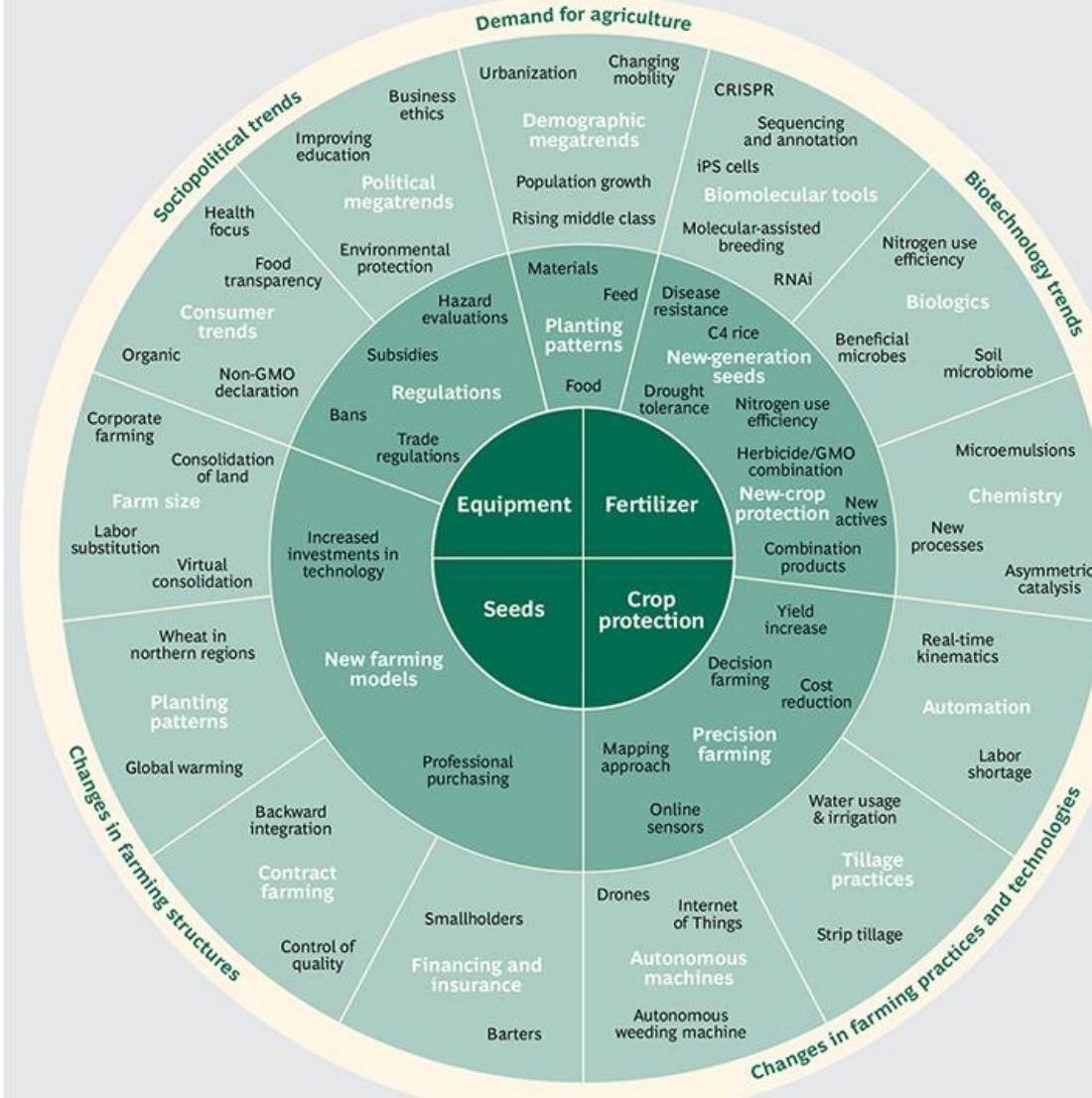
### EFFICIENCY

- ADOPTING TECHNOLOGIES AND FARMING PRACTICES THAT RESULT IN MORE OUTPUT FROM EXISTING RESOURCES – MEASURED BY

**TFP**

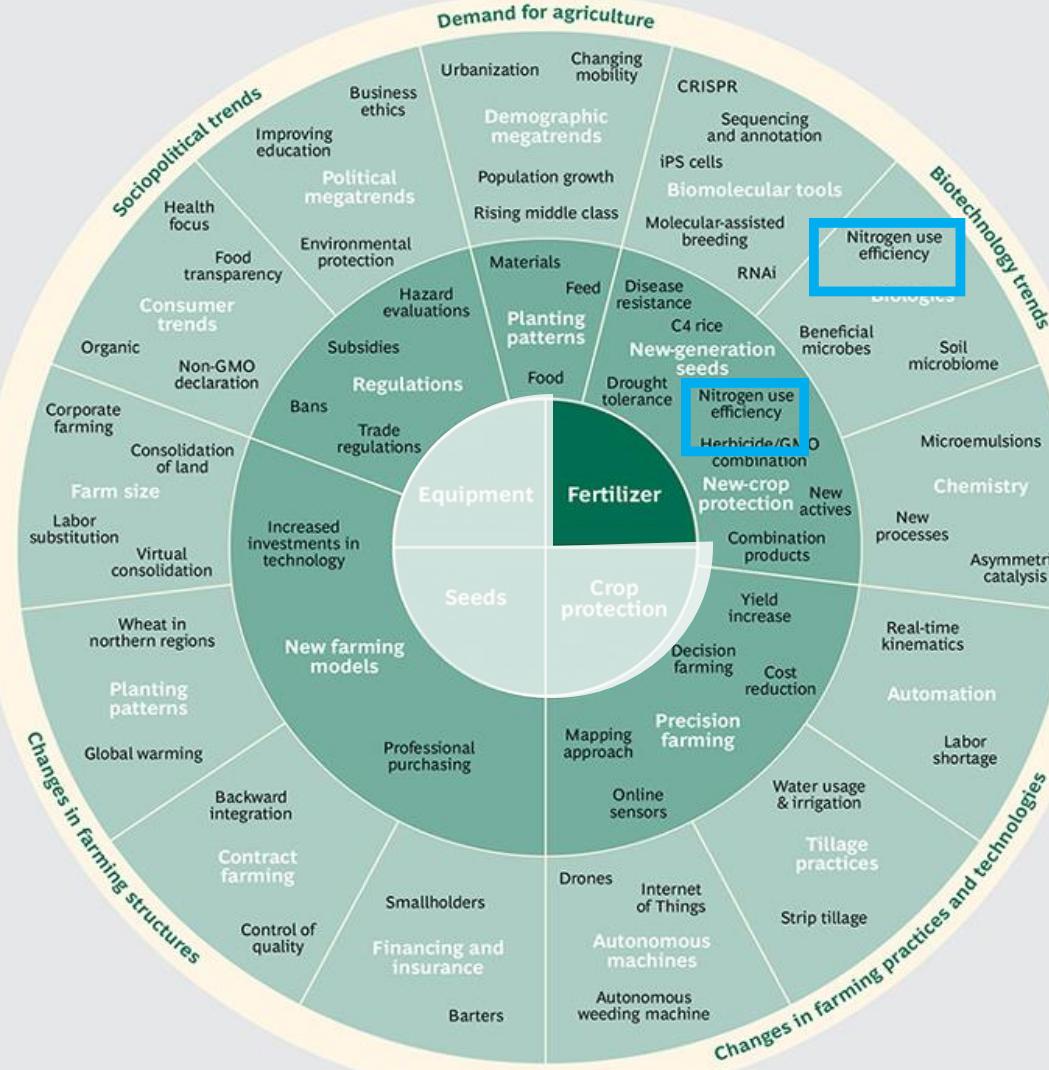
FLUID FERTILIZERS

## EXHIBIT 1 | Trends That Will Shape Crop Farming Through 2030



**Sources:** BCG interviews with a panel of farmers in France, Germany, Poland, and the U.K.; interviews with industry experts; analysis of approximately 16,000 Derwent World Patent Index patent families registered from 2010 through 2014; BCG analysis.

## EXHIBIT 1 | Trends That Will Shape Crop Farming Through 2030



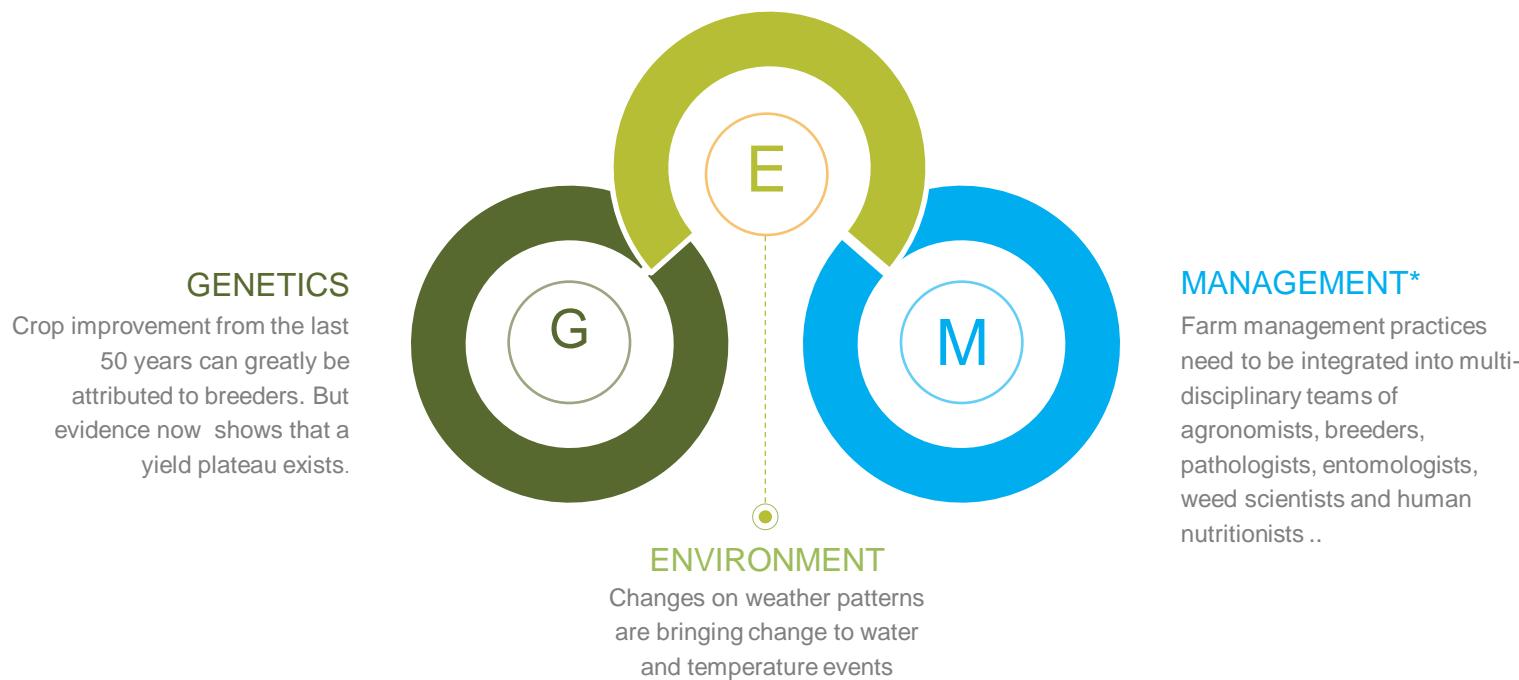
## FLUIDS

- Liquid vs. Dry Placement
- Delivery systems
- Fertigation
- Micronutrients

Sources: BCG interviews with a panel of farmers in France, Germany, Poland, and the U.K.; interviews with industry experts; analysis of approximately 16,000 Derwent World Patent Index patent families registered from 2010 through 2014; BCG analysis.

# Meeting Global Food Needs: Realizing the Potential via Genetics × Environment × Management Interactions

Jerry L. Hatfield\* and Charles L. Walthall



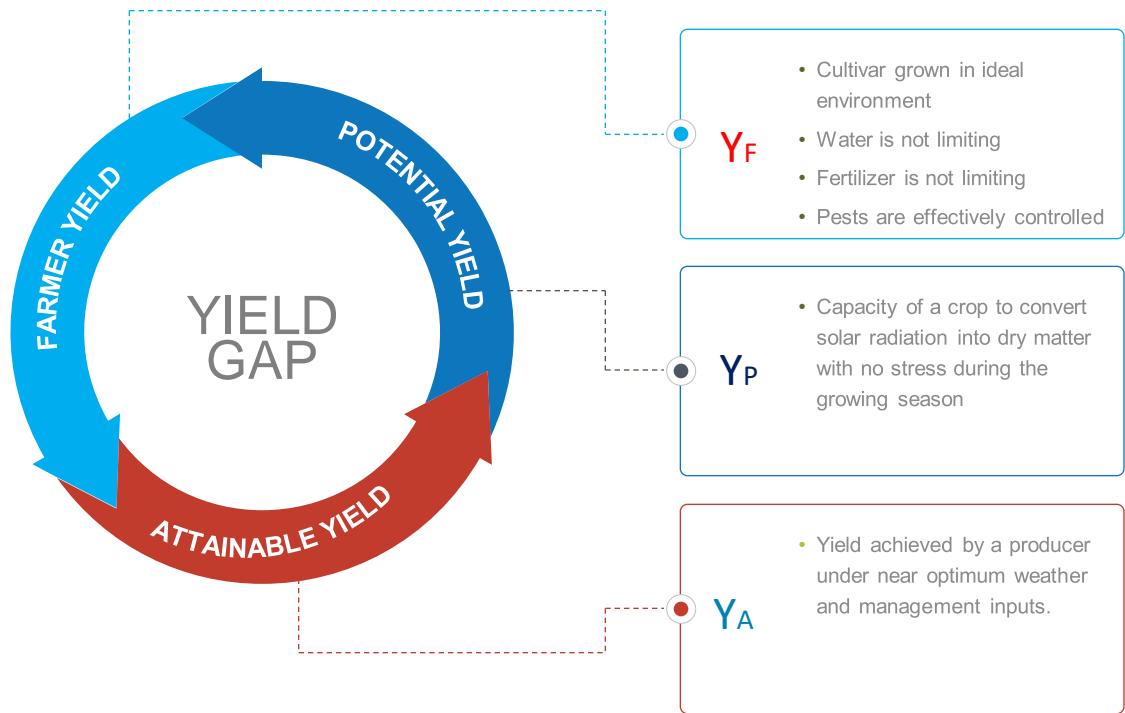
# MANAGEMENT

## ▪ HERE IS WHERE FLUID FERTILIZERS PLAY A ROLE

CROP YIELDS ARE  
CONSTRAINED BY THREE  
FACTORS

- WATER
- TEMPERATURE
- FERTILITY

• TWO OUT OF THREE ARE  
DIRECTLY INFLUENCED BY  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



$$Y_F - Y_A =$$

THESE DIFFERENCES PROVIDE INSIGHTS  
INTO THE LIMITATION OF CROP YIELD

→ INCREASING  $Y_F$  IS THE PATH FOR CLOSING THE YIELD GAP

## THREE LIMITATION TO CROP PRODUCTION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF

# G x E x M

### NITROGEN



NITROGEN IS KING. Maximizing FARMERS YIELD requires an adequate supply of nitrogen... and the other nutrients

### TEMPERATURE

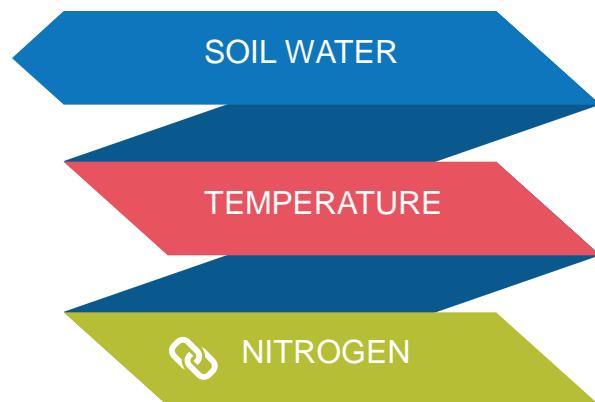


Mainly heat has a direct effect on crops during critical stage of yield development

### SOIL WATER



Supplying more available water to the crop insures that FARMER YIELD is closer to YIELD POTENTIAL

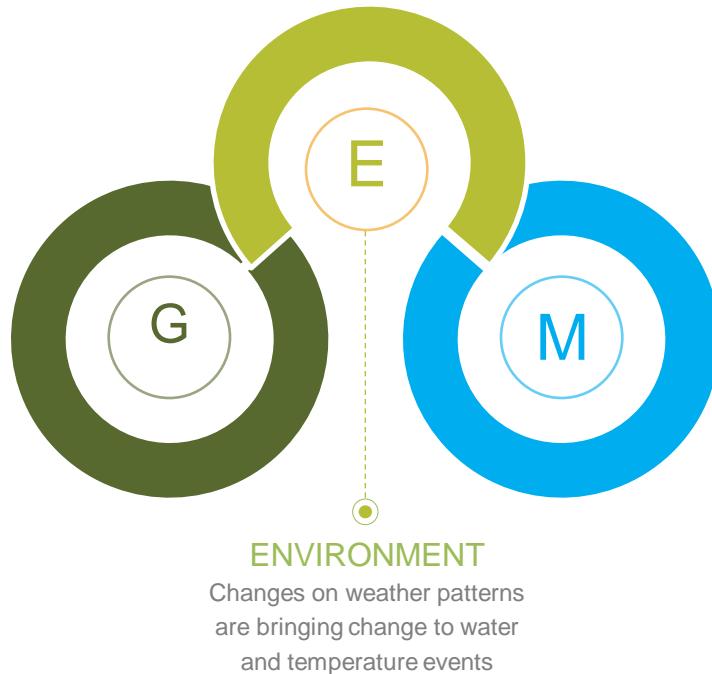


# FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

$$Y_F - Y_A =$$

THESE DIFFERENCES PROVIDE INSIGHTS  
INTO THE LIMITATION OF CROP YIELD

- NATIONAL CROP COMMODITY PRODUCTIVITY INDEX
  - Uses the soil survey database (NASIS) to assess relative soil productivity.
  - BUT ONCE YOU IRRIGATE A FIELD THE INDEX BECOMES IRRELEVANT
- HATFIELD AND WALTHALL propose that STANDARD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES be used when breeding the crops of the future ..... FLUID FERTILIZER ENTER THE EQUATION
- A PARADIGM SHIFT ON HOW RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED NEEDS TO HAPPEN



**GENETICS**  
Crop improvement from the last 50 years can greatly be attributed to breeders. But evidence now that a yield plateau exists.

**MANAGEMENT \***  
Farm management practices need to be integrated into multi-disciplinary teams of agronomists, breeders, pathologists, entomologists, weed scientists and human nutritionists ..

- COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES AND BREEDERS CAN HAPPEN
  - Genetic efficiency for fertilizer use efficiency
    - Starter
    - Fertigation
    - Foliar
  - Quantify levels of management practices (Dr. BELOW)

# SO HOW DO WE QUANTIFY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ....

- Functional trait-based ecology
  - Has been used for many years by ecologists to understand natural plant communities.
  - ... An approach to understanding or predicting the causes and consequences of biotic and abiotic species interactions, as a function of the physiological, morphological, chemical or phenological characteristics of organisms.

## Journal of Applied Ecology

Review

### REVIEW: Plant functional traits in agroecosystems: a blueprint for research

Adam R. Martin and Marney E. Isaac\*

Issue

Article first published online: 25 SEP 2015

DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.12526

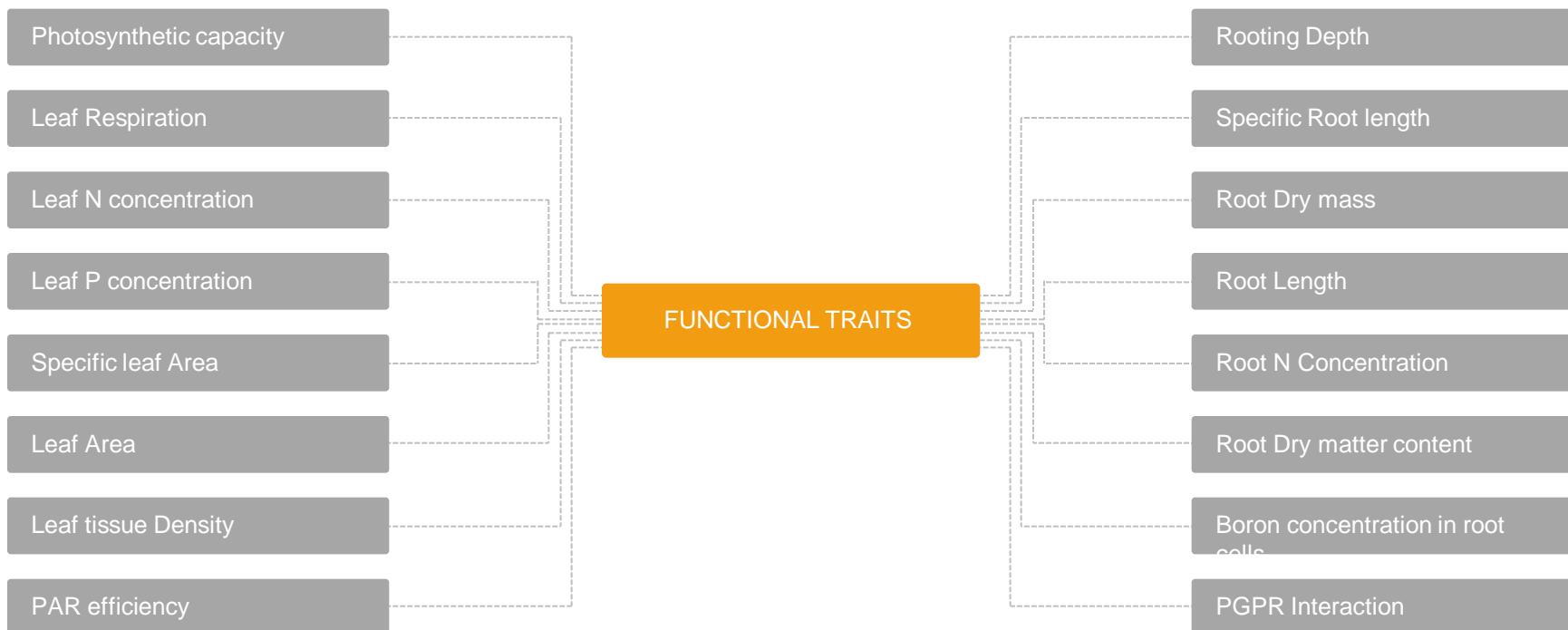
© 2015 The Authors. Journal of Applied Ecology  
© 2015 British Ecological Society



Journal of Applied Ecology

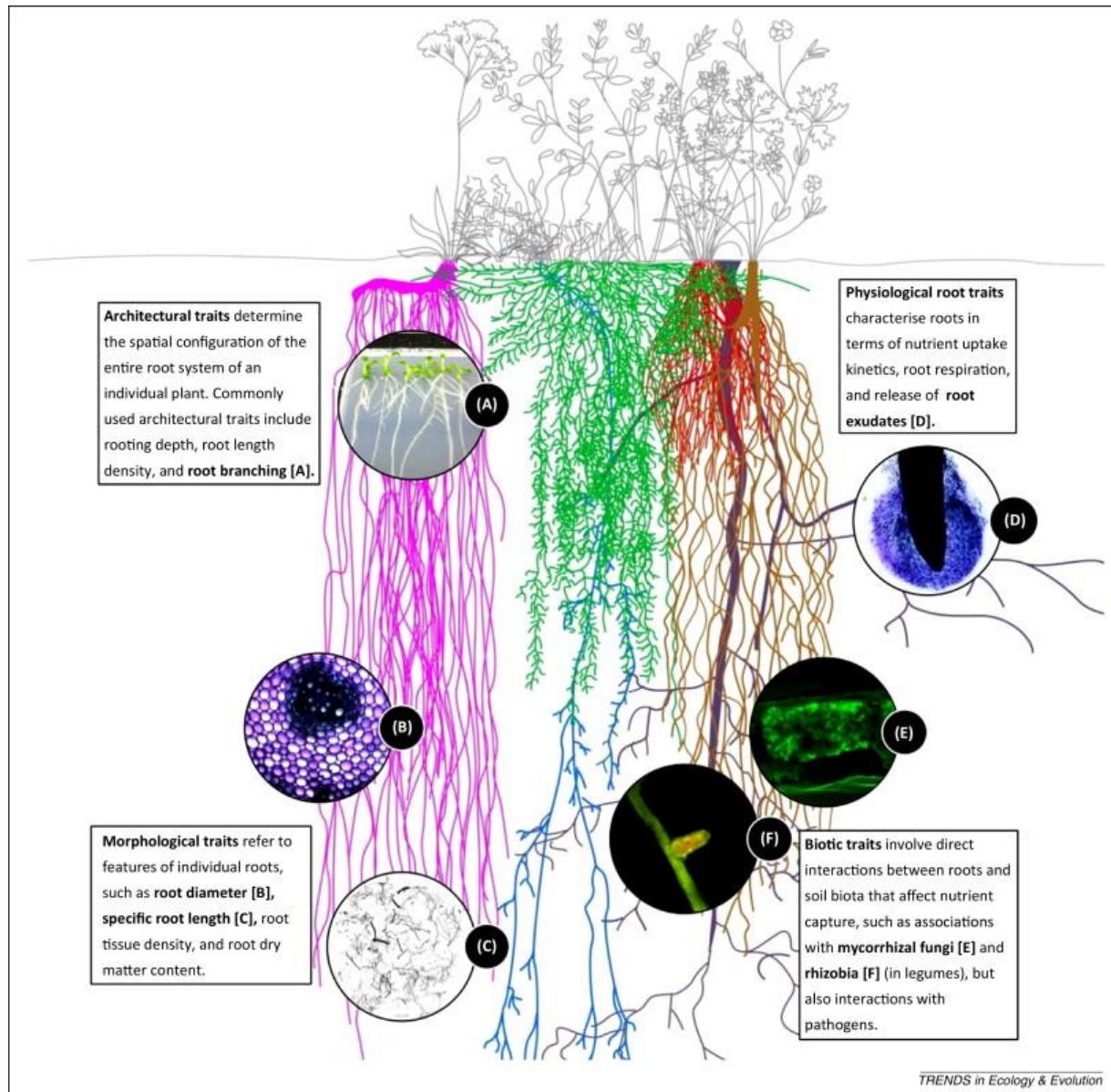
Volume 52, Issue 6, pages  
1425–1435, December 2015

# Functional Traits that can be used with specific Fertility management strategies that can help understand the contribution farmers management practices have on the Genetic expression of the Crop



# ROOTS



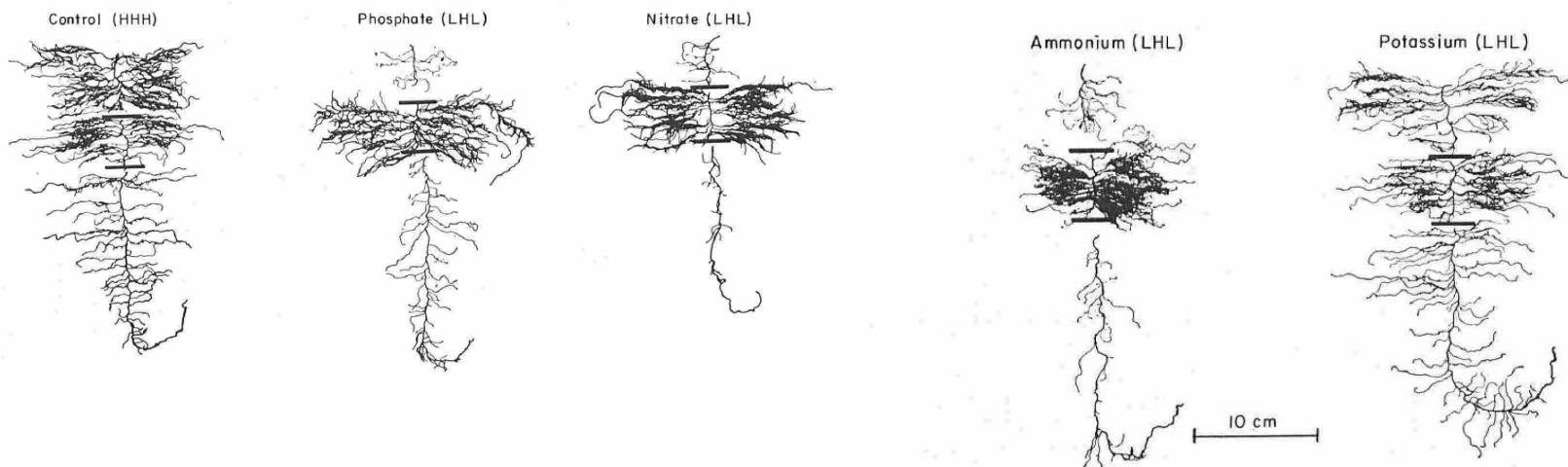


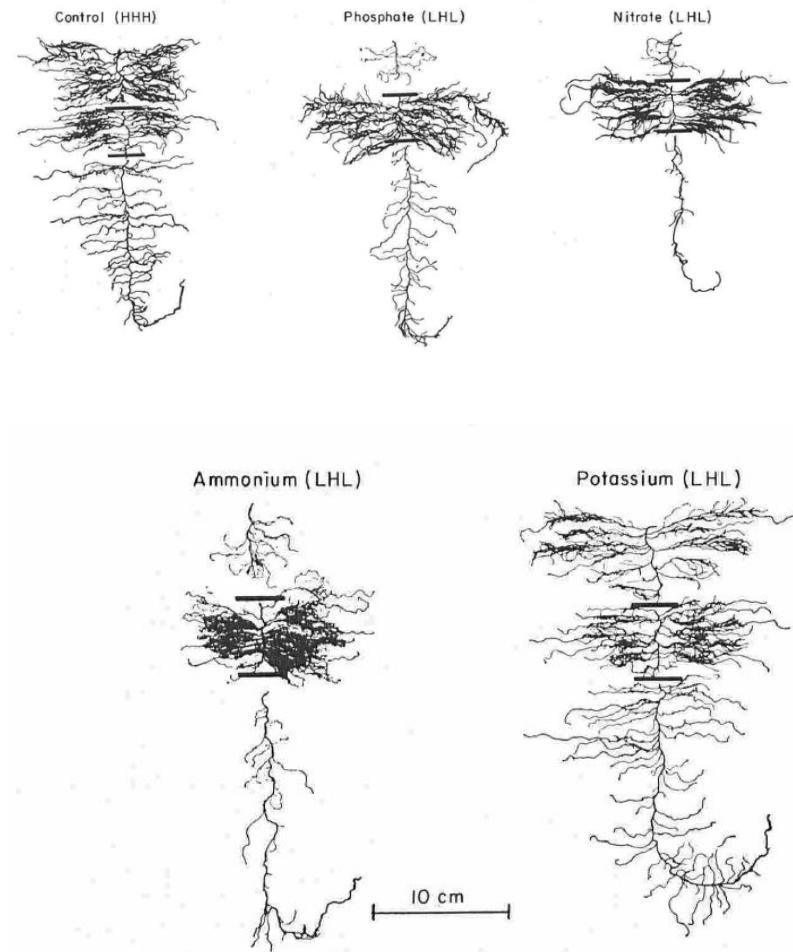
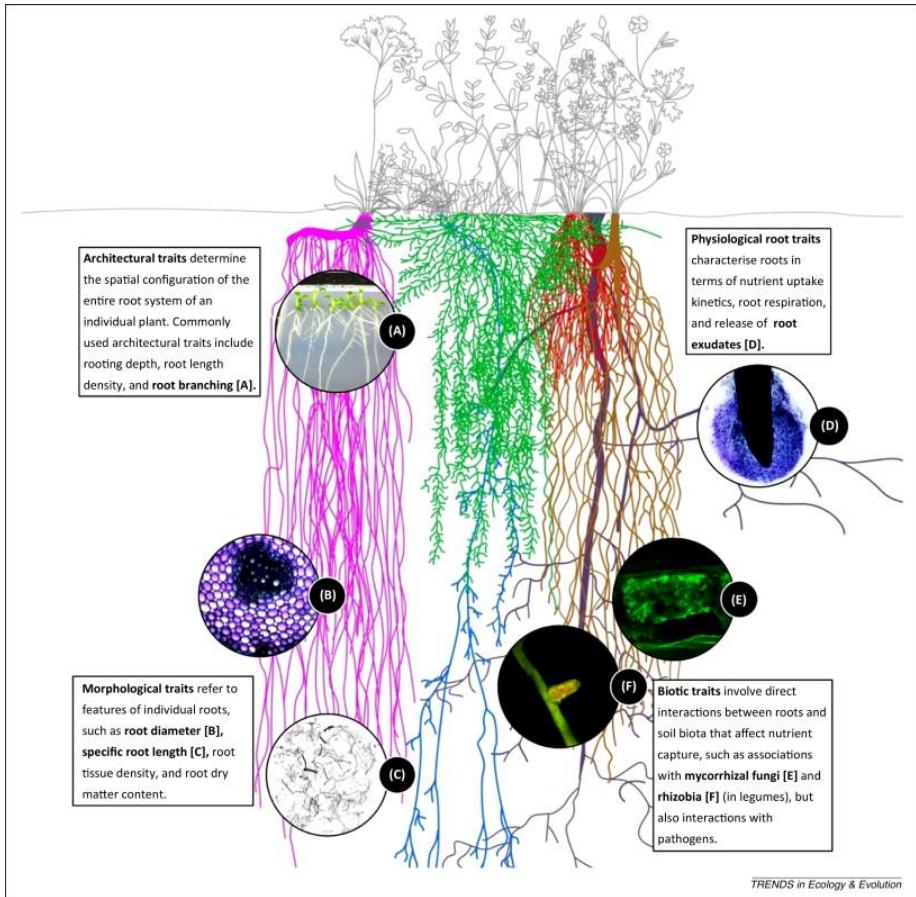
COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS OF A LOCALIZED  
SUPPLY OF PHOSPHATE, NITRATE, AMMONIUM  
AND POTASSIUM ON THE GROWTH OF THE  
SEMINAL ROOT SYSTEM, AND THE SHOOT,  
IN BARLEY

BY M. C. DREW

*Agricultural Research Council, Letcombe Laboratory, Wantage,  
OX12 9JT, England*

(Received 17 March 1975)

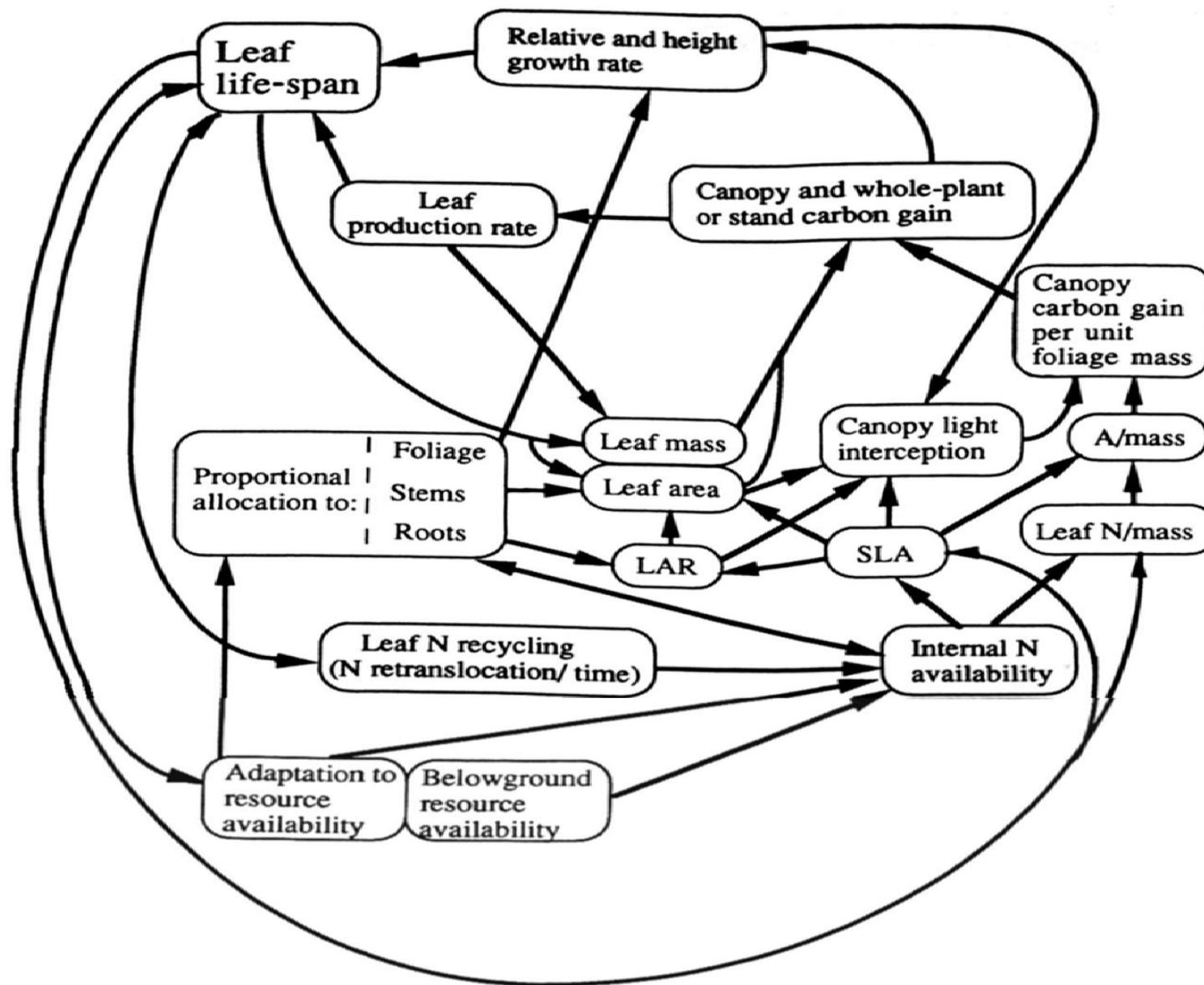






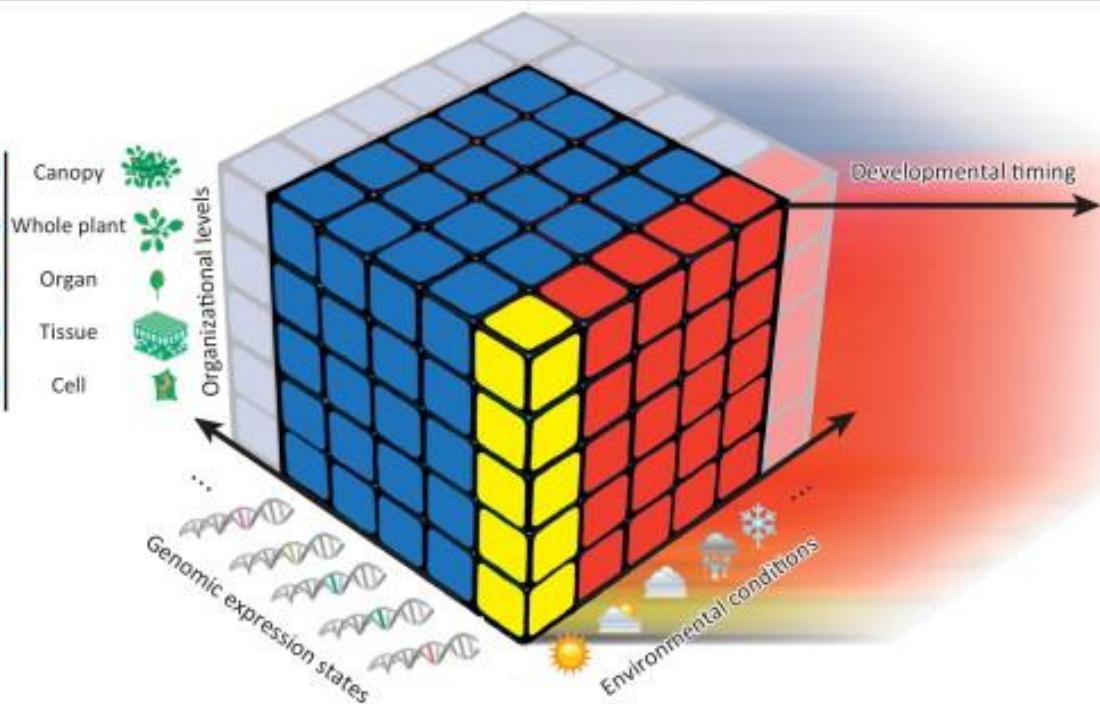
LEAF





### Phenotypic trait examples

Leaf area index	Biomass/ha	Canopy temperature
Leaf number	Seed yield	Water content
Leaf expansion rate	Leaf shape	Rate of photosynthesis
Number of layers	Tissue thickness	Mesophyll conductance
Cell size	Cell division rate	Cell turgor
Physiological trait		
Performance-related trait		
Structural trait		



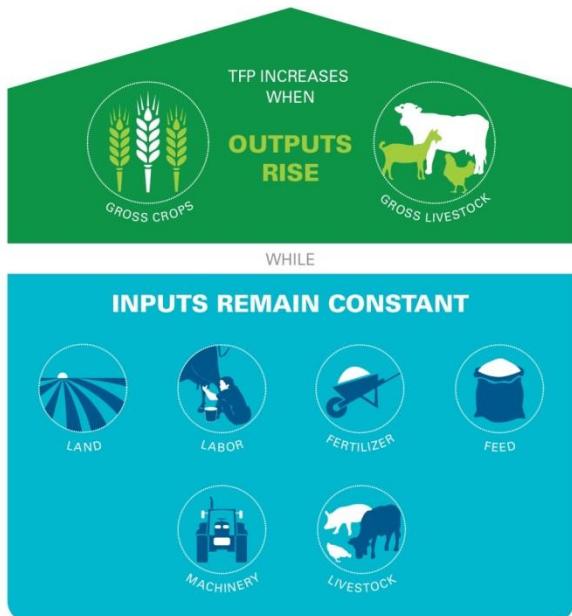
TRENDS in Plant Science

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN



1.75% TFP

Figure 1: Total Factor Productivity



2015 GAP Report®

*Hatfield and Walthall propose a new ...*

- Method for screening genotypes that take into account not only the environment but **MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**
- Incorporate the grower into applied research to determine what practices are feasible from their perspective and solicit their feedback on technologies and approaches

- BUT I DISAGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT

*To this end, we introduce the concept of the interaction of  $G \times E \times M$  as a foundation for moving forward to feed the future world. The rationale for a departure from the classic  $G \times E$  interaction is to highlight the effects of climate variability on the environment factor and the opportunities for management to enhance performance of genetic resources under varying environmental conditions.*

MUCH HAPPENS IN THE FARM THAT BREEDERS AND UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS CAN'T REPLICATE - *THEY NEED TO INCORPORATE INTO THEIR EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS METHODS THAT REPLICATE FARM CONDITIONS*

# Crop Systems for the new century



Presentation I gave to the University of Illinois  
Supercomputer Application Center in 2000

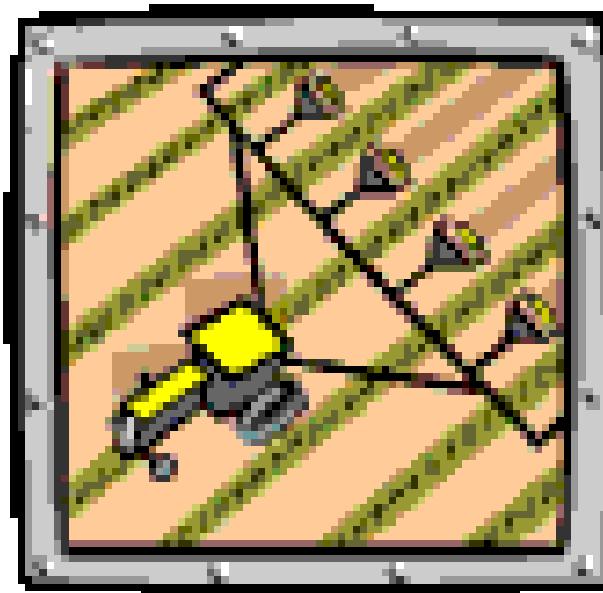
- Vatren Jurin



# What is Involved in a New Crop System



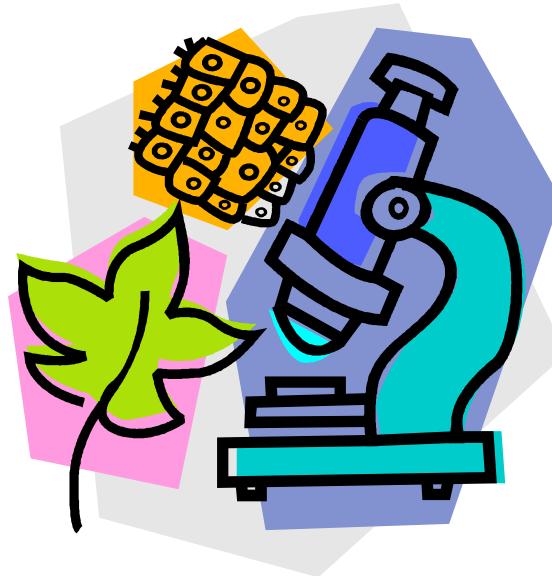
- Food Safety
- Nutrient Management.
  - Forecasting Nutrient responses and requirements.
- Soil Management.
- Predicting irrigation requirements and crop water needs.
- Maximizing genetic potentials.



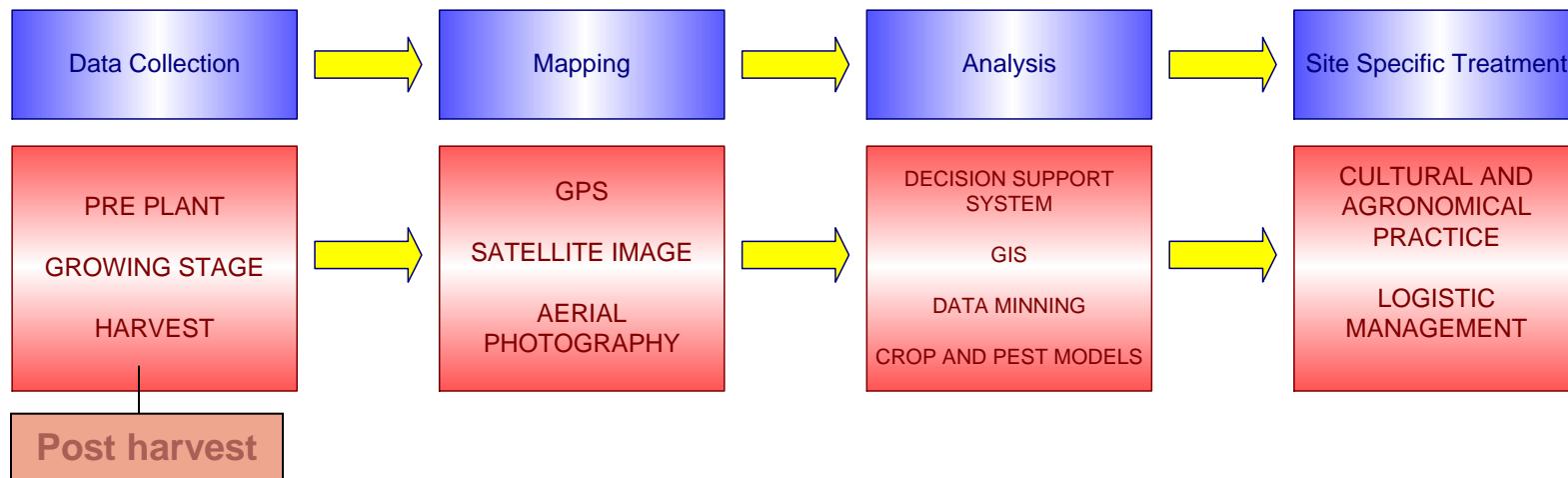
# What is involved in a new Crop System



- Crop modeling.
- Pest Management.
  - Pest modeling.
  - Weed management.
- Biometrical analysis of experimental data.
- Environmental impact.



# Steps involved in development and implementation of new Agricultural Systems



# Data Collection

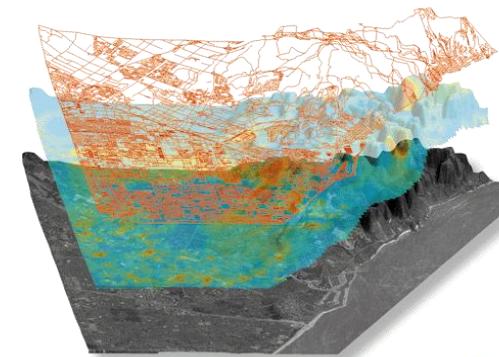
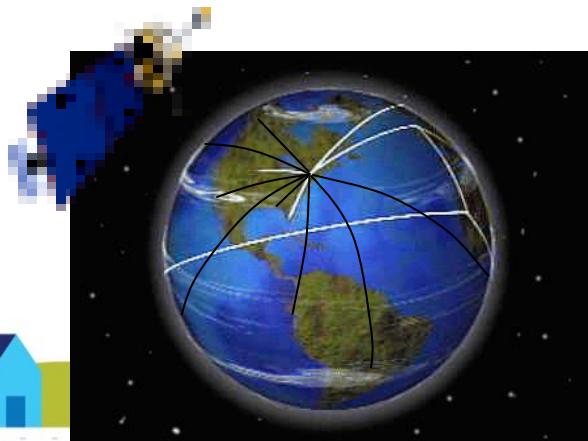
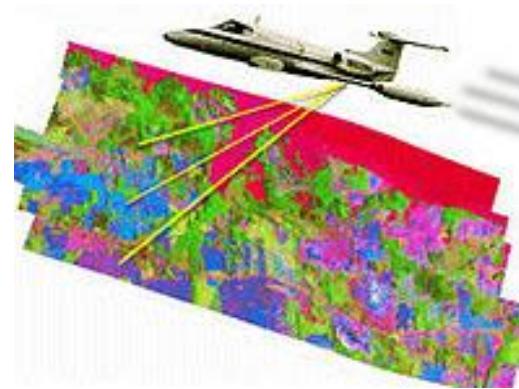


- Soil testing
- Tissue Testing
- Pest Scouting
- Weather Data
- Harvesting Data
  - Yield
  - Quality
- Asset Management



# Mapping

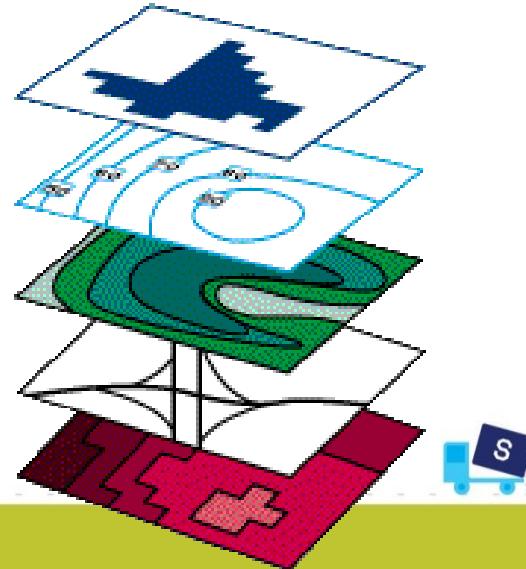
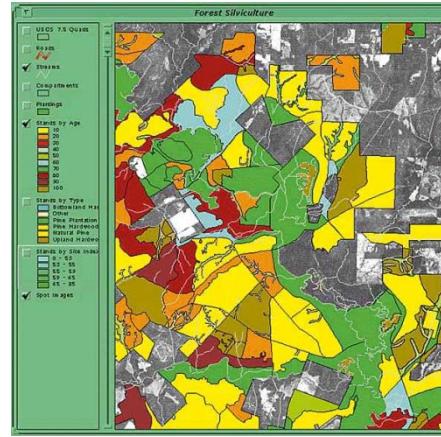
- Aerial Photography
- Satellite Imagery
- Global Positioning System



# Analysis



- Geographical Information System.
- Decision Support Systems.
- Data mining.
  - Prediction and development.
- Modeling.
  - Pests (Fusarium spp.).
  - Weather.
  - Crop.



# Project cycle

## Steps involved in developing agricultural systems.

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5
DATA COLLECTION	Determining data to be collected.	Data collection protocols.	Purchase of measuring equipment	Collection	Quality assurance
ASSESSMENT	Compiling data.	Data sorting. (Soil, Weather) Product review	Data analysis.	Development of Algorithms.	Data interpretation.
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	Product design. (Irrigation schedule)	Sauza's reviews. Orientation	Product construction.	Evaluation	Sauza reviews products.
PRODUCT DELIVERY	Product launch.	Sauza orientation.	Training	Product signoff.	Ongoing Support.

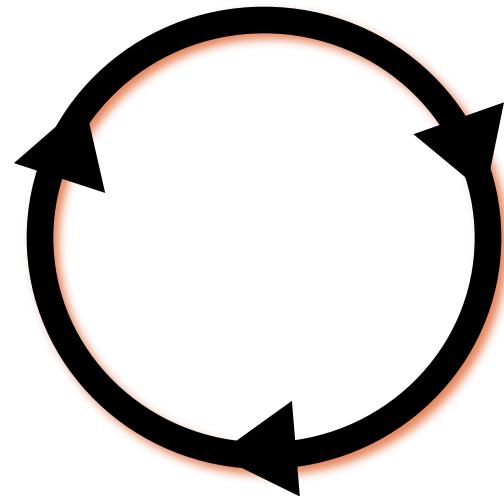


# Decision Support System



## Assessment

- Tactical



## Data Analysis

- Weather Observations
- Weather Forecasts
- Pest Predictions



## Data Collection

- Record Keeping
- Scouting
- In-Field Instrumentation
- Simulated Data



## Data Processing

- Storage
- Communication
- Integration
- Quality Control



- AND NEW TOOLS ARE BECOMING MORE AFFORDABLE

DRONES

ROBOTS

CAMERAS

LIGHTING

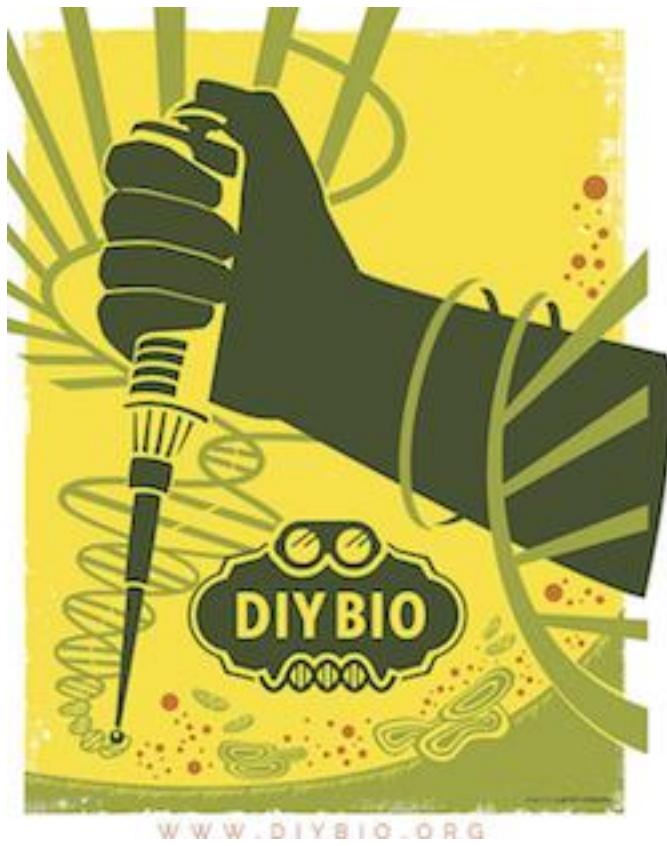
PHENOTYPING

DIY BIOLOGY

OPEN SOURCE GENETICS

- SCREENING
- BREEDING

DATA DATA DATA



Crops. Soils. Agronomy

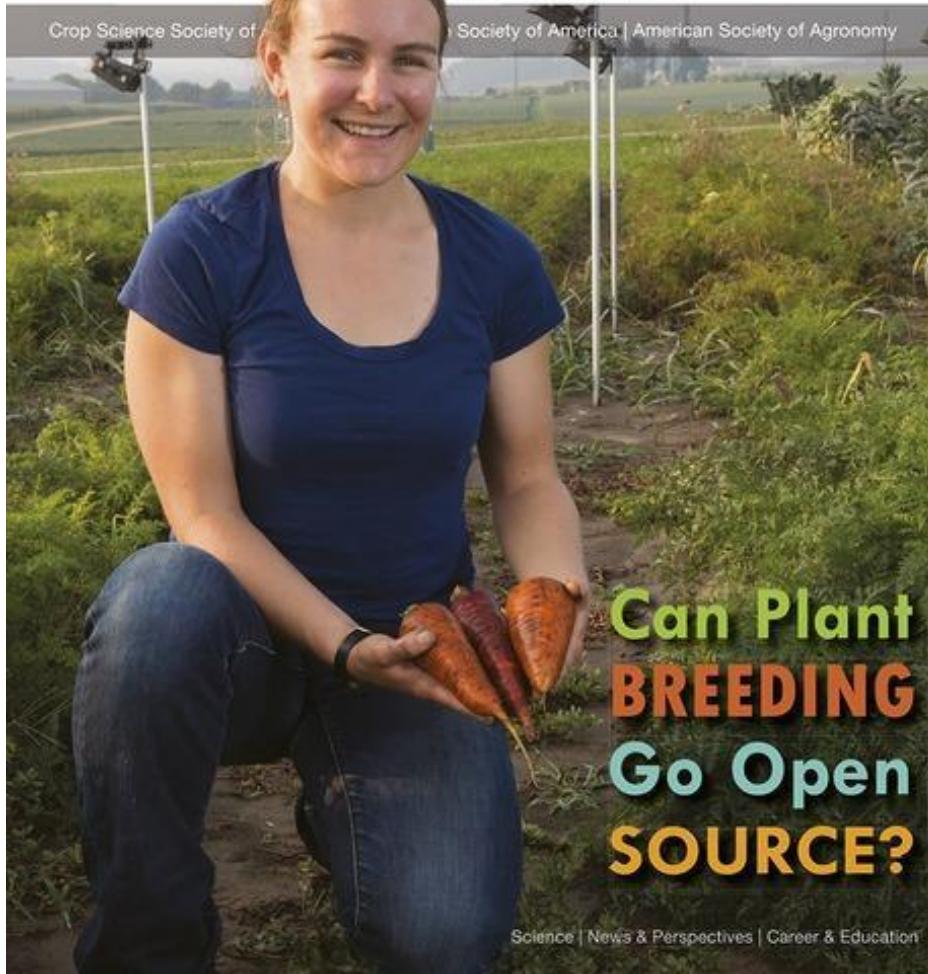
# csa news

November 2015

Your Societies. Your Magazine.

Crop Science Society of America

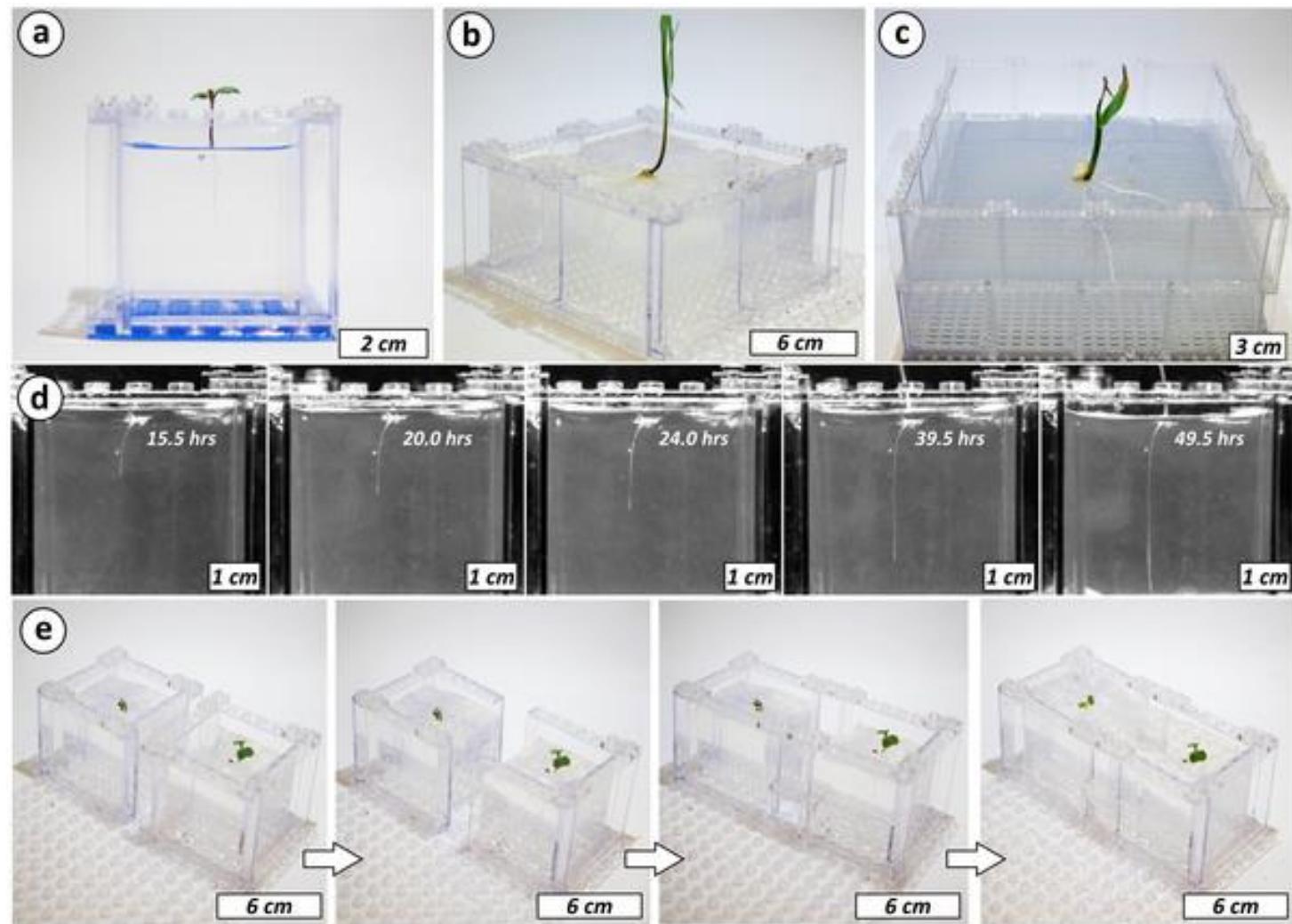
American Society of Agronomy | American Society of Plant



# LEGO® Bricks as Building Blocks for Centimeter-Scale Biological Environments: The Case of Plants

Kara R. Lind, Tom Sizmur, Saida Benomar, Anthony Miller, Ludovico Cademartiri 

Published: June 25, 2014 • DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0100867



## DRONES and CAMERAS

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the trade group that represents producers and users of drones and other robotic equipment, predicts that 80% of the commercial market for drones will eventually be for agricultural uses.



<http://www.ageagle.com/>



*In Situ 3D Segmentation of Individual Plant Leaves Using a RGB-D Camera for Agricultural Automation*  
Chunlei Xia 1,2, Longtan Wang 2, Bu-Keun Chung 3 and Jang-Myung Lee 2,\*

- PHENOTYPING



OPEN SOURCE PHENOTYPING IS COMING



MORE THAN EVER TOOLS ARE HERE AND  
ATTITUDES ARE CHANGING ...

VALIDATING – CONFIRMING – ADVANCING  
THE USE OF FLUIDS

ITS UP TO US TO FIND THIS **TOOLS** AND **PARTNERS**



# THANKS

