

# Application of Molecular Breeding Technologies in Commercial Crop Breeding



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Huazhi Rice Bio-Tech Co., LTD

**International Symposium on Confection  
Sunflower Technology and Production**

**August 10, 2018**

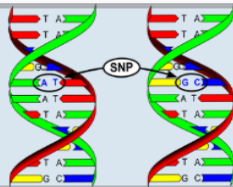
**Wuyuan, Inner Mongolia, P. R. China**

# Outline

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**Molecular breeding and seed industry development — Monsanto as an example**



**SNP marker development**



**Molecular breeding technologies**



**Trend of molecular breeding**

# Monsanto — the rise of multi-national seed Industry giant

**Prior to 1996: had agricultural biotech, pharmaceutical, chemical, and nutrition business segments, not a seed company**

1996: acquired Agracetus (soybean, corn seed company)

1997: acquired Holden's Foundation Seeds L.L.C. and Corn States Hybrid Service L.L.C (corn seed company)

1998: acquired DeKalb Genetics Corp (corn and soybean seed company)

2005: acquired Seminis, Inc. (vegetable seed company)

2007: acquired Delta and Pine Land Company (cotton seed company)

2008: acquired De Ruiters Seeds breeds Group (vegetable seed company), Semillas Cristiani Burkard (corn hybrid seed production company), CanaVialis S.A. and Alellyx S.A (sugarcane company)

2009: acquired Westbred (wheat seed company)

**2017: multi-national seed Industry giant, annual seed sale of > \$10.9B, ~20% of the world seed market share**

**10/18/2000: IPO as a pure agriculture company, market cap of \$4B**

**June 7, 2018: sold to Bayer for \$65B**

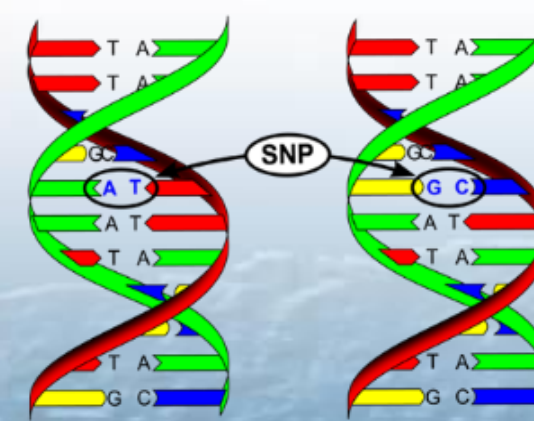
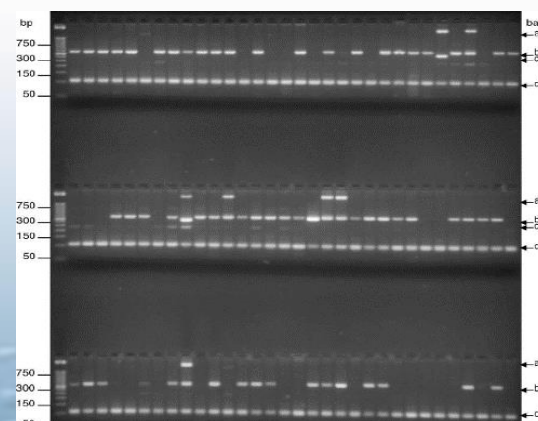
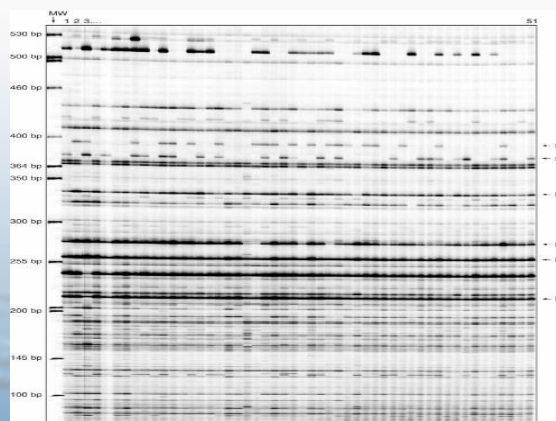


# Two core technologies made Monsanto become the world seed industry giant

## Insect-resistance, herbicide-tolerance transgenic technology (R&D initiated in 1980)

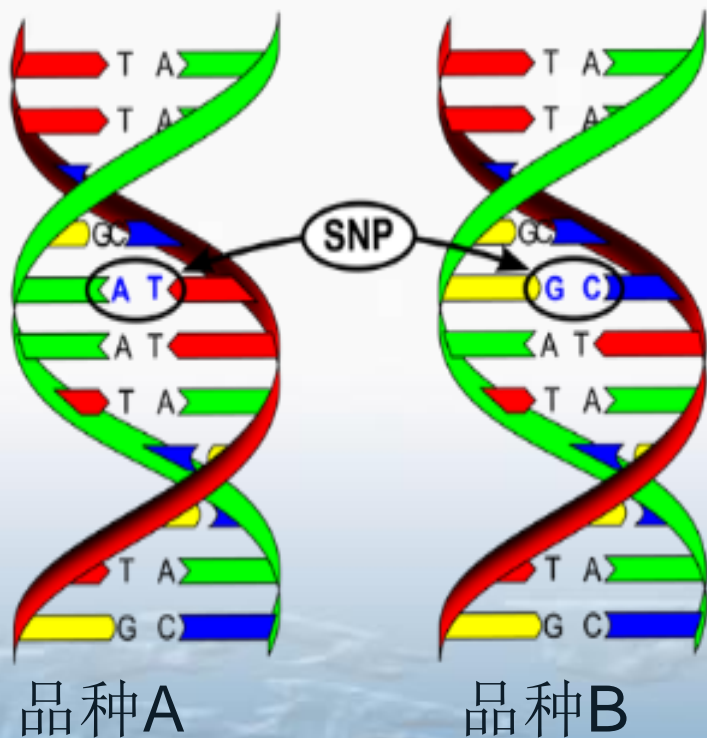


## Molecular breeding (started in 1996)



# Molecular breeding

**SNP** (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism, 单核苷酸多态性)  
作为分子标记



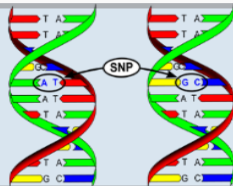
- a new field emerging in early 1990s developed from plant genomics, molecular biology, molecular genetics, quantitative genetics, and breeding
- applications of molecular markers and genomics tools in plant breeding
- **innovation** in breeding methodologies
- **discovery/creation** of novel genetic variation
- **core competitive advantages** of multi-national seed industry giants

# Outline

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Molecular breeding and seed industry  
development — Monsanto as an example



**SNP marker development**



Molecular breeding technologies

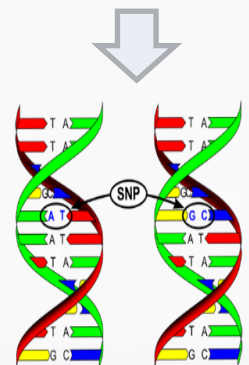


Trend of molecular breeding



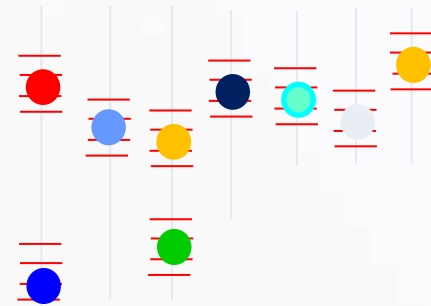
# From DNA sequences to molecular breeding: Overview

DNA sequences



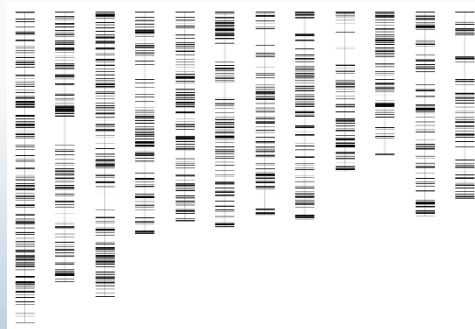
SNP

**SNP discovery**

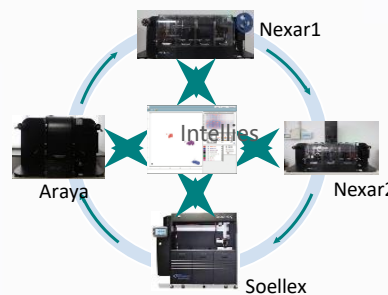


Target trait SNP markers

**SNP marker development**



Genome-wide SNP markers



**SNP genotyping production**

- Genetic diversity assessment
- Parental line selection
- Cross design
- F1 hybrid confirmation
- MAS
- Linkage drag elimination
- MARS
- MABC
- GWS
- Seed genetic purity assessment
- Variety IP protection

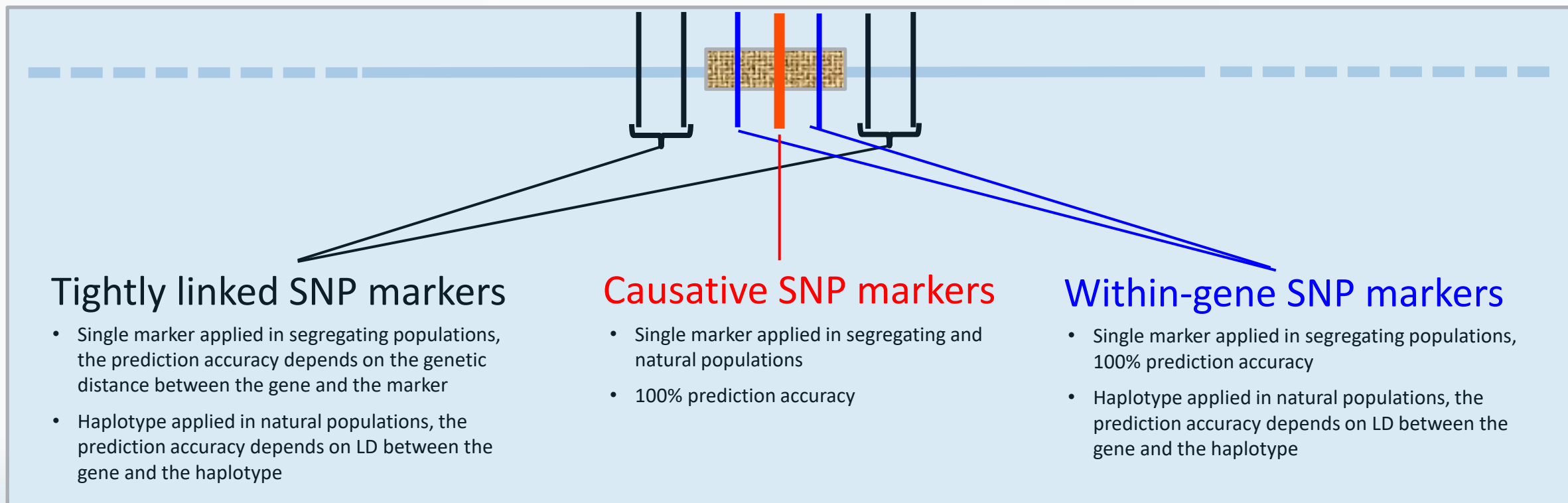
**Molecular breeding technologies**

# SNP discovery

Line 01: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**C**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 02: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**C**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 03: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**C**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 04: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**C**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 05: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**C**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 06: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 07: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 08: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 09: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 10: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....  
Line 11: .....AGACGGCCTTACTTGCGAATCCAGGCAAC**A**GTACGGGCTA.....



# Three types of SNP markers associated with major gene/QTL



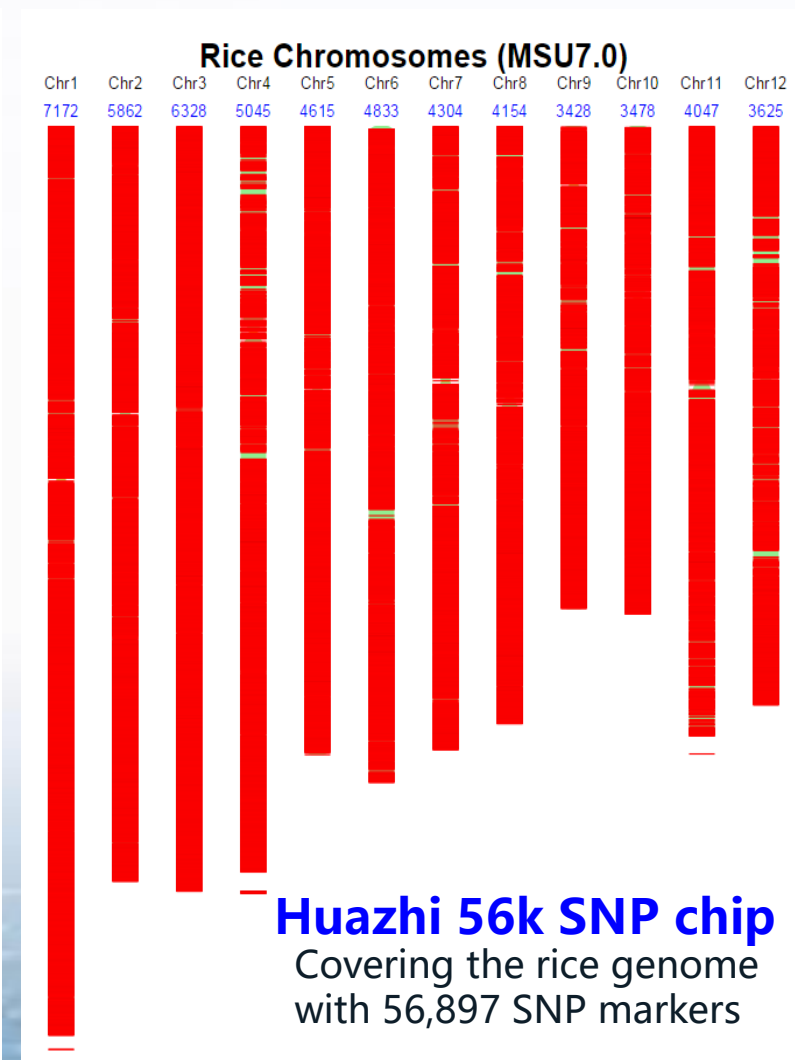
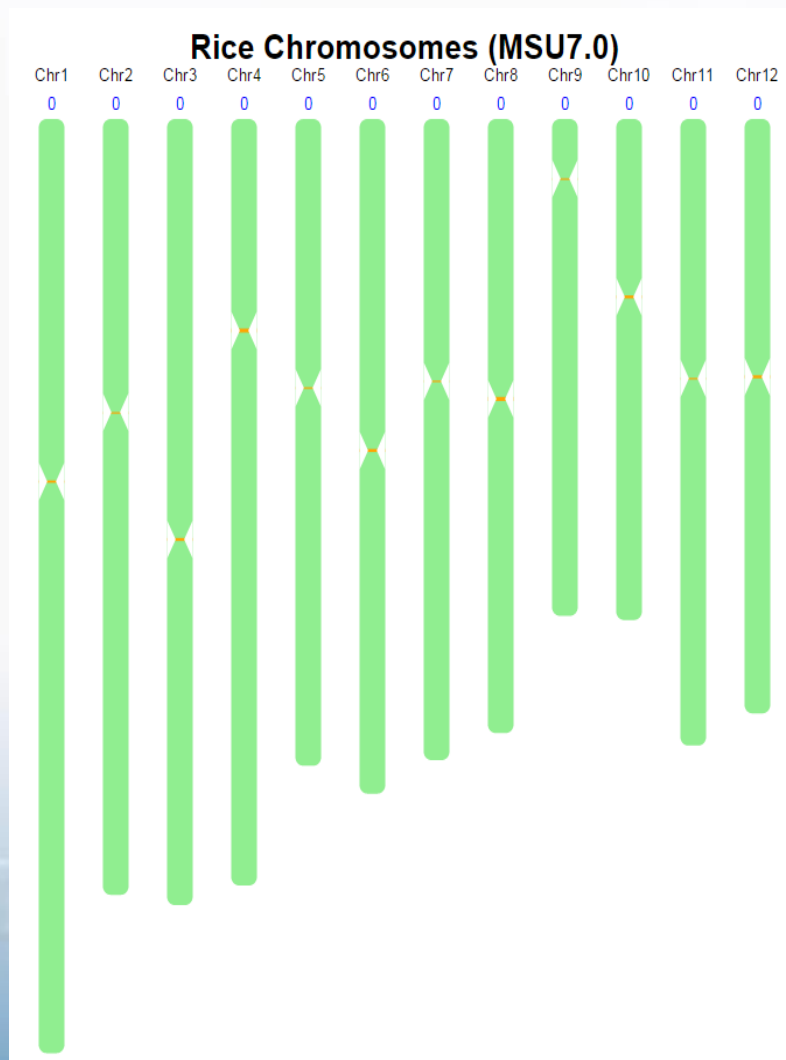
## Avenues to discovering target gene SNP markers:

- DNA sequences of cloned genes
- *de novo* mapping
- association mapping

# Genome-wide SNP marker development

## Requirements:

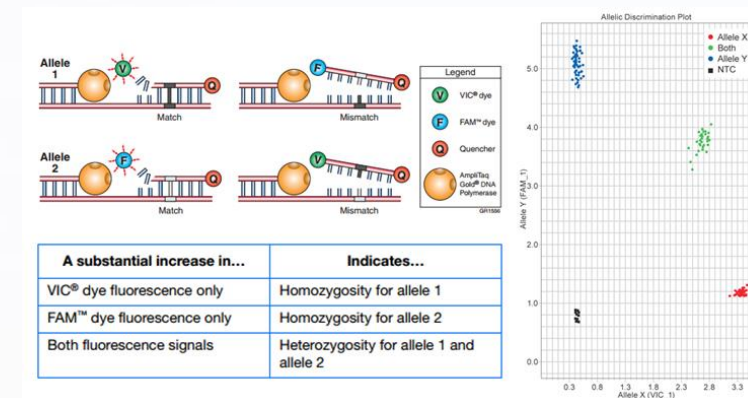
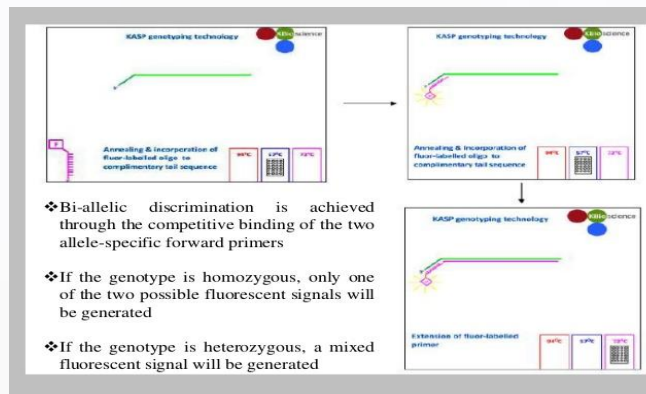
- Locus-specific
- High PIC value
- High assay quality
- Even distributed across the entire genome
- Marker density matching breeding application type



# SNP genotyping technologies

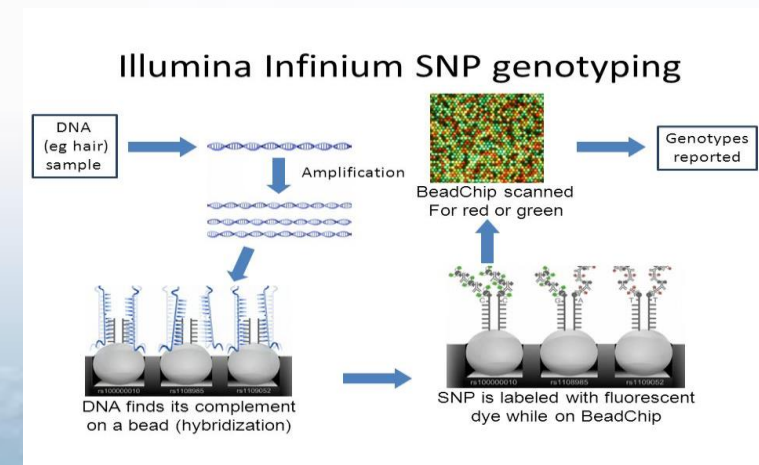
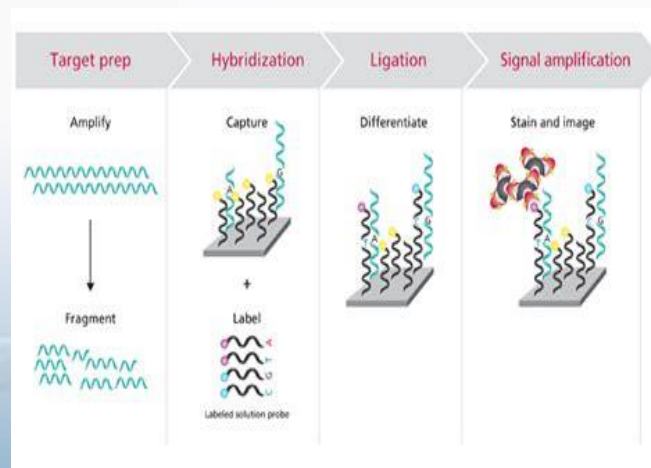
## • PCR-based

- KASP
- End-point TaqMan
- one sample, one marker at a time



## • DNA fragment hybridization-based parallel microarray

- Affymetrix Axiom SNP chip
- Illumina Infinium SNP chip
- One sample, many markers (100s-1,000,000) simultaneously





# Assay types of SNP markers and breeding applications

## KASP, TaqMan SNP markers

- **Major genes/QTL**
  - ✓ MAS
  - ✓ MARS
  - ✓ Haplotype-based discovery of novel alleles
- **Genome-wide**
  - ✓ MABC
  - ✓ Low density-marker based DNA fingerprinting
  - ✓ Linkage drag elimination or minimization
  - ✓ genetic diversity assessment (low density marker-based)
  - ✓ Reconstruction of parents of hybrids
  - ✓ F1 hybrid confirmation
  - ✓ Seed genetic purity assessment
  - ✓ Variety identity verification

## SNP chip


- **High density**
  - ✓ Genome-wide selection (GWS)
  - ✓ High density variety DNA fingerprint
  - ✓ Detailed genome-wide genetic diversity assessment
  - ✓ Variety identity verification
- **Low density?**

# Outline




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Molecular breeding and seed industry development — Monsanto as an example




SNP

SNP marker development

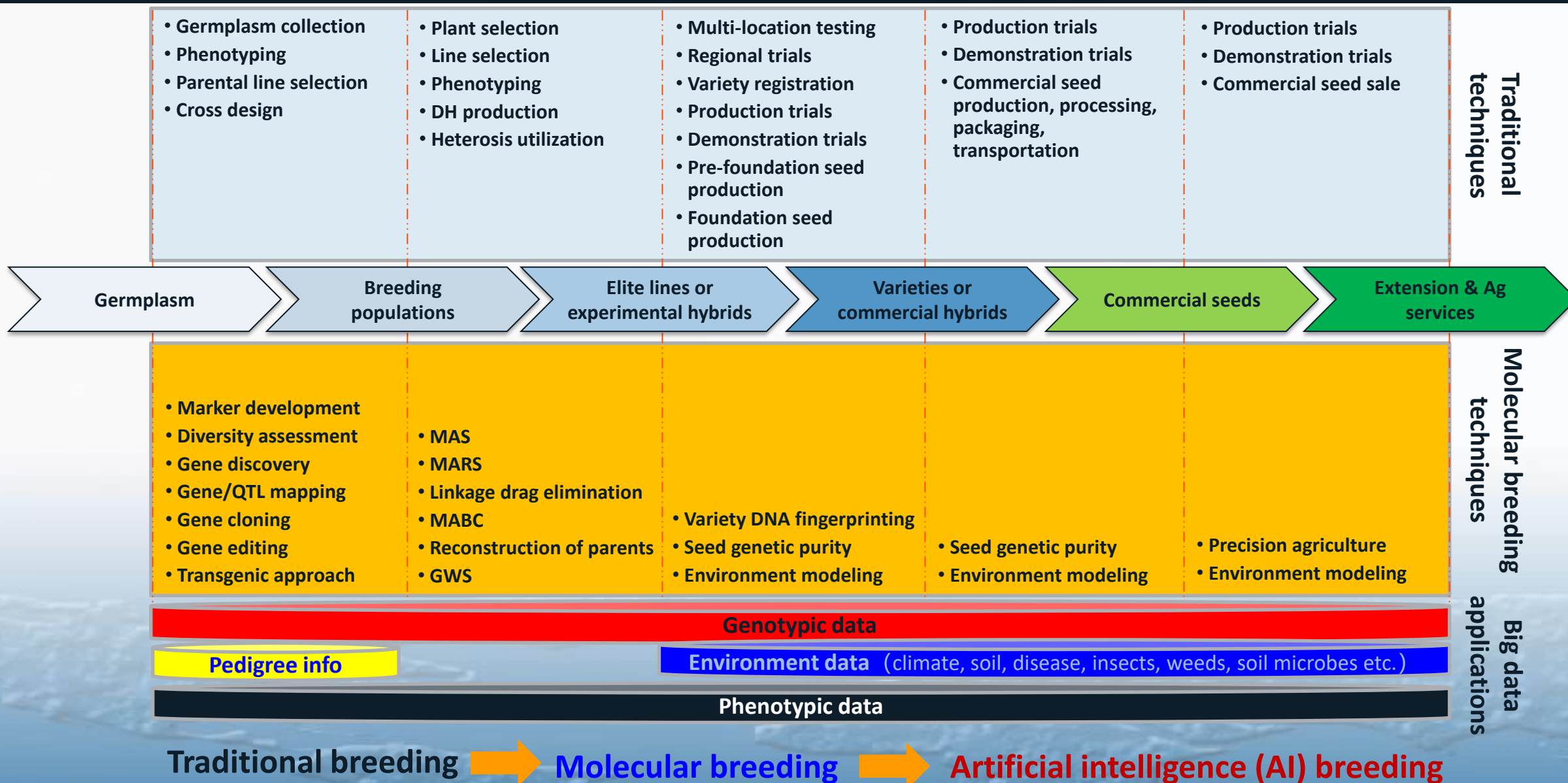


**Molecular breeding technologies**



Trend of molecular breeding

# Molecular breeding technologies deployed into variety development & commercialization pipeline





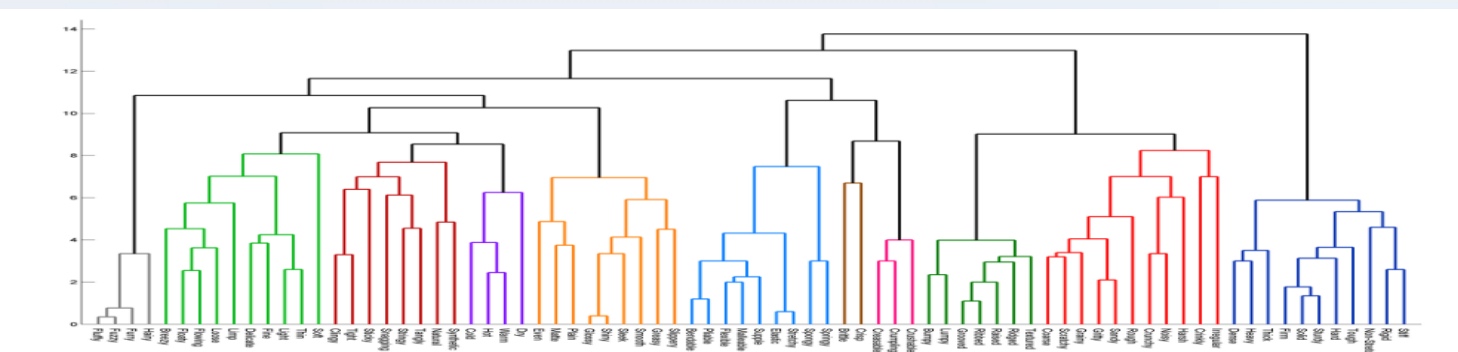
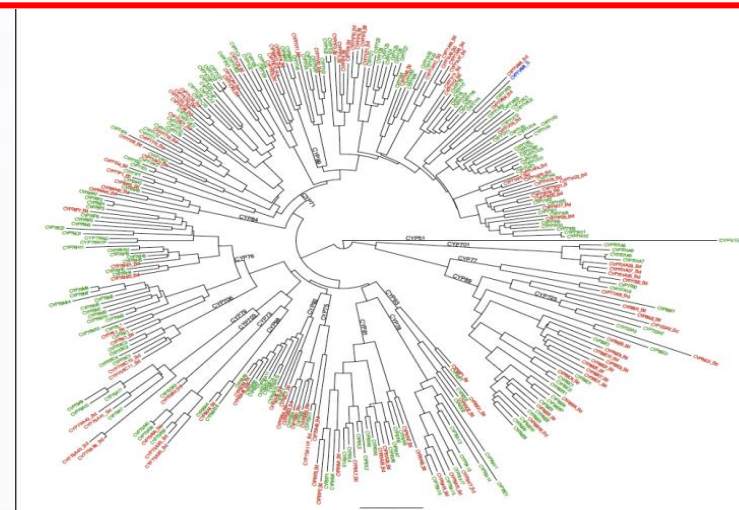
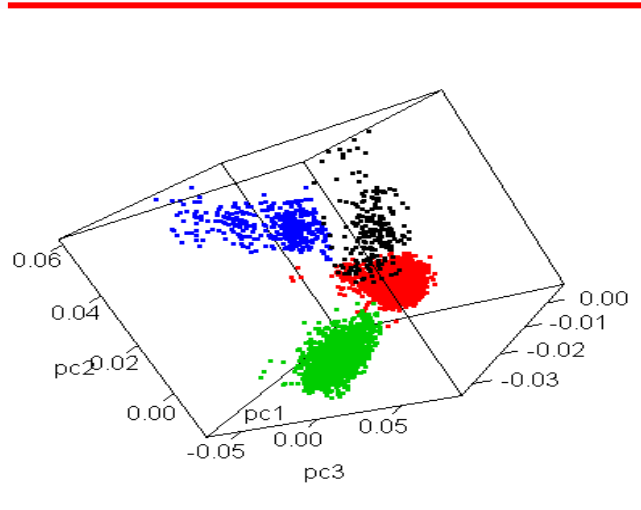
# Genetic diversity assessment of parental lines

## Traditional methods

- Phenotypes such as plant height, plant type, growth duration, adaptability, photo-sensitivity, biotic resistance, abiotic tolerance, yield, quality traits, etc.
- Originating sources
- relationship
- Pedigree info



## Based on SNP markers covering the entire genome





# Parental selection and design of crosses for breeding populations

## Traditional

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- Trait complementation
- Adaptability of target growing regions
- Pedigree info
- Originating sources

## Outcome

- ✓ Many crosses
- ✓ High genetic duplication of crosses
- ✓ Low predictability

## Molecular marker-assisted

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- Trait complementation
- Adaptability of target growing regions
- Pedigree info
- Originating sources
- Major genes of target traits
- Genome-wide diversity, similarity and distance

## Outcome

- ✓ Fewer crosses and highly selective
- ✓ Low genetic duplication of crosses
- ✓ higher predictability



# F1 hybridity confirmation

## Traditional

- F1 plant trait observation



### Outcome

- ✓ Low accuracy
- ✓ May require to grow to maturity
- ✓ May delay F1 crossing or backcrossing a generation

## Molecular markers

- Trait or non-trait markers

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10
母本	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T
父本	A	T	C	G	G	T	G	C	G	G
1	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
2	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
3	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
4	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
5	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
6	C,G	G,T	A,T	A,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,G	C,G	G,T
7	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
8	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
9	A	T	C	G	G	T	G	C	G	G
10	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
11	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
12	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
13	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
14	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
15	G,T	C,G	A,G	C,T	C,G	A,T	C,G	G,T	G,T	C,G
16	C	A	A	G	A	T	C	C	C	T
17	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
18	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
19	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T
20	A,T	A,T	A,C	C,G	A,G	A,T	C,G	C,T	C,G	G,T

### Outcome

- ✓ High accuracy
- ✓ Fast (typically 5 business days)
- ✓ Low cost

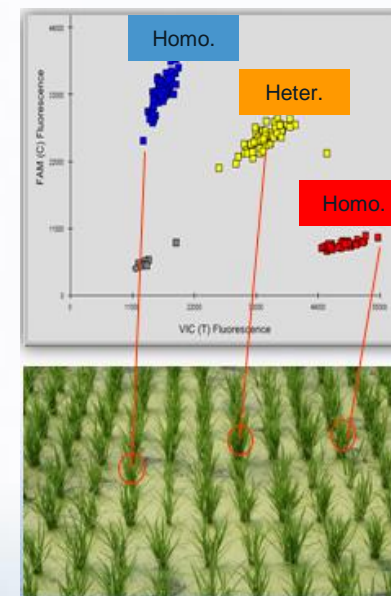
# Selection of favorable genotype of major genes/QTL

## Traditional phenotype selection

- Trait phenotype required
- Low accuracy in natural environment (high rate of false-positive such as disease resistance, insect-resistance)
- Costly in controlled environment and low throughput
- Cannot distinguish between homo. and heter. genotype of a dominant gene (progeny evaluation required)
- Typically cannot perform selection at more than one gene locus

## Marker-assisted selection (MAS)

- No phenotype required
- Low cost
- High throughput
- fast
- High selection accuracy
- Early selection
- distinguish between homo. and heter. genotype of a dominant gene
- Selection of multi-gene loci simultaneously



# MAS: low cost, fast, accurate – a rice example

A breeder needs to identify 500-600 F2 blast resistant plants homozygous at *Pi2* from a F2 population

## IF traditional artificial inoculation employed

**3,069 F2 plants:**

F2 seed sowing → plant labeling → fungi culturing → inoculating → resistant/susceptible phenotype observation → transplanting into field → F3 seed harvest

**2,213 F2:3 progeny inoculating to identify homozygous F2 plants:**

F2:3 seed sowing → labeling → fungi culturing → inoculating → resistant/susceptible phenotype observation



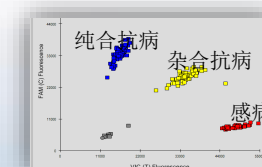
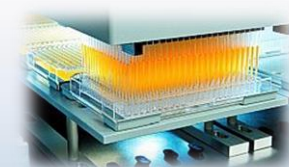
**Cost:** ¥~355,000

**Time:** ~ 200 days

**Accuracy:** ~80%

## MAS

F2 seed sowing → plant labeling → leaf tissue sampling → DNA extracting → SNP genotyping → identified 566 F2 resistant plants homozygous at *Pi2* from 3,069 F2 plants



**Cost:** ¥~30,000

**Time:** 21 days

**Accuracy:** >99%



# MAS: low cost, fast, accurate – sunflower examples



*Downy Mildew*

- Two different sources of resistance
- Prediction accuracy in segregating populations: >99%



*Orobanche*

- A major gene originating from wild sunflower
- Prediction accuracy in segregating populations: ~98%



# Accumulation of the favorable alleles at multiple independent loci

## Traditional recurrent selection

- Require phenotype of desirable plants to inter-mat
- Almost impossible to purposely accumulate the favorable alleles of more than 6 independent loci
- Very time-consuming (20 independent loci would need about 60 years)

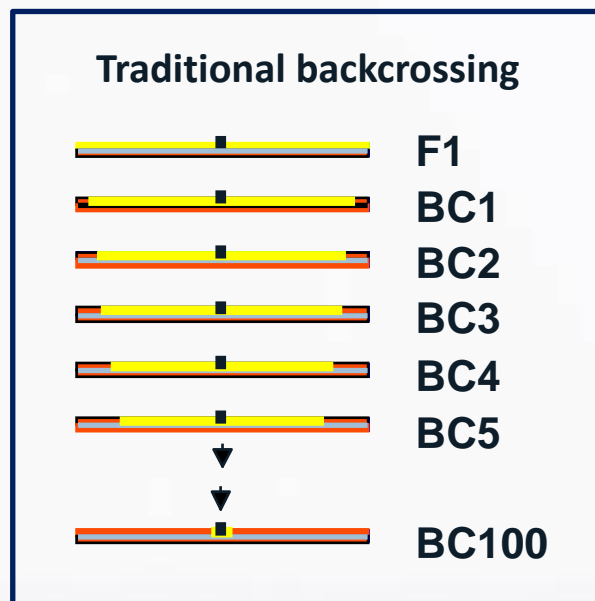
## Marker-assisted recurrent selection (MARS)

Recurrent selection cycle	Favorable allele	Frequency			
		Desirable genotype (homo for favorable allele at all the loci)			
		No. of independent loci under selection			
		20	15	10	5
0 (F <sub>2</sub> )	0.51	1 in 500 billion	7 in 4 billion	3 in 2 million	1 in 1,000
1	0.62	1 in 200 million	3 in 5 million	7 in 100,000	8 in 1,000
2	0.81	1 in 5,000	9 in 5,000	3 in 2 million	3 in 25
3	0.96	1 in 5	3 in 10	9 in 20	6 in 10

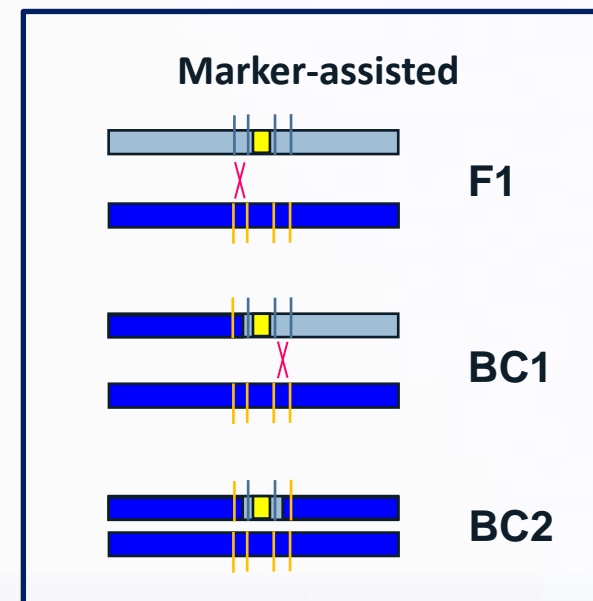
In every recurrent selection cycle, only needs to sample ~200 plants for genotyping of SNP markers associated with the genes, then ~10 plants are to be selected for inter-mating to produce segregating progeny for next cycle.

In the forward breeding, where it is necessary to accumulate the favorable alleles at multiple independent loci, MARS is the most powerful tool to achieve this.

# Linkage drag elimination or minimization



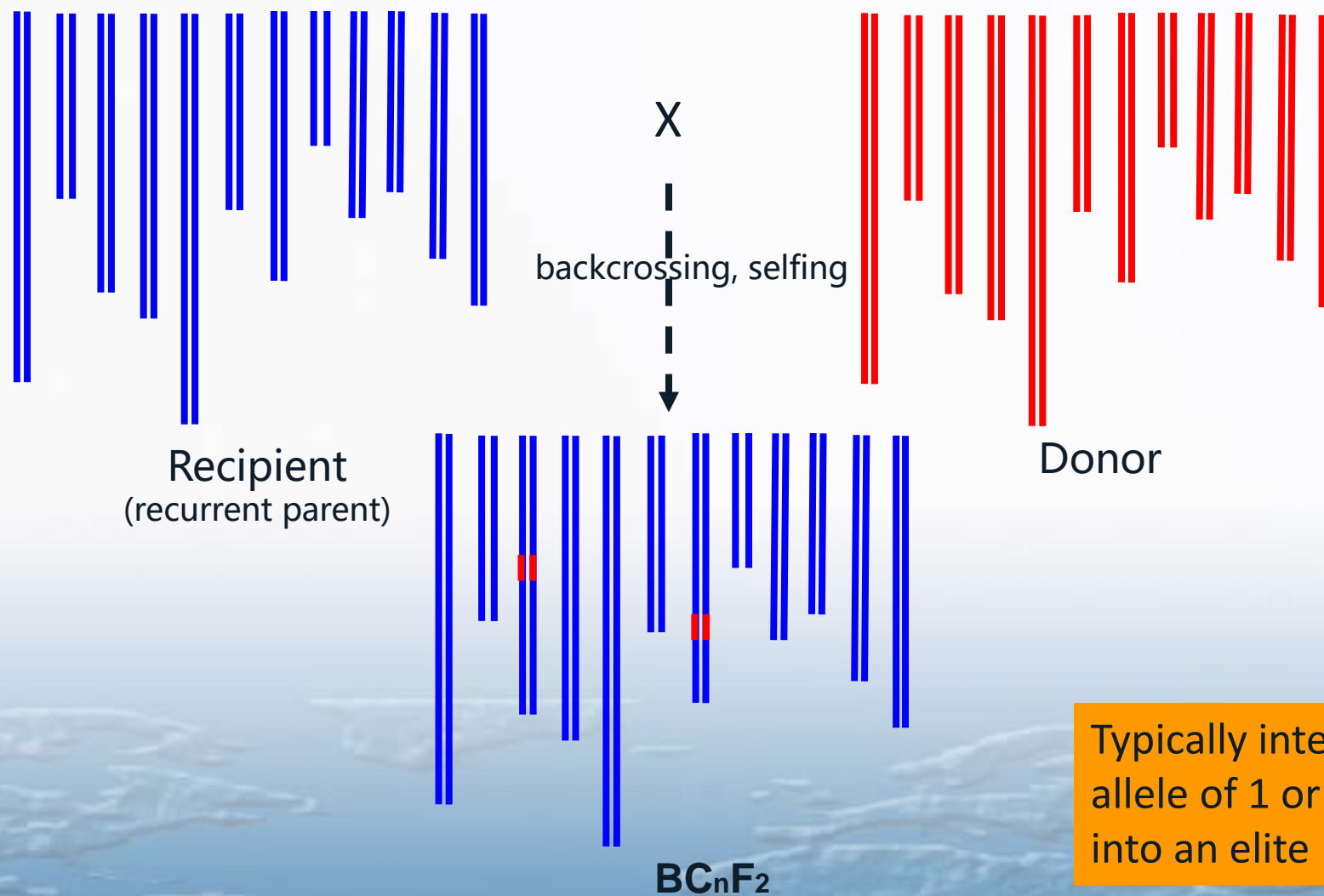
50.5 years (2 gens/year)



1.5 years (2 gens/year)



# Backcrossing conversion

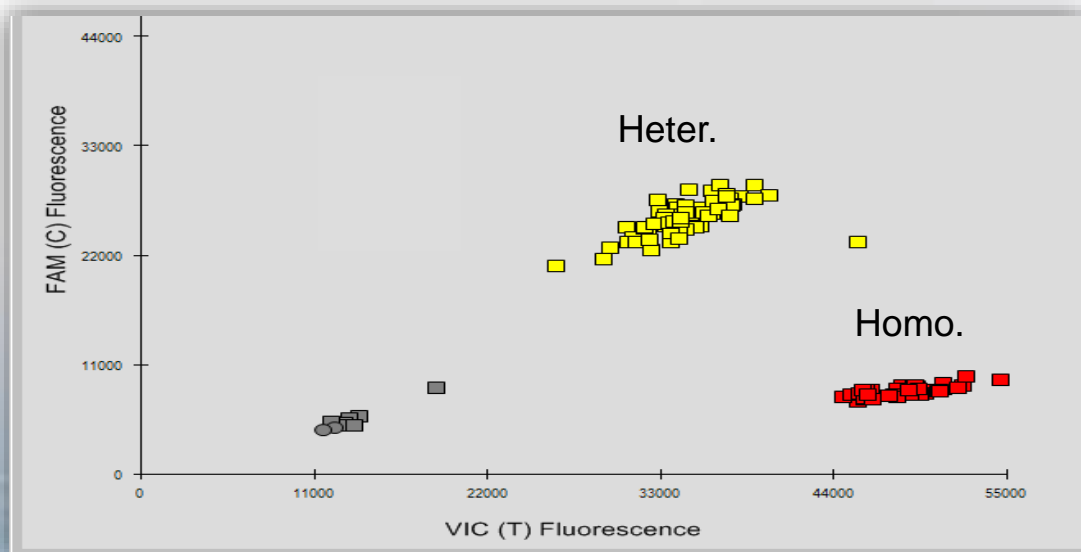


Typically integrate the favorable allele of 1 or 2 genes or transgenes into an elite line or variety

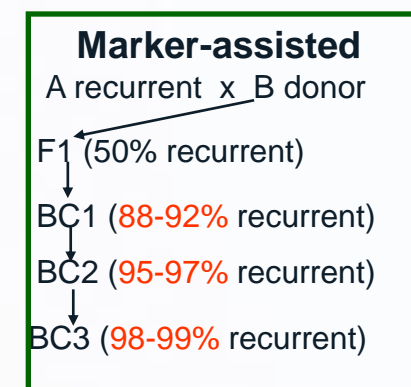
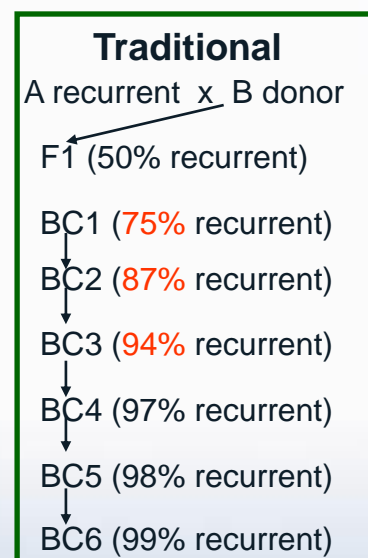
# Marker-assisted backcrossing conversion (MABC)

Marker	DP	RP	Backcross progeny									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	AA	CC	AC	CC	CC	AC	CC	CC	CC	AC	CC	AC
2	GG	TT	TT	TT	GT	GT	GT	TT	TT	GT	TT	TT
3	CC	TT	TT	CT	TT	CT	CT	CT	TT	TT	CT	CT
4	TT	GG	GT	GG	GT	GG	GG	GT	GG	GT	GG	GT
5	AA	GG	AG	AG	GG	GG	GG	AG	GG	GG	AG	GG
6	TT	AA	AA	AA	AA	AT	AT	AA	AA	AT	AA	AA
7	GG	AA	AG	AA	AA	AG	AG	AA	AA	AA	AG	AA
8	DD	II	II	DI	II	II	DI	DI	II	DI	II	II

**Background selection:** use markers covering the entire genome to identify the backcross progeny most similar to the recurrent parent.



Foreground selection



**Benefit:** improved variety gets into seed market two years earlier



# Bacterial blight resistance integration into an elite line through MABC

16 months: April, 2016 – August, 2017





# Bacterial blight resistance integration into R900 through MABC



**Original line**  
(susceptible to bacterial blight)



**Improved line**  
(resistant to bacterial blight)





# MABC to speed up transgene integration: corn examples

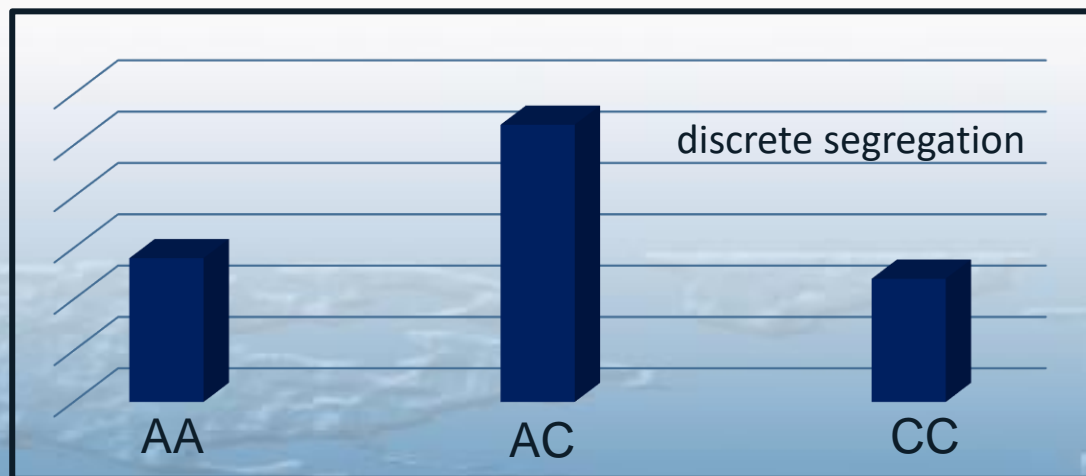
At least one BC3F1 plant whose recurrent parent genome recovery is  $>98.5\%$  in all 20 inbreds for insect-resistance and herbicide-tolerance transgene conversions



# MAS, MARS only applicable to selection of major genes/QTL

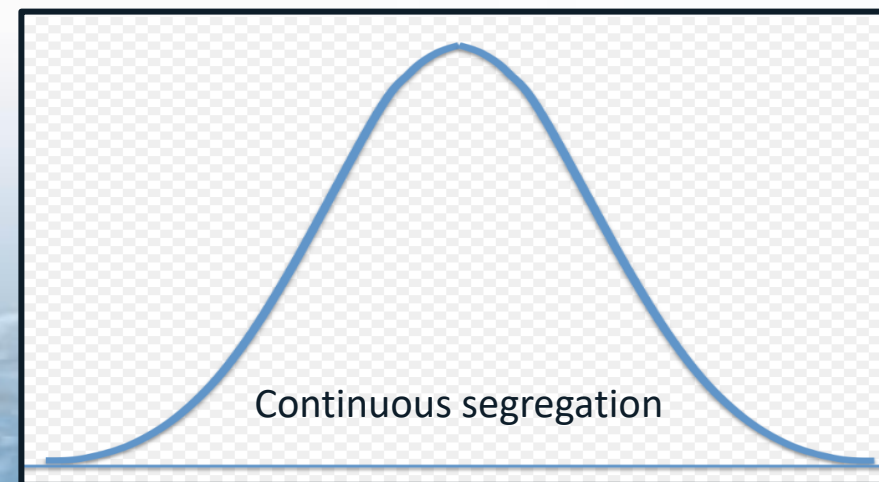
**Suitable for selection of qualitative or simple quantitative traits** such as race-specific disease resistance, biotype-specific insect resistance

- ✓ Genotype-independent
- ✓ Environment has no or little effect on
- ✓ Controlled by one or few major genes or QTL



**Not suitable for selection of complex traits** such as yield, abiotic stress tolerance, polygenic biotic stress resistance

- ✓ Genotype-dependent
- ✓ Affected largely by the environment
- ✓ Polygenic control

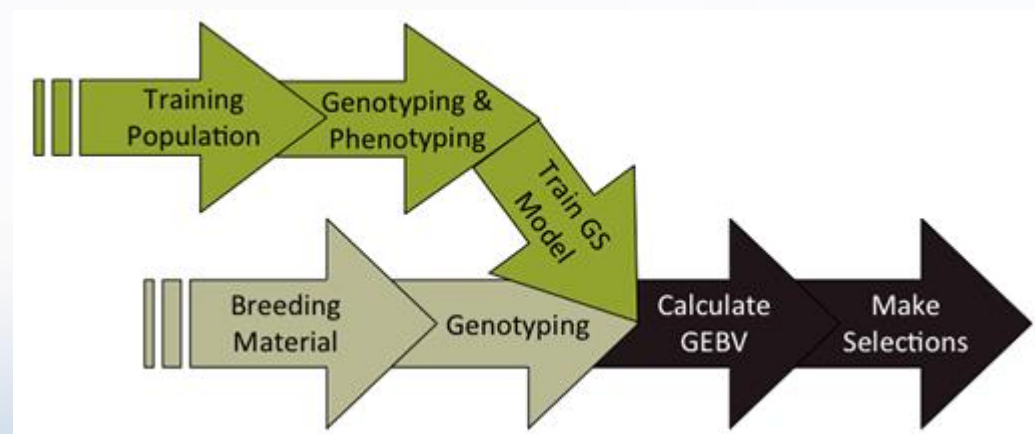




# Genome-wide selection (GWS): concept

Meuwissen, T. H., Hayes, B. J., & Goddard, M. E. (2001). Prediction of Total Genetic Value Using Genome-Wide Dense Marker Maps. *Genetics*, 157 (4), 1819-1829.

Individual or Family	Genotype	Phenotype	Genomic Estimated Breeding Value
1	x	x	x
2	x	x	x
3	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
$k$	x	x	x
$k + 1$	x		x
$k + 2$	x		x
$k + 3$	x		x
.	x		x
.	x		x
.	x		x
$N$	x		x

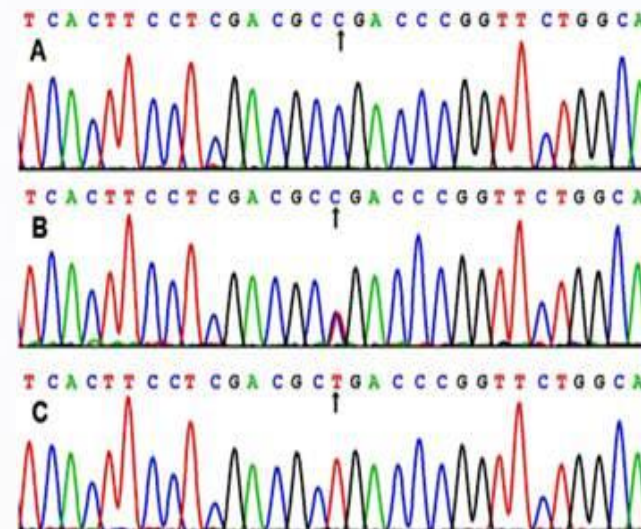
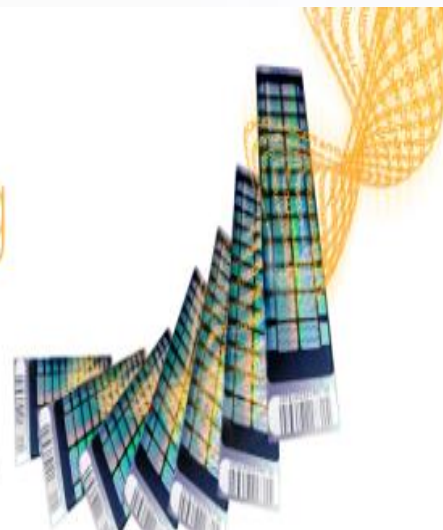


# SNP genotyping cost lower then phenotyping cost made GWS possible



Illumina  
Genotyping  
Solutions.

A complete range of tools  
and services for every need.



↑ One line field tested at 5  
locations with 1 plot each

One line genotyped  
at 50, 000 SNP markers ↓



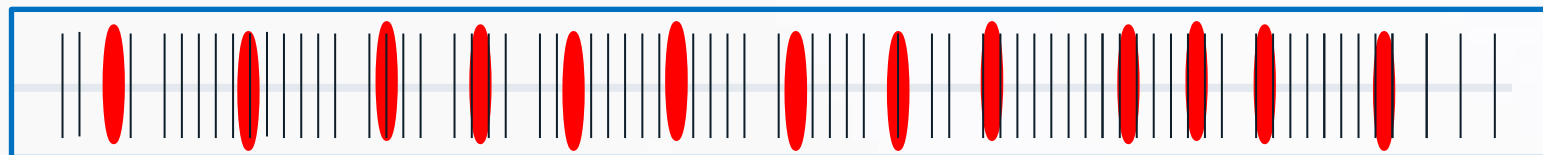
\$200



\$50

# GWS: rationale and advantages

- Designed for phenotypic value prediction of polygenic traits such as yield, abiotic stresses
- All QTL are in LD when the density of markers covering the entire genome is high enough



- GWS is the core technology of molecular breeding
- Only multi-national seed industry giants such as Bayer-Monsanto and Dow-DuPont have integrated GWS into traditional breeding process
- Advantages of GWS
  - **Higher genetic gain:** ~two times of traditional breeding's
  - **Reducing cost:** reduce number of lines or hybrids to be conducted for field trials
  - **Speeding up breeding cycles:** reduce one or two field testing seasons
  - **Faster recycling of parental lines:** advanced breeding lines as parental lines for new breeding population



# GWS-guided creation of heterotic hybrids: flowchart

## Model building

(SNP marker and trait data known)

- Select female and male parents (3,000 – 5,000)
- Purify parental lines genetically
- Conduct SNP genotyping
- Perform genetic and clustering analyses
- Design hybrid combinations for model training
- Produce F1 hybrid seeds
- Design field experiment
- Conduct field trials
- Normalize trait data
- Deduce the SNP genotypes of F1 hybrids
- Perform model fitting and cross-validation (hybrid, female, and male models)

3 years

## Model validation

(SNP marker and trait data known)

- Design hybrid combinations for model validation
- Produce F1 hybrid seeds
- Design field experiment
- Conduct field trials
- Normalize trait data
- Deduce the SNP genotypes of F1 hybrids
- Assess the accuracy of model prediction
- Re-build and refine models

2 years

## Model application

(SNP marker data known)

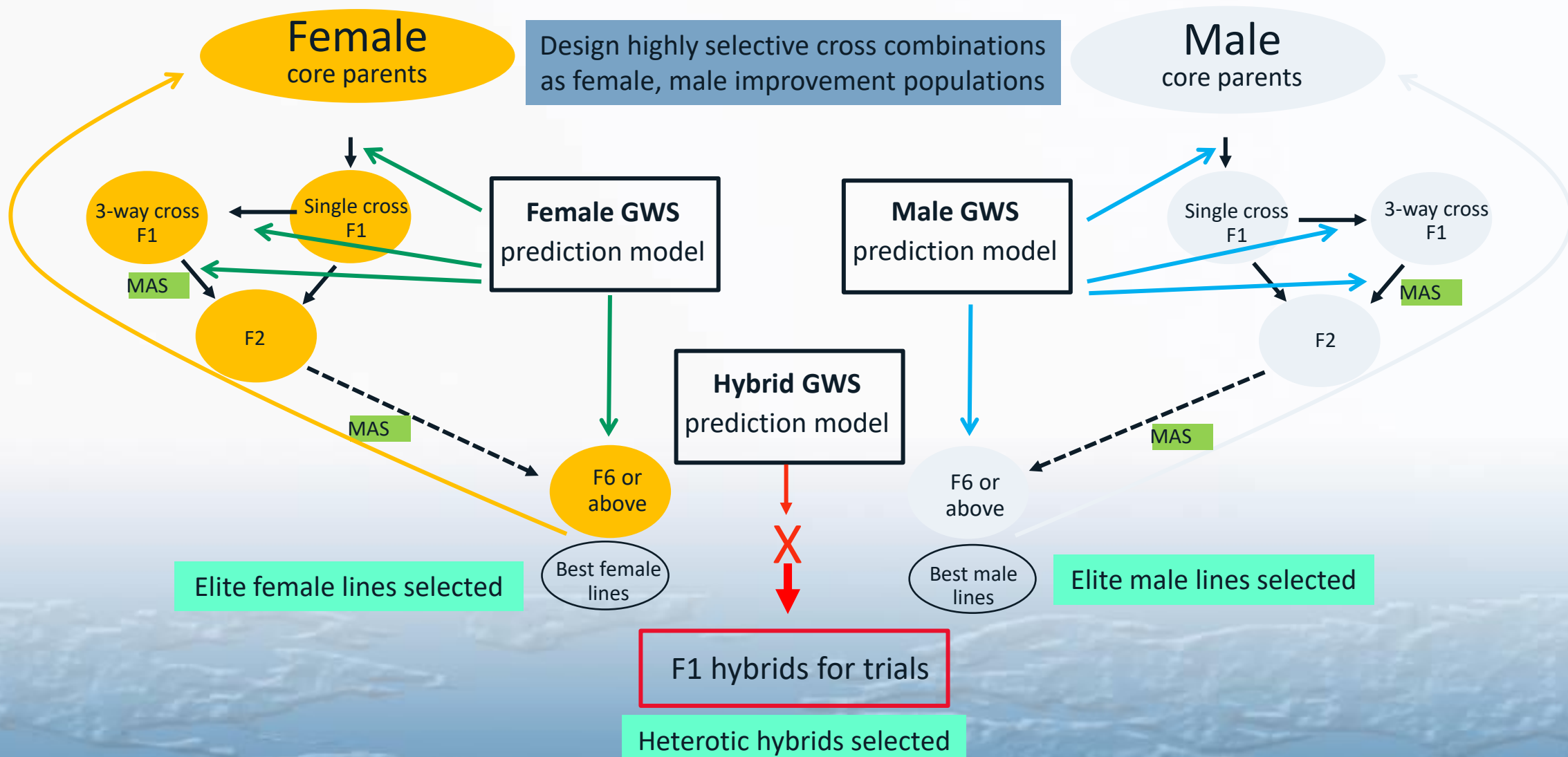
- Hybrid model to predict the performance of hybrids
- Female model to select elite female lines from female improvement populations
- Male model to select elite male lines from male improvement populations
- Female model to simulate cross combinations and design highly selective combinations as female improvement populations
- Male model to simulate cross combinations and design highly selective combinations as male improvement populations

$$y = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + \dots + b_nx_n$$

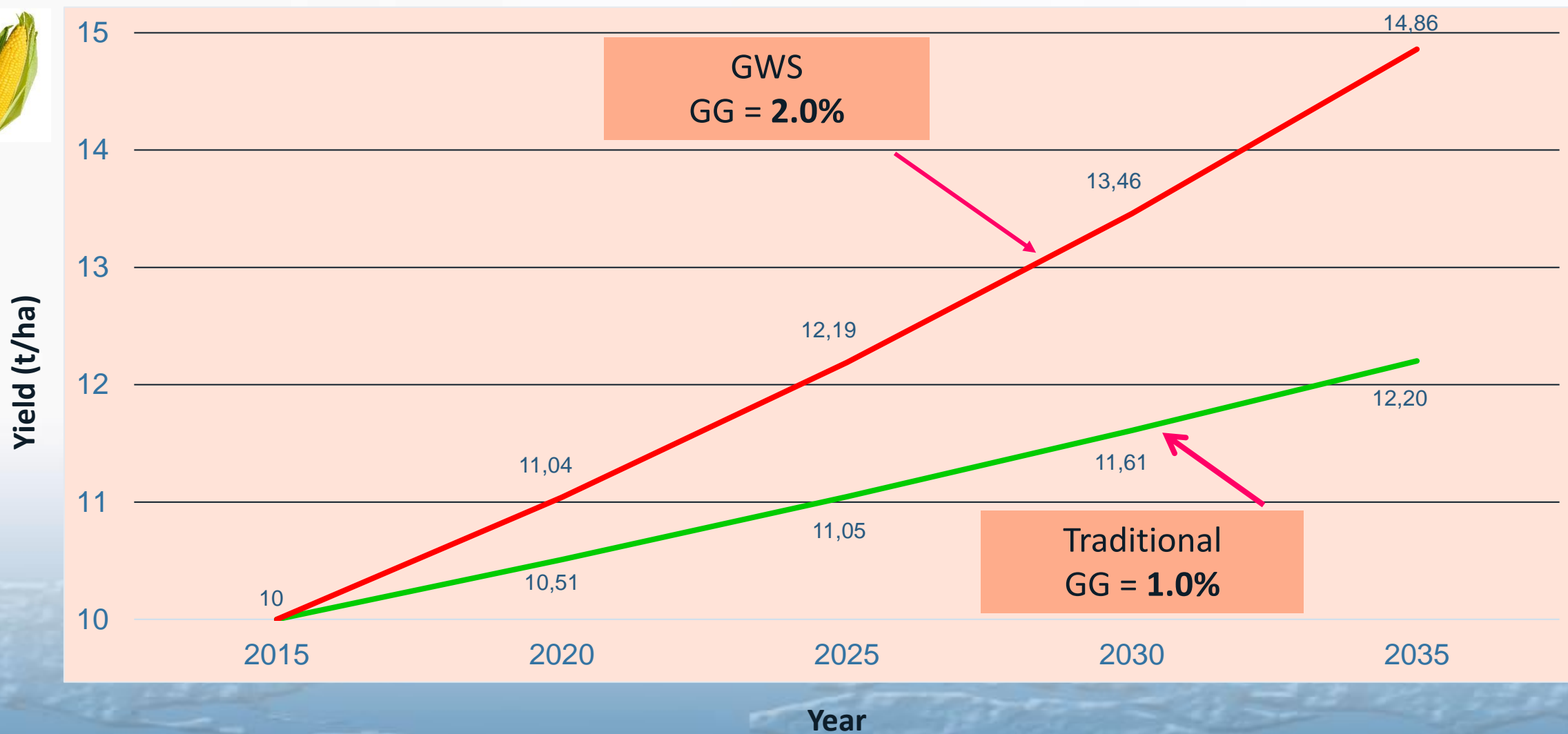
Where,  $X = \text{SNP genotype}$



# GWS prediction model application



# GWS increases genetic gains



# Seed genetic purity/plant genetic mixture assessment

## Traditional

- Field observation of plant uniformity



### Outcome

- ✓ Low accuracy
- ✓ May require to grow to maturity
- ✓ costly

## SNP markers

SNP	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20	M21	M22	M23	M24
ref	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
1	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
2	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
3	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
4	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
5	T	T	T	C	A	A	T	A	T	A	C	C	A	T	T	A	T	A	A	C	G	A	T	C
6	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
7	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
8	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
9	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
10	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
11	G	A	A	C	G	T	C	T	C	T	C	C	C	G	C	A	T	T	A	A	C	T	A	C
12	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
13	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
14	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
15	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
16	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
17	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
18	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
19	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C
20	T	A	A	C	A	A	C	T	C	T	T	G	G	C	A	T	C	C	G	G	G	G	C	C

### Outcome

- ✓ Highly accurate
- ✓ Fast (about a week after seed or leaf tissue sampling )
- ✓ Low cost

# Variety identity verification and proprietary germplasm protection

## Traditional

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- Observation in the field

## SSR standard

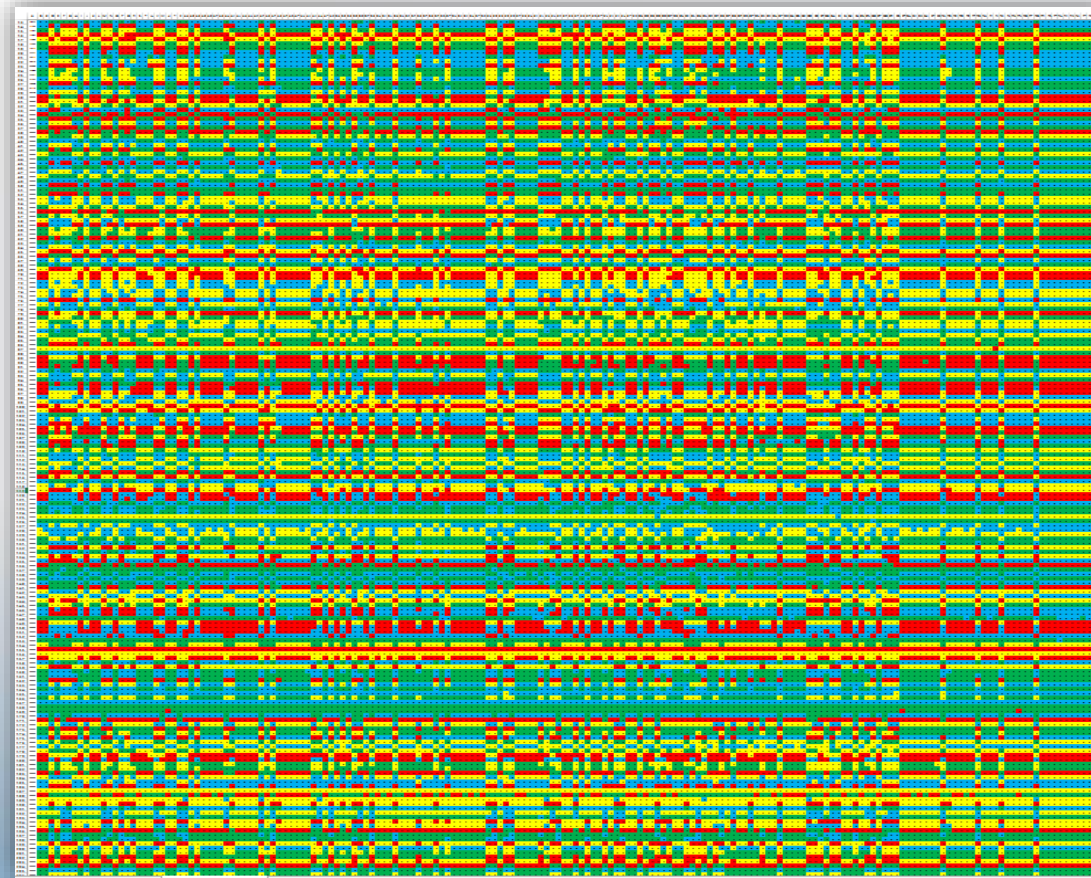
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- 48 pairs of SSR

Outcome

- ✓ Indistinguishable in many cases

## DNA fingerprint based on genome-wide SNP markers






# Outline




MONSANTO  
imagine

Molecular breeding and seed industry development — Monsanto as an example




SNP

SNP marker development



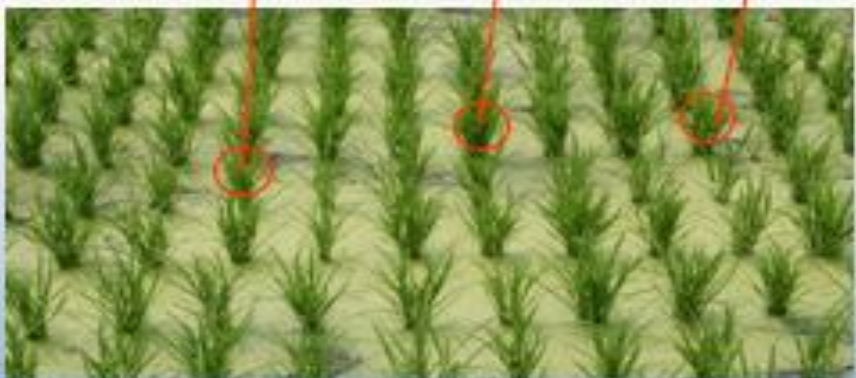
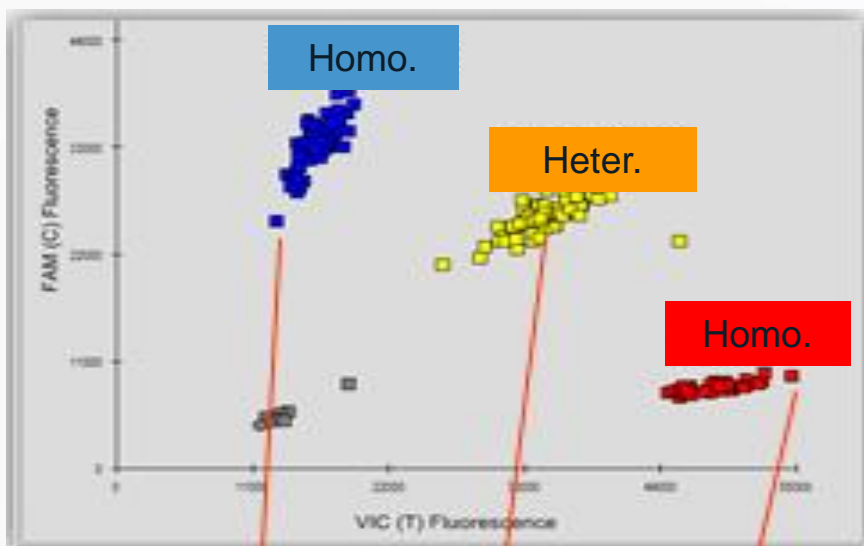
Molecular breeding technologies



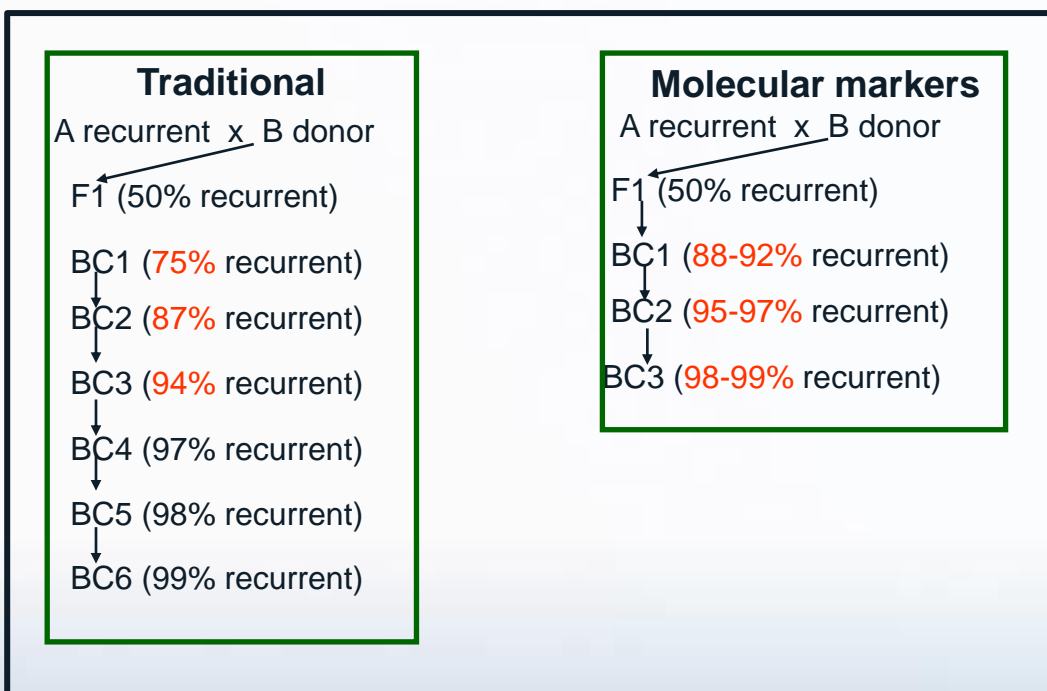
Trend of molecular breeding

# MAS, MABC are becoming routine

**MAS: accurate, fast, low cost**



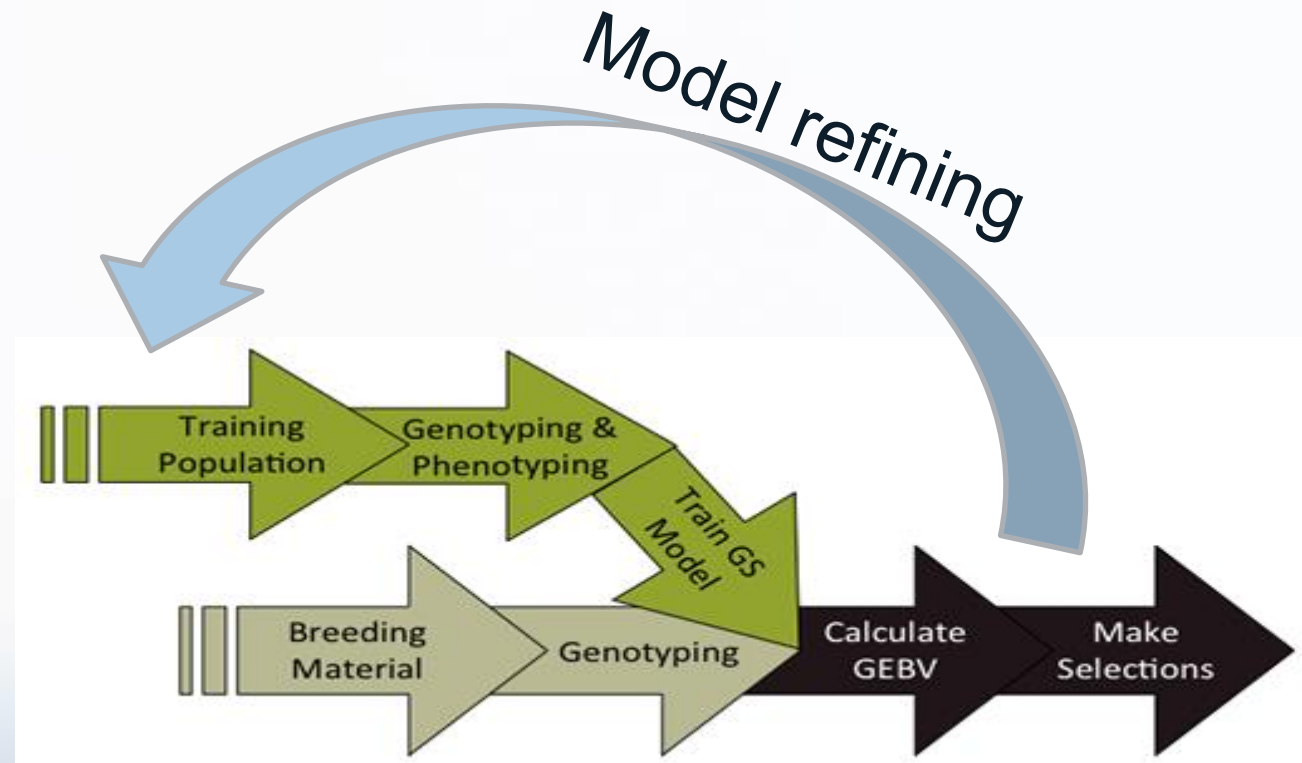
**MABC: accurate, fast, high success**



MAS and MABC have been applied to breeding programs in a large scale at multi-national seed companies for decades. But, they just got started in other seed industry, are becoming routine.

# GWS is becoming the **theme** of molecular breeding

Individual or Family	Genotype	Phenotype	Genomic Estimated Breeding Value
1	x	x	x
2	x	x	x
3	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
.	x	x	x
$k$	x	x	x
$k + 1$	x		x
$k + 2$	x		x
$k + 3$	x		x
.	x		x
.	x		x
.	x		x
$N$	x		x



GWS is the core technology of molecular breeding. Only multi-national seed industry giants such as Bayer-Monsanto and Dow-DuPont have integrated GWS into traditional breeding process. Higher genetic gains, reducing cost, speeding up breeding cycles, faster recycling of parental lines.



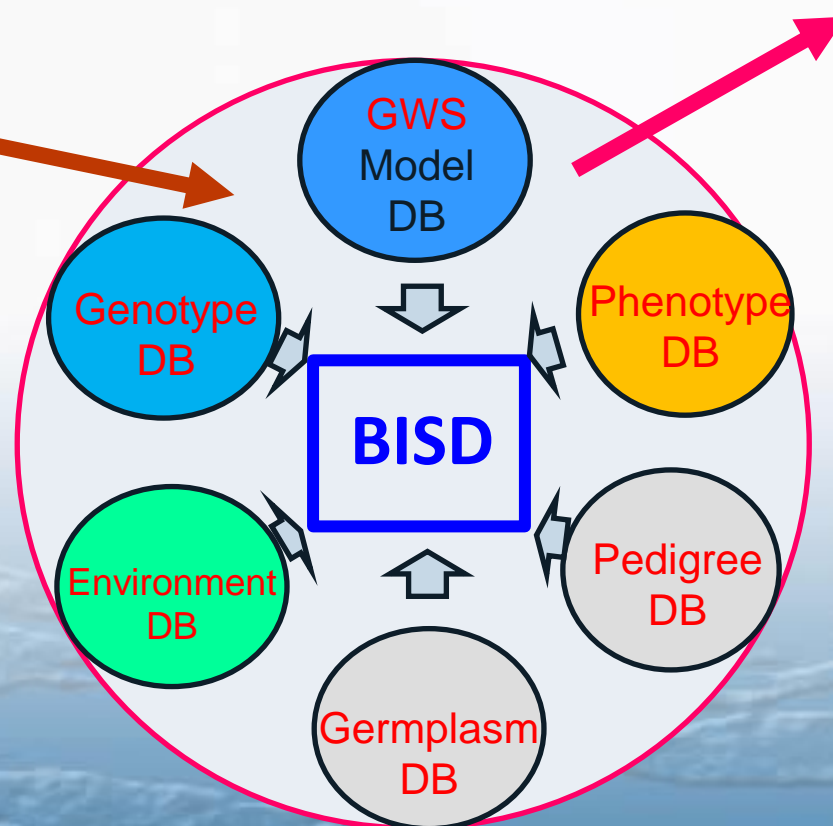
# BISD will open the door to artificial intelligence (AI) breeding

**BISD = Breeding by *In Silicon Design*®**

***In Silico* breeding** aims at increasing genetic gains through computer simulations, while reducing the needs for field and lab work tremendously.

**New variety parameters**

- Target planting areas
- Yield
- Quality traits
- maturity
- Biotic resistance
- Abiotic stress tolerance
- others



Seq. #	Cross combination	MAS loci	GWS model	Success rate
C01	(P1034/P2059)/ /(P3315/P1908)	Pi2、Pita、 Xa23、Xa21、 Bph14、Bph27	D	85%
C02	(P4034/P2109)/ /P3765	Pigm、Pi1、 Xa23、Xa21、 Bph14、Waxyb	F	83%
C03	(P1023/P4108)/ /P3215	Pi9、Xa23、 Xa7、Bph14、 Bdh2	G	79%
C04	P1556/P4732	Pi2、Xa23、 Xa21、Bph3、 xa5	C	78%

# Evolution of molecular breeding

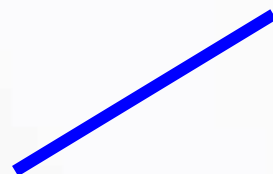
## MAS, MABC, MARS



- Major genes/QTL
- Qualitative traits, simple quantitative traits
- Selection



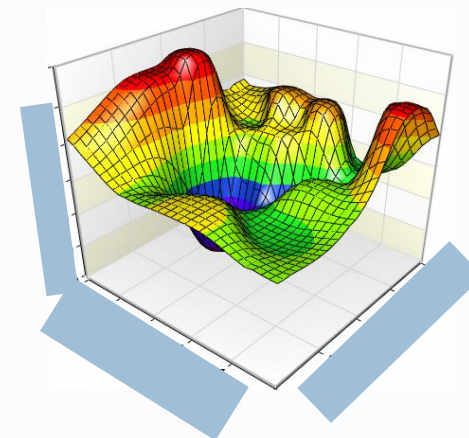
## MAS, MABC, MARS + GWS



- Major genes/QTL + minor genes/QTL
- Qualitative traits, simple quantitative traits + complex traits
- Selection



## BISD



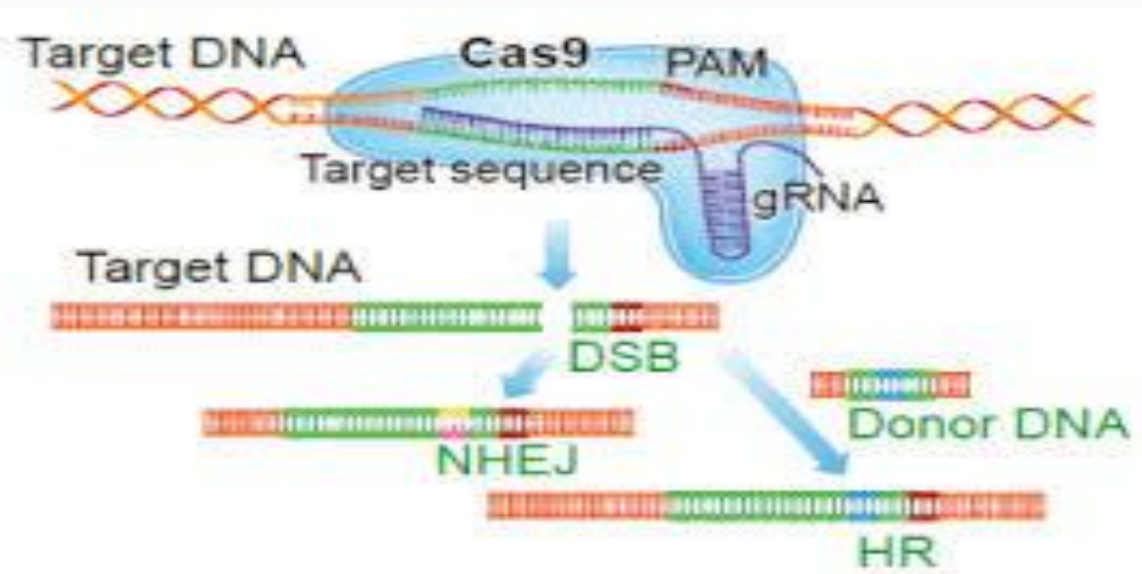
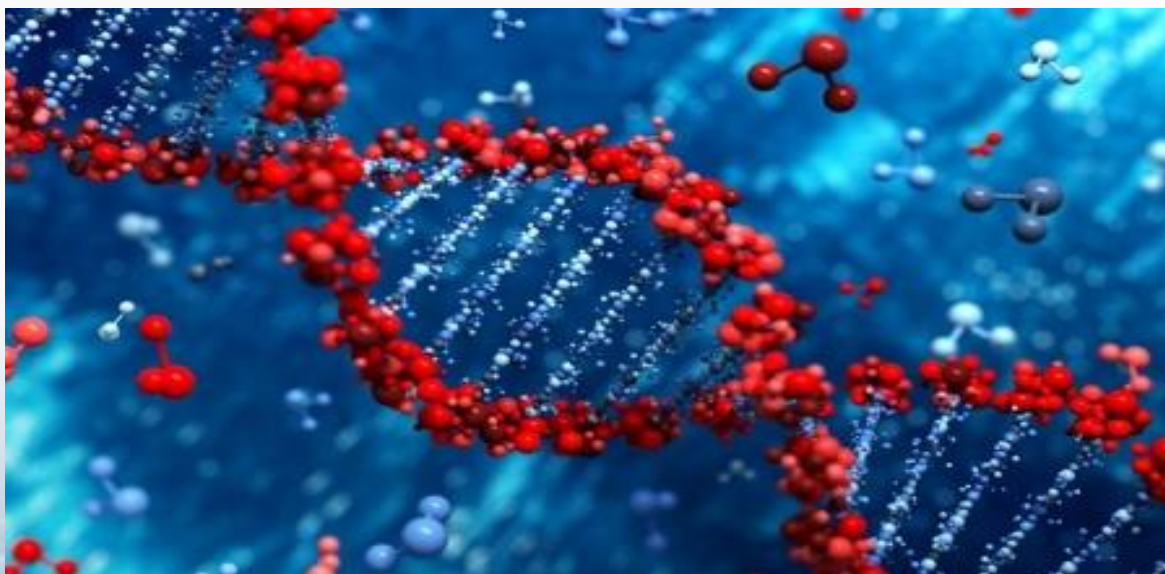
- Major genes/QTL + minor genes/QTL
- Qualitative traits, simple quantitative traits + complex traits under different environments
- Design + selection

Multi-national seed industry giants

??

# Gene editing will become the **mainstream** in creating novel genetic variation

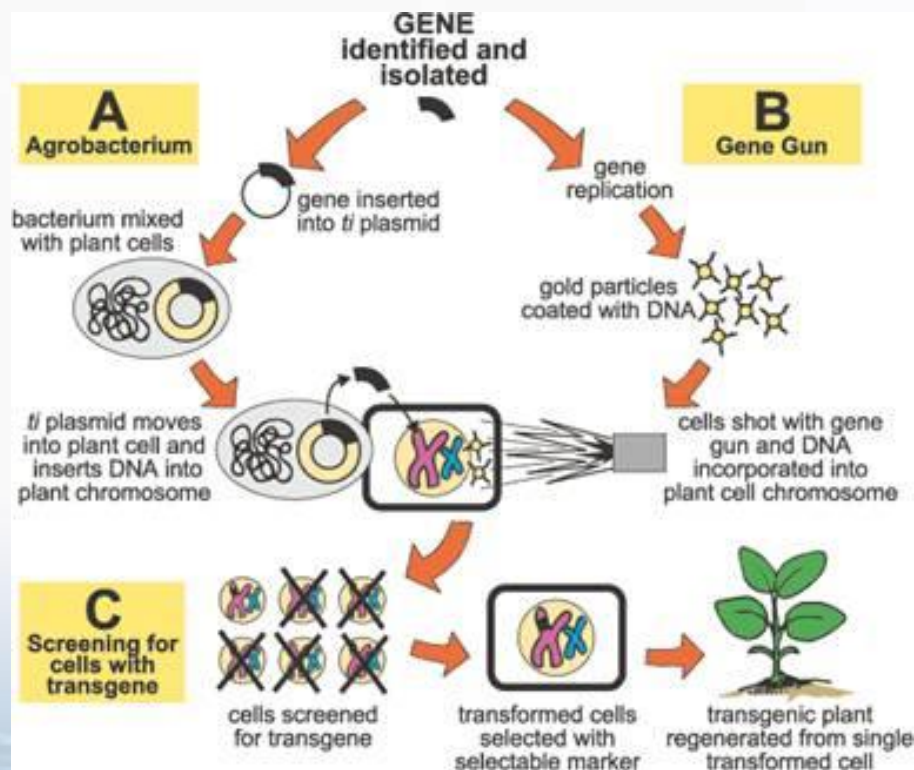
- creating novel superior alleles at known genes/QTL
- changing a minor gene into a major gene



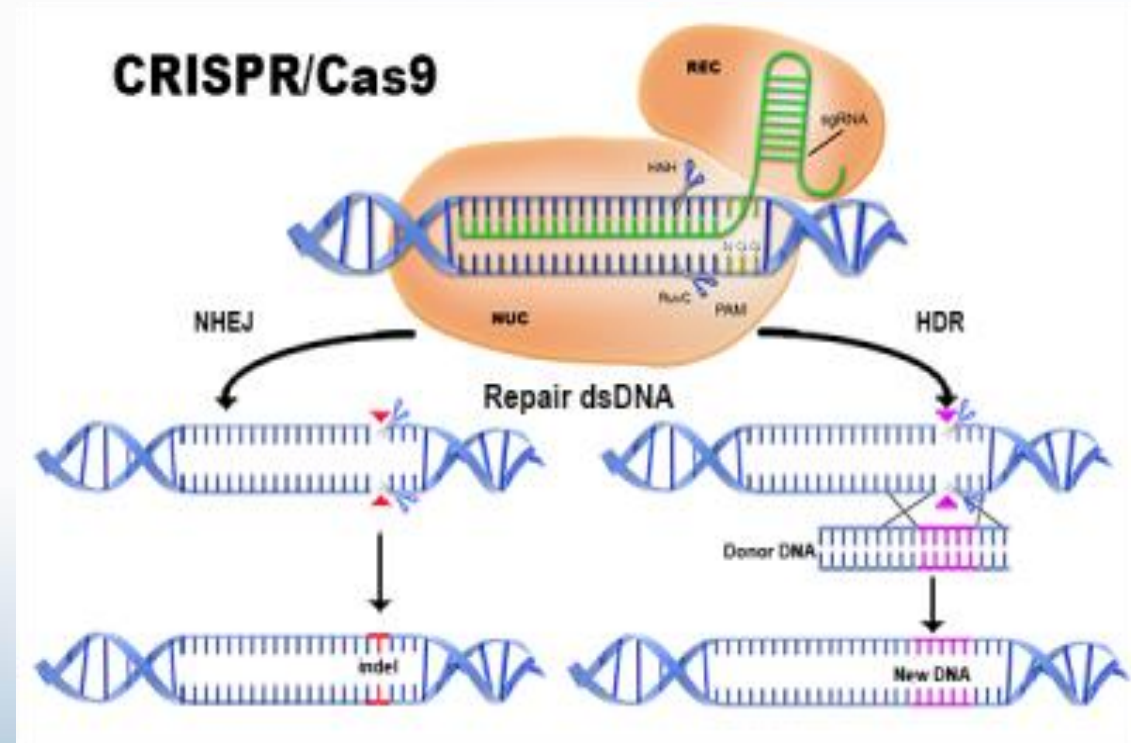


# Gene editing will replace foreign gene transfer approach

Traditional gene transfer approach:  
random insertion of foreign gene

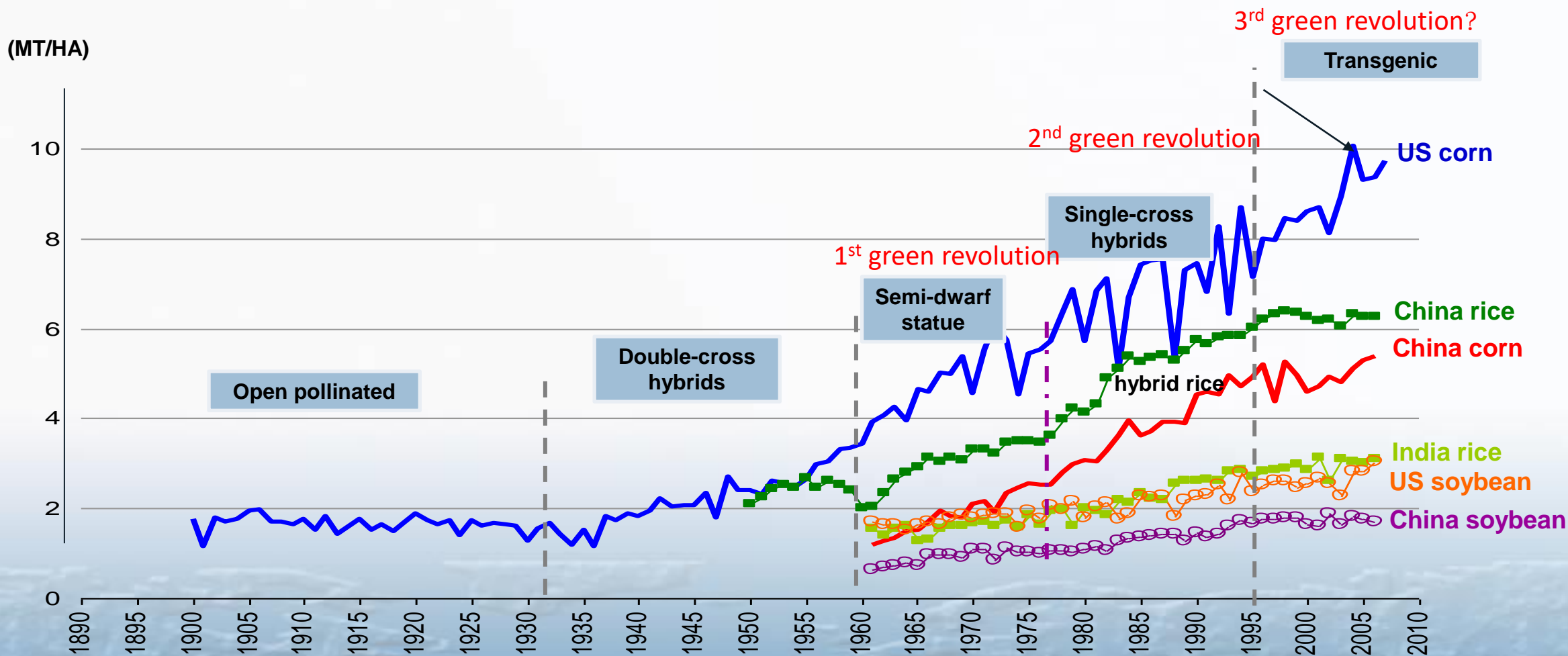


Gene editing approach: site pre-defined insertion of foreign gene



Gene editing will replace foreign gene transfer approach for moving genes between sexual incompatible species

# Major breakthroughs in the history of crop genetic improvement



Source : USDA, IRRI and FAO

# The major breakthroughs attributed to

- **Innovation in breeding methodologies**
  - open pollinated to double-cross hybrids in corn in 1930s
  - double-cross hybrids to single-cross hybrids in corn in 1960s
- **Discovery/creation of novel genetic variation**
  - semi-dwarf status genes rice and wheat in 1950s
  - rice CMS in 1970
  - rice photo-sensitive male sterility in 1973
  - rice therm-sensitive male sterility in 1980s
  - Insect-resistance, herbicide-tolerance transgenes in 1990s

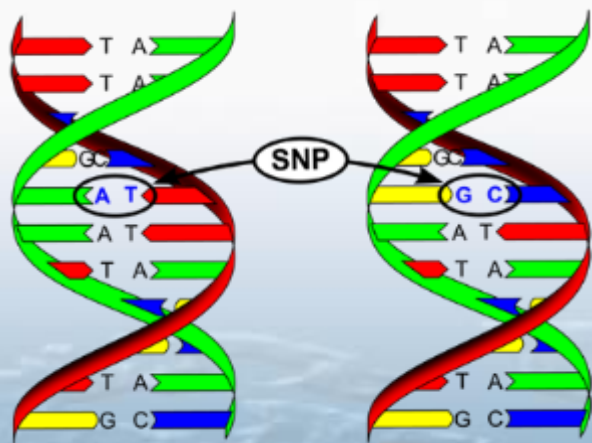




# Molecular breeding will bring the next breakthrough in crop genetic improvement



**Innovation** in breeding methodologies



**Discover/create** novel trait-improving genetic variation



# “Molecular Breeding, Seeds of the Future”

— *Yinhua Xiao, 1995*





