



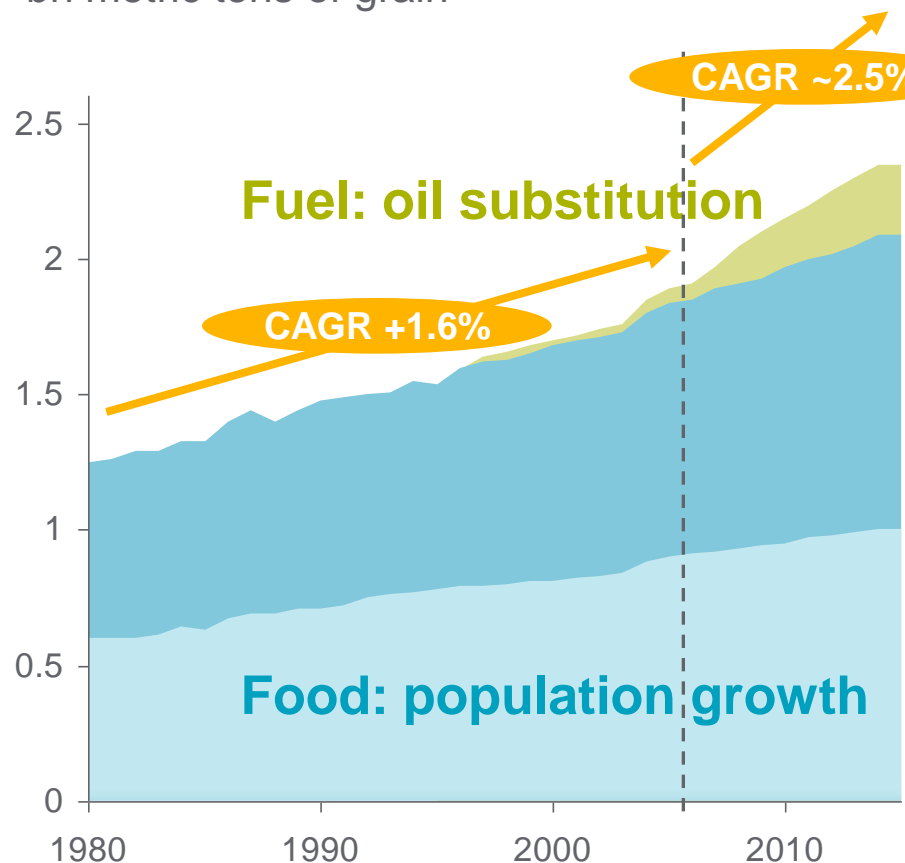
# Variety traits for the future

David Nevill

Symposium on Plant Breeding for the Future  
UPOV, Geneva, Oct. 21, 2011

# Increasing demand – Increased need for innovation

Agricultural demand  
bn metric tons of grain



- Food, feed & fuel
- Emerging markets GDP growth drives agricultural demand
- Agriculture: intensify, modernize
- Restricting factors: land, water, climate, infrastructure, etc.

# Technologies in plant breeding



## Conventional Breeding

- Crossing & phenotype selection
- Field focused improvements

## Hybrid Technology

- Exploit heterosis to increase yield and robustness of performance

## Accelerated Breeding

- Shortened breeding cycles
- Faster rates of genetic gain
- More genetic understanding

## GM Technology

- Exploit variation outside the species

## Predictive Breeding

- Integration of genotypic, phenotypic and environmental information

# Result



**Volume winter barley gives you exceptional yields**  
**Your only problem is where to put it all!**

- Highest yielding winter barley on the HGCA Recommended List 2009/10\*
- 111% UK treated yield (116% in the north)
- Impressive grain quality – low screenings and high specific weight (68.5 kg/hl)
- Excellent resistance to *Rhynchosporium* (B) and net blotch (B) coupled with resistance to BaYMV
- Early maturity



**syngenta**

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\*Data from the HGCA Recommended List 2009/10. The full database can be consulted at [www.hgca.com](http://www.hgca.com)



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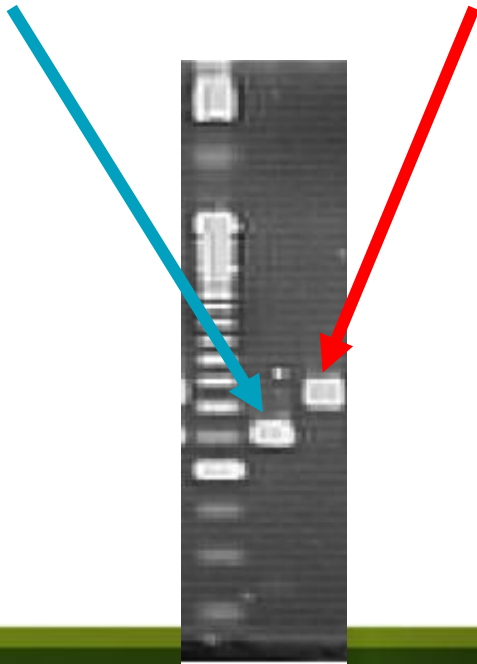
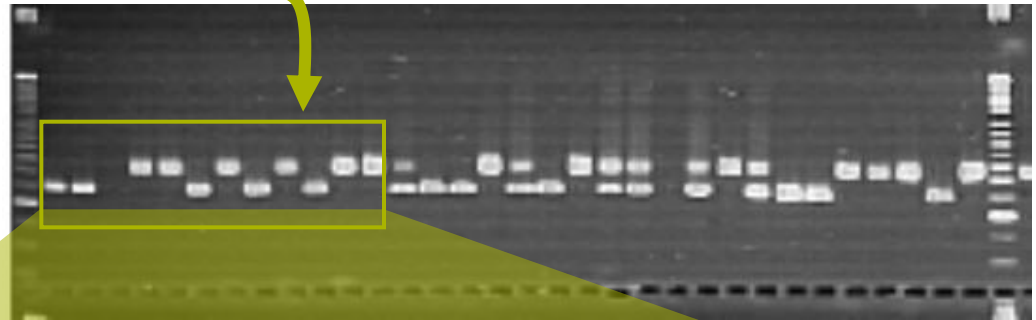
# Marker assisted trait selection: an example in wheat

Healthy wheat

Infected wheat



Isolate DNA from young plants



Selected plants

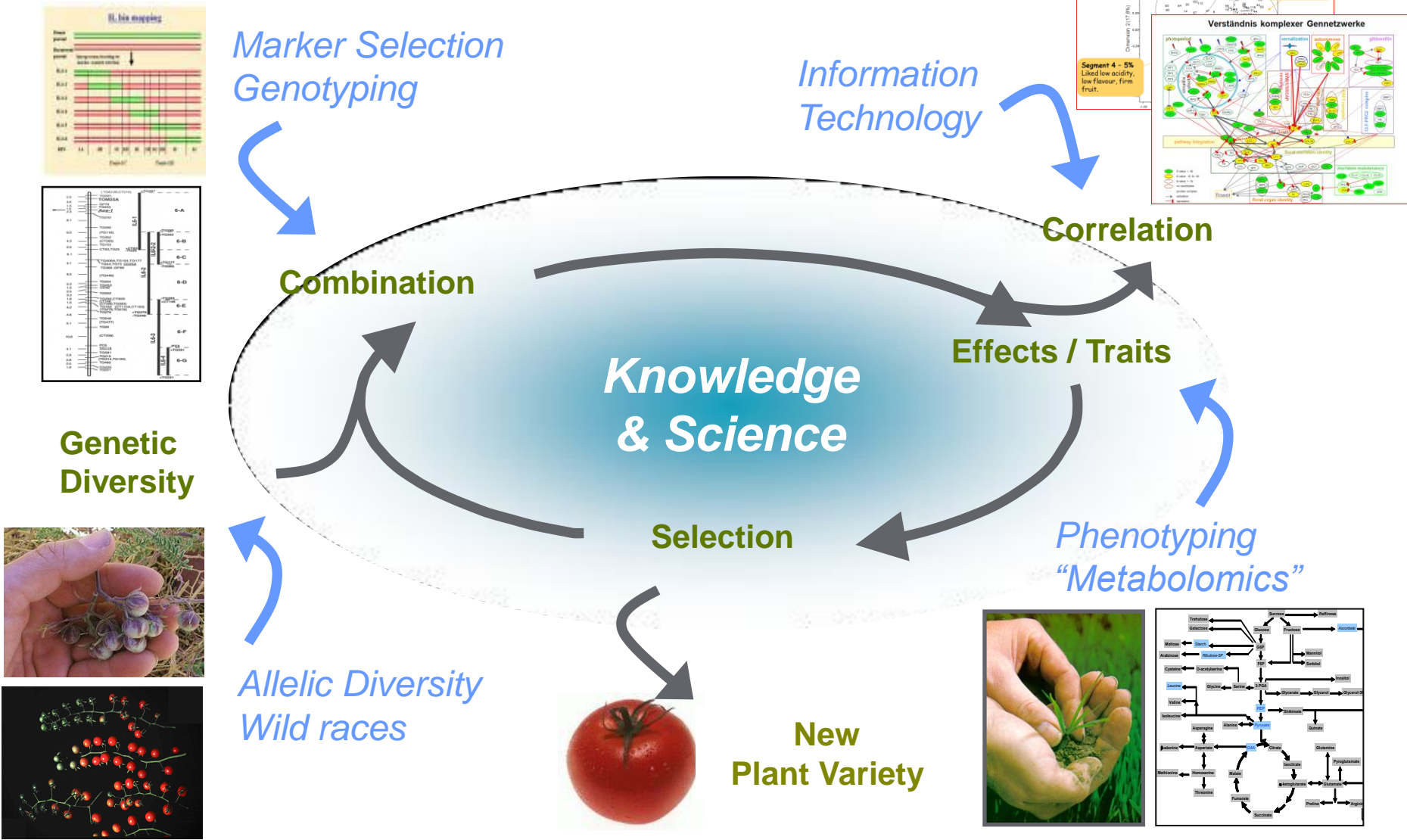
# Benefits of double haploid breeding

- Double Haploid technology creates true-breeding lines in a single step
- Combined DH & molecular marker technologies result in increased rates of genetic gain.
- Facilitates multiple trait stacking/pyramiding
- Increases efficiency & probability of successful product development
- Reduces time to market



# Modern Breeding Research

Technology integration for improved, faster product development



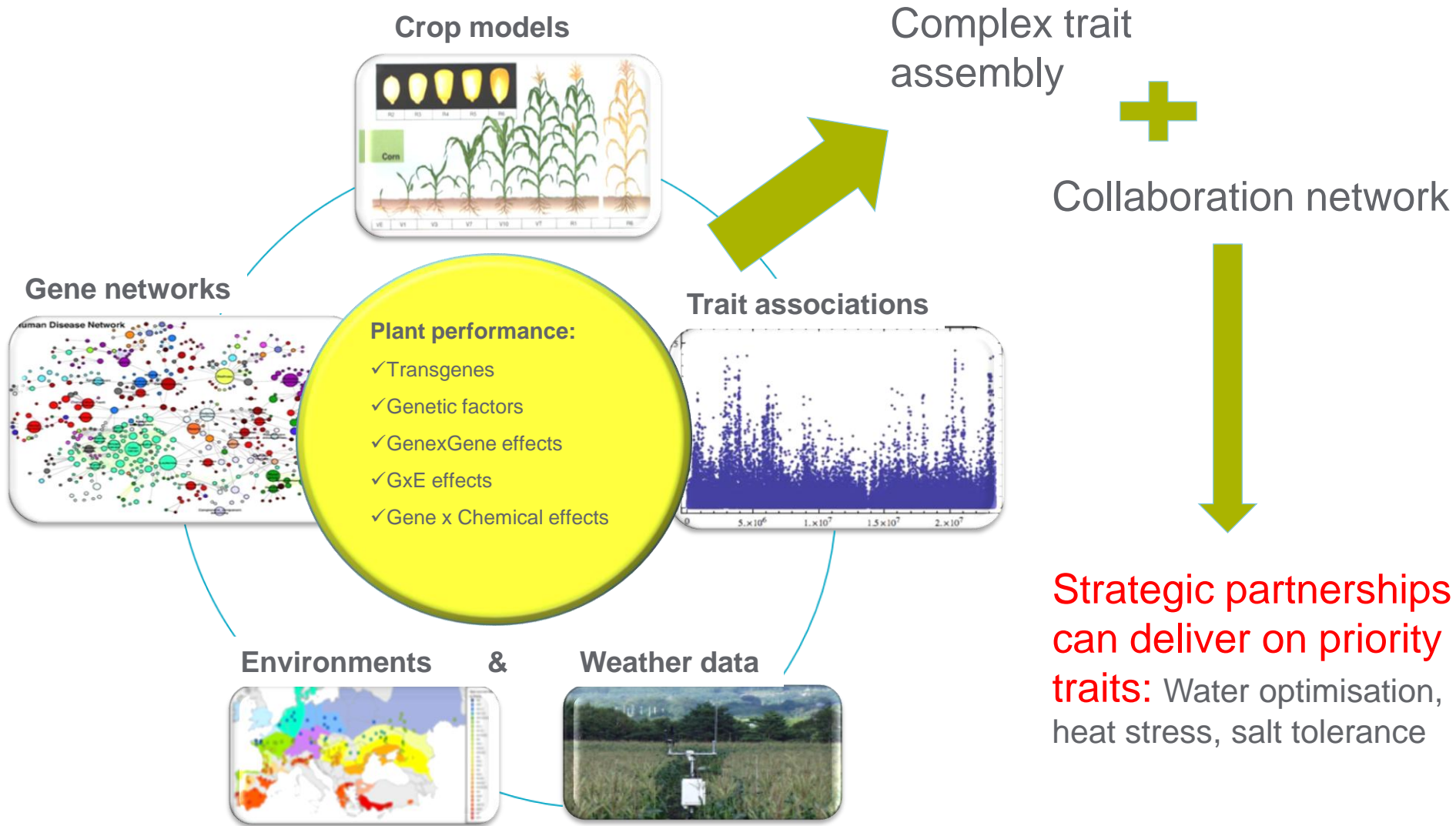
## Example : tomato fruit quality

- 300 diverse lines for candidate gene selection
- “genome-wide” genotyping
- 100 agronomic traits and metabolites scored
- Genetic analysis to find markers/genes associated to the main traits (taste, colour, texture...)
- Integration of knowledge into ongoing breeding strategies





# Integrate complex technologies to deliver increase in crop performance – move towards predictive breeding



## Example: Drought - The Agrisure Artesian™ solution

- Using state of the art biotechnology and breeding capabilities...
- To deliver an innovative solution...
- Developed from the natural diversity of corn...
- That is on track to be the first to market drought tolerance product for farmers



# Benefits of Agrisure Artesian™ technology



Source: Syngenta Chile Research Trial Photos

# Example: Insect Management - Agrisure Viptera™



**Location:** Clarkton, NC – Bob Milholland – Board Level Agrisure Viptera Experience

# Example Biofuels: Enogen Benefits In Corn Ethanol

Enogen corn contains a bacterial amylase gene which results in:

- Higher ethanol output (gal/mo)
- Reduced water and energy use
- Increased process flexibility
- Reduced maintenance cost
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Chemical savings



***Greater productivity and sustainability***

# Example: Delicious Melons

Understand plant production



Understand the fruit



Understand flavor



## Example: Healthy and Colorful Lifestyle

Salads that are fresh and nutritious when they reach your home



Flowers with new deeper colors that last longer and survive better



# Summary

- The Plant breeder has novel tools which enhance his/her ability to deliver novel products

## HOWEVER

- The demands of the world population not only increase but there is a paradigm shift to quality and sustainability

## THEREFORE

- We need two levels of integration:
  - A focus on production systems, where agronomy leverages the benefits of plant genetics and crop protection
  - Open collaboration where knowledge networks ensure that we share and build our capabilities through public private partnerships



Thank you very much !



*Bringing plant potential to life*