

Agroecology, conventional breeding superior to GMOs

My last post discussed the success of public sector scientists who discovered and developed genes in soybean, using conventional breeding, that confer resistance to the invasive soybean aphid. These insects cost US farmers billions of dollars per year.

In contrast, an article in the *New York Times* in late July used the dramatic example of citrus greening disease, which is threatening the citrus industry in the US, to tout the possibility of GE to remedy challenging pest problems. Whether these will eventually work is far from certain. But we should keep in mind that while such future promises catch the public's eye, breeding continuously makes significant advances in crop improvement.

We also need to take claims that genes are not available to crop breeders against pests like citrus greening with a grain of salt.

Read the full, original story here: “Small Insect’s Big Lessons for the Farm Bill: Agroecology and Breeding Top Monsanto’s Industrial Agriculture”