

CRISPR opens the door on crop research by smaller companies and universities

CRISPR, a new gene-editing technique, offers an end run around the cost associated with traditional genetic engineering, allowing smaller companies and public institutions to enter the market. Not only that, but crops with a market too small to be of interest to GM researchers are now in play.

Research is also being accelerated because the capital costs to participate are [dropping](#). In 2001, it cost \$100 million to sequence a genome. By 2015, the cost had declined to \$1,000. The continuing decline in the cost of computing and cloud data storage has allowed small companies to maintain data sets that a decade ago could have been supported only by the Monsantos of the world.

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CRISPR research is being done to increase yields, nutrients, and resistance to disease and pests, improve photosynthesis and drought tolerance, and develop plants that can thrive in a changing climate. Not all of these projects will be successful, and we're a long way from a risk-based regulatory scheme that makes sense, but gene editing holds great promise.

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It hardly seems necessary at this late date to point out the obvious, but I will anyway. Every regulatory agency in the world that has examined these breeding techniques has found them safe.

Read full, original post: [CRISPR Will Make GMOs Ubiquitous](#)