Can CRISPR save the banana and revolutionize coffee? Tropic Biosciences believes so.

In a lab at a U.K. research park, researchers from a startup called Tropic Biosciences are using CRISPR to create a better banana. The startup, which is also using gene editing to improve coffee, believes that technology could help save the fruit. [On June 13th], the company announced that it raised $10 million to commercialize its varieties of both coffee and bananas.

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Bananas are at risk from disease. The Cavendish banana, the variety now common in grocery stores after a fungus decimated a tastier variety, is now at risk from a new strain of the fungus that can quickly spread and kill plants.

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The team is also working on editing bananas to help the very perishable fruit survive longer as it's delivered to consumers.

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For coffee, the startup has already successfully genetically edited a variety of bean that is naturally decaffeinated. Right now, producers typically remove caffeine through a process that involves soaking beans and steaming them.

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At some point, it's possible that companies that genetically engineer food might develop entirely new products–perhaps even a caffeinated banana, for example–but Tropic Biosciences plans to focus on "developing traits that really make sense to people, traits we can communicate easily," [Gilad Gershon, CEO of Tropic Biosciences].

Read full, original article: This startup wants to save the banana by editing its genes