

## GM chickpea could halt drought-fueled yield declines

In the long run, [a new line of drought-tolerant] transgenic chickpea can contribute to the decrease of annual chickpea yield and production loss that is commonly attributed to [drought](#).

The researchers developed transgenic chickpea lines that harbor the transcription factor Dehydration Responsive Element-Binding (DREB) protein 1A from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (AtDREB1a [gene](#)), with the objective of enhancing drought tolerance in the crop. DREBs are known to be important plant factors that regulate stress-induced gene expression and play a role in stress tolerance against abiotic factors.

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The GM chickpeas were found to exhibit higher relative water content, longer chlorophyll retention capacity, and higher osmotic adjustment under extreme drought condition levels as compared to the non-transgenic controls. The chickpeas were also found to have yielded more seeds with a progressive increase in water stress.

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