

Learning from the healthcare revolution: How CRISPR and other biotechnologies could help protect our food system from a future plant pandemic

Across farms worldwide, there are now warning signs of a pandemic in food crops. More than [600 pest species](#) have developed some form of resistance to pesticides, which causes [\\$10 billion in losses](#) in the United States alone each year. Climate volatility intensifies these threats, and many crops are already suffering—[citrus blight](#) and [banana fungus](#) wreak havoc for growers and supply chains.

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Scientists are already using [gene editing](#) to develop more resilient seeds and plants that [can sequester more carbon](#). Other technologies that originated in pharma, like [targeted protein degradation](#), also have promising applications in agriculture.

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Just as the scientific community tackled COVID-19 with a toolkit of treatments, vaccines, and preventative measures, the ag industry can develop a set of safe, effective resources with which growers can rapidly respond to emerging threats.

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