

Get ready to grow more.

Biological Enhancements for Agricultural Crops

SHE'S GOT A GREAT PERSONALITY:

WHY WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE MATTERS

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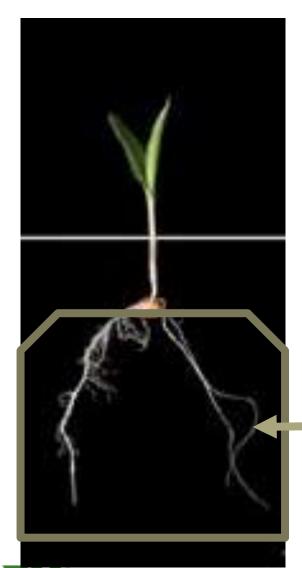


WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE

- Endophytic symbionts: Trichoderma, Bradyrhizobium/Rhizobium
- Root-associated symbionts: Bacillus
- Plant gene expression
 - Responses to biotic/abiotic stresses
 - Responses to endophytic symbionts
- Microbial gene expression > production of signal molecules



OUR STRAINS COLONIZE ROOTS, GROW AND PROLIFERATE



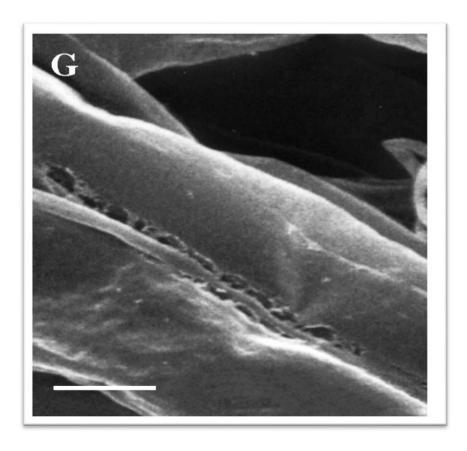
= RHIZOSPHERE COMPETENCE

- CFUs on the seed are only the starter inoculum
- Trichoderma or our other organisms colonize the emerging roots
- As our organisms grow the plant physiology is modified
- Effects are increased yields, stress resistances, and other benefits

This is where the action is; where the important events occur.

Only a few strains do this...

OUR STRAINS GROW INTO THE PLANT, PROVIDE LONG-TERM BENEFITS



=ENDOPHYTIC COMPETENCE

- Establishes communication between *Trichoderma* and the plant
- Fungus becomes a functional part of the plant
- Changes the physiology of the plant
- Strains provide broad benefits, even in stressful soil conditions (e.g. drought stress, salt stress) because they are protected within the root environment

Only a few strains do this...

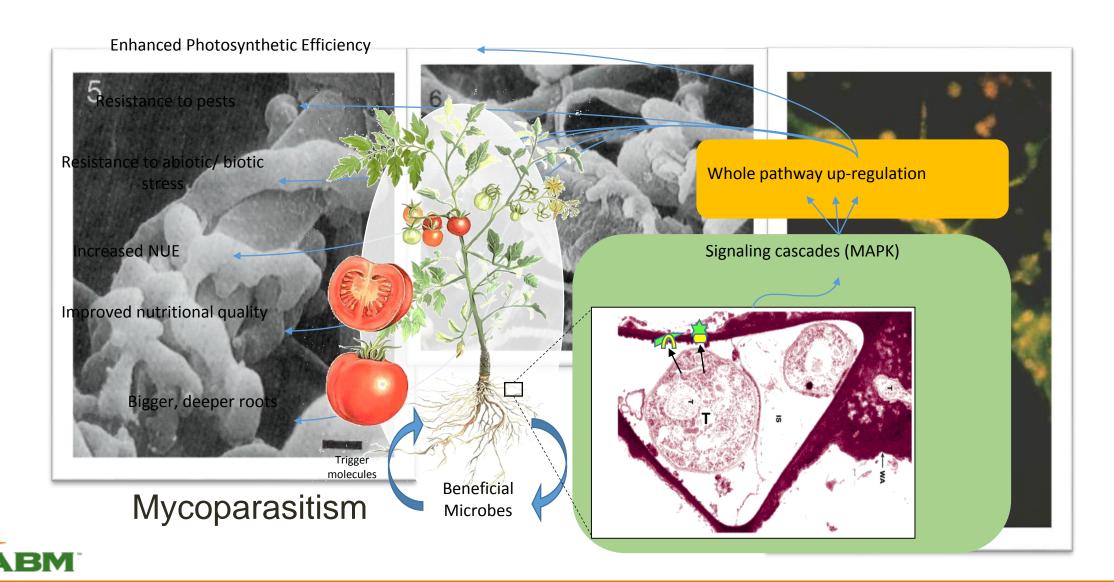


ABM DEVELOPS STRAINS WITH SUPERIOR GENETICS

- Focused Microbial Diversity[™]
 - ~2.3x10¹³ cfu/ac of <u>native</u> Trichoderma strains; even more Bacillus
 - Most of these have either no effect or a negative effect on crop performance
 - ABM has selected from the very best strains = best genetics
 - ABM's strains don't out-compete the native strains, they out-perform them.
- Analogy (corn):
 - Does it make sense to plant 800,000 seeds/ac of a poor variety to achieve the performance of 80,000 seeds/ac of an excellent variety?
 - Just as with corn or soybean variety selection, the genetics of the biological is critical.
- iGETTM



MODELS: BENEFICIAL MICROBE × PLANT INTERACTIONS



IGET™ TECHNOLOGIES

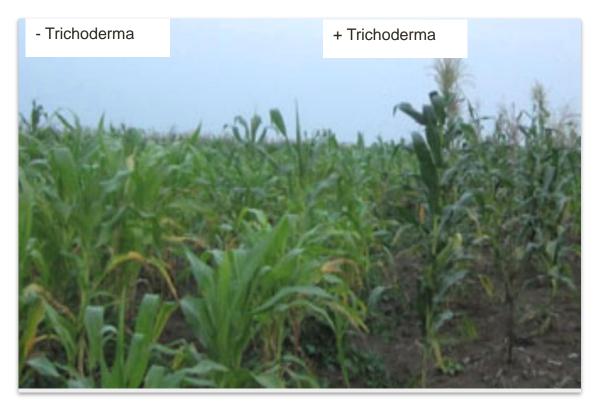
(INDUCED GENE EXPRESSION TRIGGERS)

- The basis of the beneficial effects of our *Trichoderma* and *Bacillus* products is iGET.
 - Strains colonize roots→systemically upregulate/coordinate entire biochemical pathways
 - Plants work better and harder with iGET.
- ABM leverages strain diversity to get synergistic beneficial effects.
 - Focused Microbial Diversity[™]
 - Different strains induce different iGET responses
 - It is essential to link the effects of the microbial genes with their effects in plants



STRESSES ALLEVIATED:

- Water deficit
- Salt
- Polluted soil
- Cold wet soils
- Poor quality seeds
- Plant pathogen attack
- Temperature (at least for seed germination)



Maize with no added Nitrogen, DR Congo

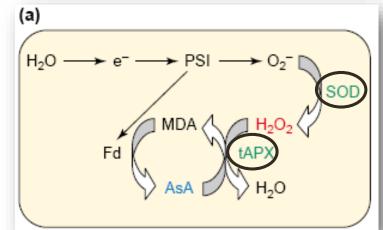


THE PATHWAYS OF REDOX CYCLING

- genes and proteins are known
- *Trichoderma* upregulates all of these

Water-Water Cycle

(chloroplasts)

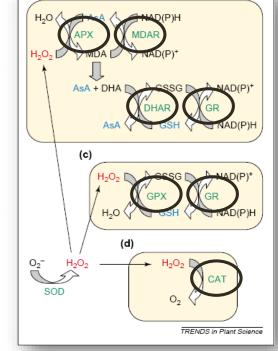


Glutathione-

(b)

ascorbate cycle

GPX cycle







FIELD EFFECTS

- 2012 drought (IL)
- Entire field received standard chemical treatment
- Stand to the right: seeds also treated w/ *Trichoderma*





SYSTEMIC RESISTANCE TO ANTHRACNOSE IN CORN



Trichoderma present only on the roots,

Leaves inoculated with Colletotrichum gramincola

Considerably less disease on plants grown from *Trichoderma*-treated seeds than without

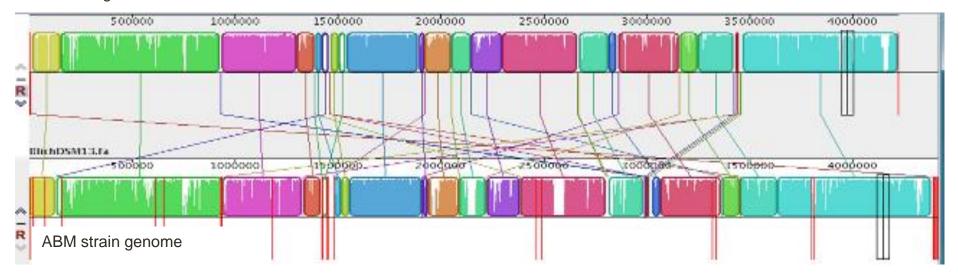


Harman, G. E., et al. (2004). *Phytopathology 94: 147-153.*

FOCUSED MICROBIAL DIVERSITY™

- Root colonization by elite Trichoderma or Bacillus strains results in beneficial agronomic effects.
- Most strains found naturally in the soil do not provide superior plant benefits.
- Therefore, different genes in the microbes' genomes must account for the different plant responses.
- This strategy leverages microbial genetic diversity from selected, i.e. focused, strains to positively effect beneficial agronomic traits.

Reference genome

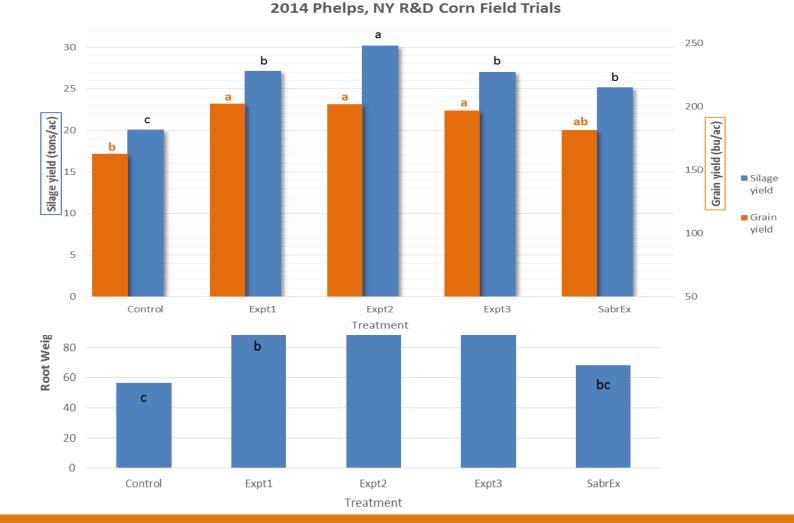






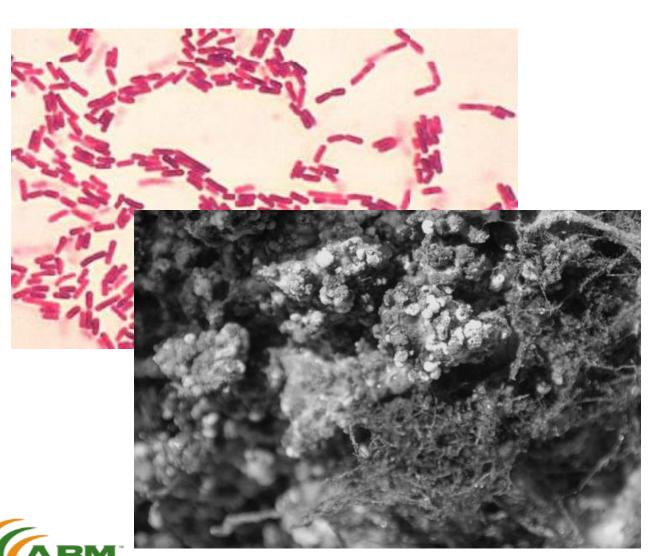
PRODUCTS IN THE R&D PIPELINE

- 2014 field trial data: Corn
- Both silage and grain yields significantly higher than control and SabrEx.
- Root growth: the best new treatments are more than double the control





INNER BEAUTY FORGES LONG LASTING RELATIONSHIPS



- Strains with Rhizosphere competence and Endophytic competence provide season long effects. ABM strains have both
- ABM strains out-perform the natural inoculum so there is no need to outcompete.
- Superior genetics finely tuned to work synergistically with plant genetics
- Focused Microbial Diversity[™] to take advantage of the best microbial genetics.