

The Evolving Plant Breeding Toolbox

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The goal of plant breeders has always been the development of plant varieties that resist diseases and pests, are more tolerant of environmental stresses, have improved nutrient quality, or yield higher, while meeting consumer expectations of their food and being safe for human health and the environment. This presentation will cover the importance of genetic variation in the plant breeding cycle and how newer breeding methods like genome editing (among others) can overcome challenges of creating genetic variability in certain crops. The focus will be on the importance of innovations and access to the full toolbox in breeding programs are used to deliver commercial varieties with characteristic important to both farmers and consumers.