



cropdesign

a BASF Plant Science Company

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Company profile

CropDesign is a biotech company delivering agronomic biotech traits for the global commercial seed markets. The company's trait discovery and development program focuses on enhancing grain yield of crops such as corn and rice, and increasing biomass of energy crops. Corn is the world's leading crop in terms of seed market value and yield enhancement is the most important value driver for both growers and seed companies. Rice is an emerging commercial seed market with substantial growth opportunities for the years to come. Biomass, a carbon-neutral renewable resource for energy, provides a unique opportunity to decrease dependency on petroleum and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The company's trait discovery program is powered by the TraitMill™ platform, a unique platform for applied genomics. TraitMill™ comprises a set of high-throughput processes for gene identification, cloning and plant engineering, as well as for the high-resolution phenotypic analysis of plants through automated screening methods. TraitMill™ thus allows to assess the effect of genes on the performance of plants under different growing conditions, including drought and low nutrient (nitrogen) stress. Over the years, CropDesign has developed a large and diverse trait portfolio for enhanced grain yield, biomass or drought tolerance. A number of leads have been validated in field trials, have entered into rice product development and are also being evaluated in corn and other large acreage crops.

CropDesign was founded in 1998 as a spin-off from the VIB (Flanders Institute for Biotechnology) and employs ca. 100 people at its research facilities in Gent. Since June 2006 CropDesign is part of BASF Plant Science.

