



LOOKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF PLANT BREEDERS

Our future food supply could be at risk!

Have you thought why prices for everything are on the rise, but food is usually inexpensive?

The answer relies mainly in two activities: efficient farming and plant breeding. However, there has been a decline in both farmers and plant breeders in the recent years. Maintaining a sufficient supply of food and fiber for the expanding human population is crucial for the well-being of our society.



What is Plant Breeding?

"Is the application of genetic principles for the development of new plants and cultivars better suited for all different human purposes (food, feed, clothing, health, etc.)"

What a Plant Breeder Does?

A plant breeder is pretty much an applied geneticist. Using different genetic techniques, a plant breeder creates new combinations (populations), and then practice selection based on different criteria and traits. This can be accomplished through many different

techniques ranging from visually selecting plants with desirable characteristics, to more complex molecular techniques. After several generations of evaluation and selection, the plant breeder is able to produce a new cultivar with improved characteristics such as:

- High Yield
- High Quality
- Insect and Disease Resistance
- Tolerance to Adverse Environments (drought, flooding, etc.)
- Nutritional Quality
- Efficient Production Systems
- Visual Appealing

Do you want to learn more about plant breeding? Follow this useful links:

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<http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/academic/factsheets/ag/cropweed.shtml>

<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/plantsci/handbook/optns.htm>

<http://km.fao.org/qipb/>

beancap web site under development