ABOUT SBC

The Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) was established in 1999 as a partnership between the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) and national and international seed and biotechnology industries. The SBC connects the University with these stakeholders and conducts research, education, outreach and public service activities supporting the fundamental role of seeds as a delivery system for improved agricultural products.

- **RESEARCH** to discover novel traits, facilitate plant breeding and support commercialization of improved seed varieties
- **EDUCATION** to update and enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals in the seed industry
- **OUTREACH** to disseminate information to stakeholders, policymakers and the public.
- **PUBLIC SERVICE** to provide expert scientific input on issues related to seeds and agricultural biotechnology

THE CALIFORNIA ADVANTAGE

California has a diversified climate for seed production and is known around the world for the quality of seeds produced in the state. Most international seed companies have research and production facilities in California, growing and processing seeds of a wide array of vegetables, flowers and agronomic crops. Over half of the seeds produced in California are marketed nationally or internationally, highlighting the importance of California’s seed industry in the global agricultural economy. In addition, California is at the forefront of the biotechnology industry, fueled by fundamental scientific discoveries and private sector entrepreneurship.

Located in the heart of California’s agriculturally rich Central Valley, UC Davis is the premier partner for agricultural research and development. UC Davis has the largest plant sciences faculty in the world and outstanding programs and resources with which SBC collaborates, including:

- Agricultural Sustainability Institute
- Biotechnology Program
- California Crop Improvement Association
- California Center for Urban Horticulture
- Foods for Health Initiative
- Genome Center
- Innovation Institute for Food and Health
- The Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy
- Plant Breeding Center
- Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture
- Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Plant Transformation Facility
- UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission of the SBC

To mobilize the research, educational and outreach resources of UC Davis in partnership with the seed and biotechnology industries to facilitate the discovery and commercialization of new seed technologies for agricultural and consumer benefit.

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The SBC engages in public service activities to support the seed and agricultural industries. The goal is to be a publicly available source of scientifically based information on seeds, crop improvement and agricultural biotechnology.

Plant Breeding curriculum study
In collaboration with College of Education faculty and industry researchers, the SBC conducted a study to determine what knowledge, skills and experience graduate programs should provide to students in plant breeding. By bringing the opinions of over 200 experts into the program development and curriculum design process, students can be better prepared for the future.

Economic analysis of the CA seed industry
SBC researchers collaborated with the UC Agricultural Issues Center in producing the first detailed economic analysis of the seed industry of the state. This report highlights the importance of seed company activities as an important economic contributor within California.

Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification (CPPSI)
Established in 2015 and housed at the SBC, CPPSI is a science-based initiative of the vegetable seed industry to standardize the identification of plant pathogen strains and races based on sets of host differentials and reference pathogen strains.