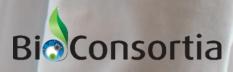
BioConsortia

Advanced Microbial Selection:

Identification of trait transforming microbial consortia.

R&D Company





Plant-microbe interactions are complex

Interactions contributing to biocontrol

Pathogen control

- Parasitism, antibiotic production
- Competition
- Habitat modification

Improved plant nutrition

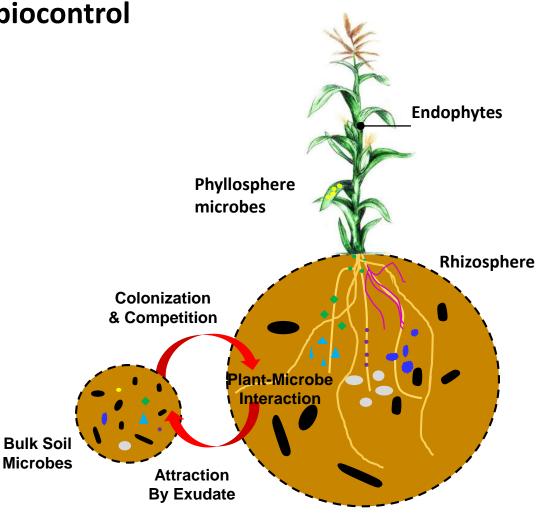
Access to macro and micronutrients

Early vigor and growth stimulation

- Plant growth hormones
- Germination rate

Modified plant structure & functions

- Root structure and growth rate
- Plant metabolite production
- Abiotic stress protection
- Acquired and induced stress responses

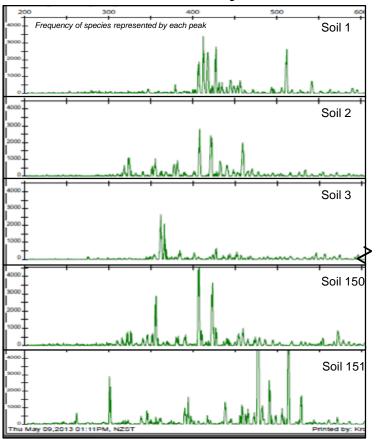


Too complex for conventional R&D



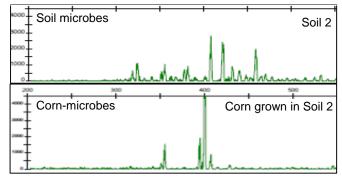
Plant Selects the Microbes

Each soil has a different microbial community



Community Fingerprinting: Automated Ribosomal Intergenic Spacer Analysis (ARISA)

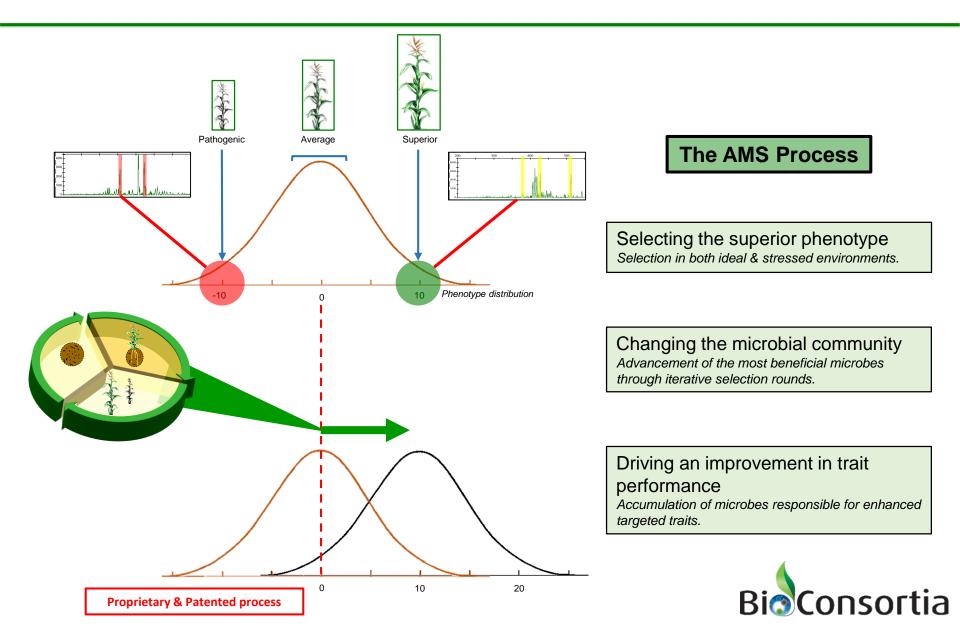
Plants accumulate a different microbial community structure than present in the soil



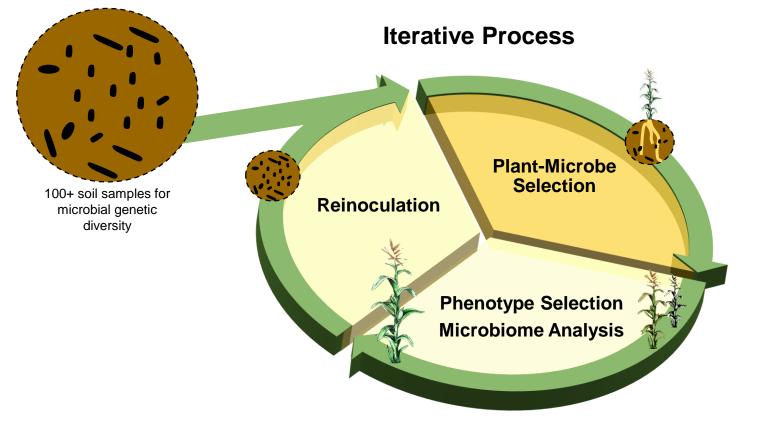
We exploit this natural process identifying the microbial consortia that improve plant traits



Directed Selection



Evolving the Microbiome



Genetics x Environment x Microbiome = Phenotype

The Advanced Microbial Selection (AMS) iterative process drives beneficial changes in the microbiome to improve expression of crop phenotypes linked to targeted crop traits.



Stress Application Influences Selection

Exposing plants to different stressed environments during the AMS selection rounds results in differential evolution of the microbiome:







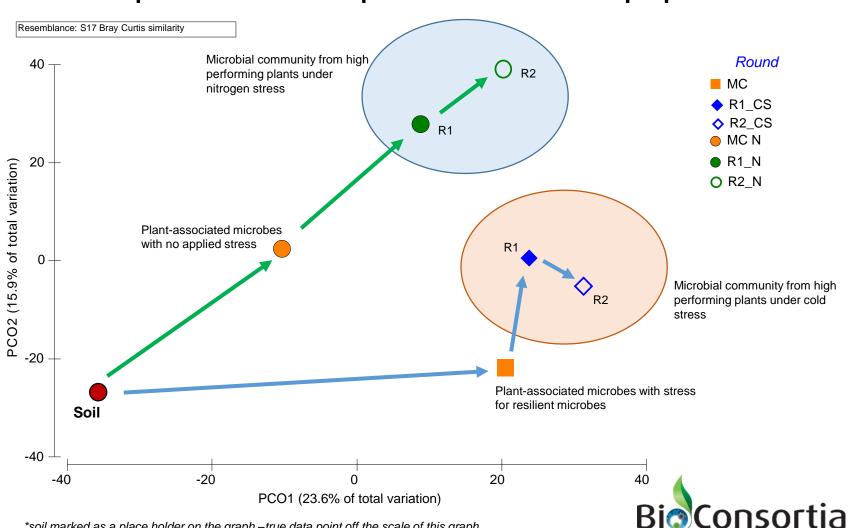


- Pest pressure
- Disease exposure
- Nitrogen stress
- Drought stress
- Cold & wet start

Superior plants have accumulated microbes that assist with enhanced health and resistance to the stress pressure



Directed Evolution of Microbial Consortia at Each Step

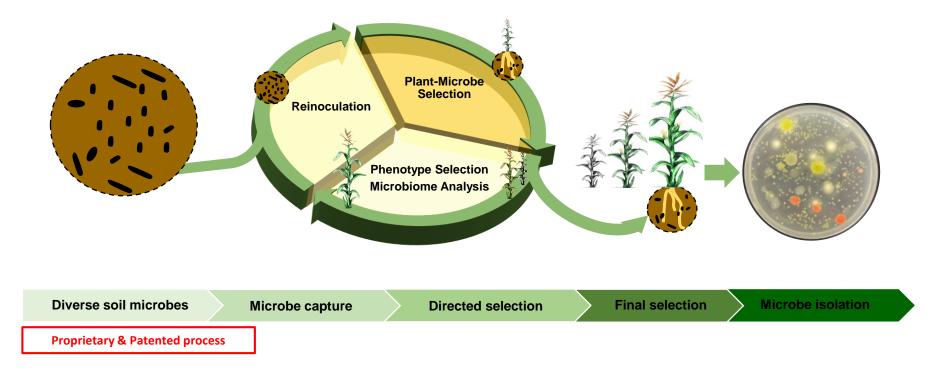


Two examples of the iterative process for illustrative purposes

*soil marked as a place holder on the graph –true data point off the scale of this graph

Advanced Microbial Selection (AMS)

We select the crop trait - the plant selects the microbes



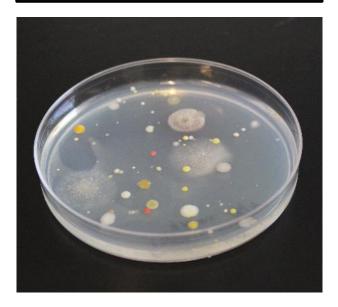
Various tools used for selection at each step



Consortia Assembly & Screening

Multiple proprietary tools used to select consortia

Multiple isolation strategies Large isolate library



Microbiome informed selection

Species 1
Species 2
Species 3
Species 4
Species 5
Species 6
Species 7
Species 8
Species 9
Species 10
Species 11

Screening of consortia (multiple soils & hybrids)



Best plants = Best treatments

Other factors:

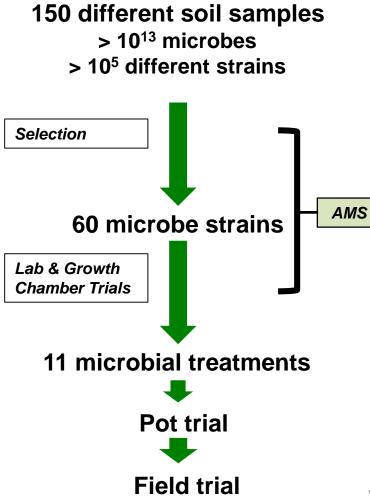
- superior phenotypes
- functional groups (eg N-fixation)
- spore formers
- microbial phenotype

Individual isolates are fermented separately then combined to make consortia



Proprietary & Patented process

Effective Funnel – Screen 100,000 Strains





In 9 months*, 150 microbial communities were screened under nitrogen stress, resulting in 4 microbial treatments for field trials that produced a significant increase in corn biomass

*9 months for this experiment, time may vary depending on selection method



Soil-Borne Pests

Projects Underway:

- Corn rootworm
- Soybean cyst nematode



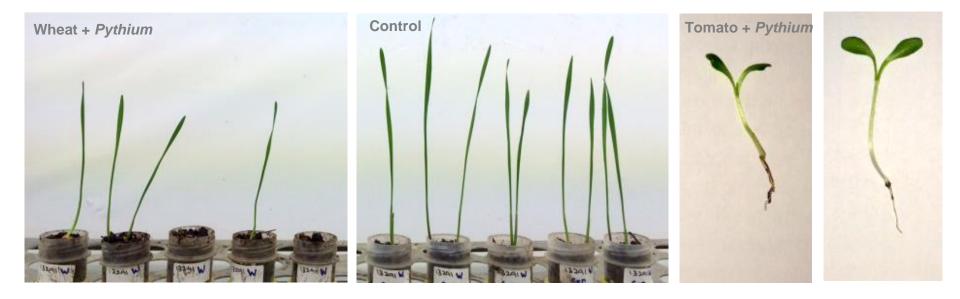




Soil & Seed-Borne Fungal Disease

Fungal disease targets

- Crops: tomato, wheat, lettuce
- Targets: Rhizoctonia, Fusarium, Pythium





Unique Advantages of AMS Process



True Team

- Selected as a team
- Complementary functions
- Effective plant colonizers: endophytes, epiphytes, rhizospheric microbes

Pre-selected for compatibility

- **Plant Microbe**: selected by the plant from soil
- Microbe Microbe: colonize & isolated from plant as team
- Microbe Chemistry: seeds pre-treated with best seed treatments

Rapid, Low Cost

- Compared to GM & conventional plant breeding, and conventional microbial R&D model
- Expedited development taking ~9 months vs years
- Allows for research into minor crops and almost any trait



Intellectual Property

Seed WORLD Technology Business Sustainability Leadership News Magazine

BioConsortia Obtains U.S. Patent for Discovery of Microbial Products







BioConsortia