



Plant breeding

in Germany



BDP

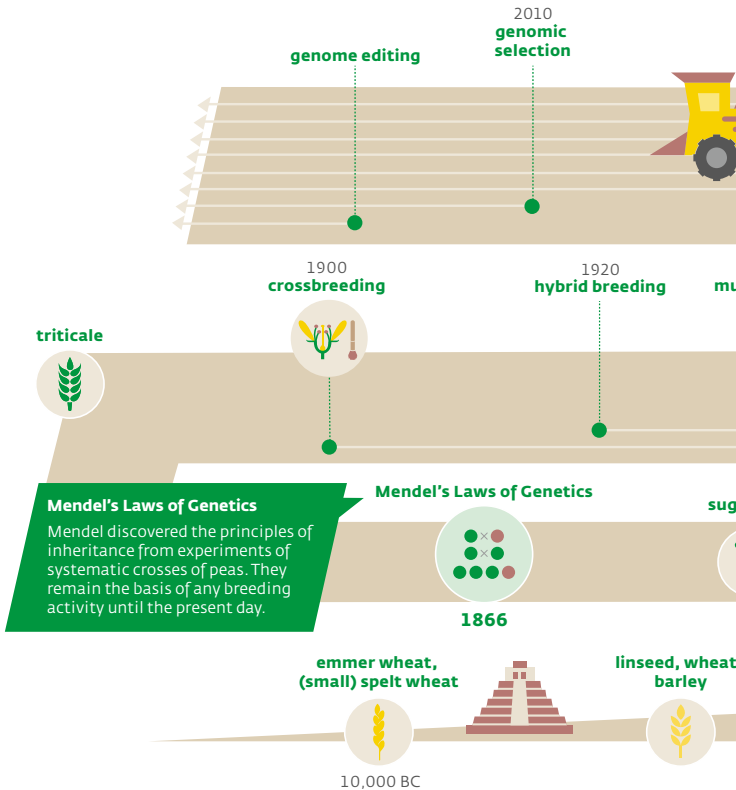
Plants – The Basis of Life

The future of agriculture

Plant breeding is at the beginning of the agricultural production chain. It develops plant varieties for an agriculture that needs to produce food and animal feed as well as agricultural raw materials in a resource-efficient and at the same time economically viable way.

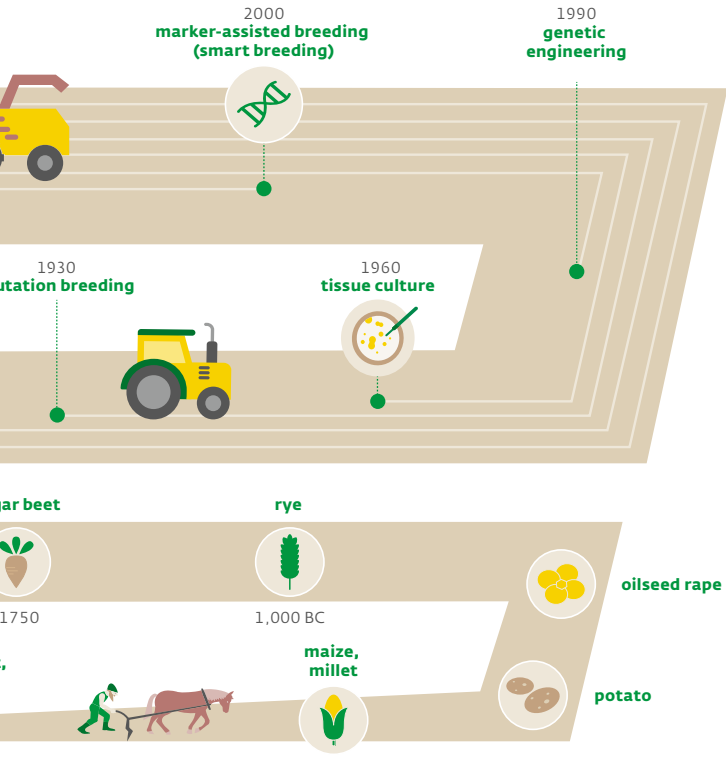
Since the time when Gregor Mendel laid the foundation for systematic plant breeding by discovering the laws of inheritance in the 19th century, our expectations of agriculture have been flying ever higher. This has direct implications for the breeding objectives pursued by the men and women active in plant breeding.

// Milestones in plant breeding



Nowadays, we expect high and stable yields despite changing disease and pest exposure, as well as plant varieties that enable low-input cultivation practices and still produce excellent crop qualities.

This is exactly what plant breeding does: to try and accommodate all these different requirements. To this end, the sector is investing a large part of its turnover into research and development (R&D). It takes between 10 to 15 years and the use of an entire toolbox of different breeding methods to develop a new plant variety of a kind that can keep up with current conditions.



BDP as the voice of the industry

A forceful industry needs a forceful professional representation. BDP represents the common professional interests of his approximately 130 plant breeding or seed trading members in dealings with politics, the authorities and the public. In particular, BDP endeavours to improve the framework conditions in the following fields:

- Intellectual property rights for plant varieties
- Use of available methods in their diversity
- Promotion of plant research
- Access to plant genetic resources
- Enhancing the legal systems applicable to plant variety rights and seed marketing

Men and women active in the departments of BDP bring in their expertise for crop specific issues in the following departments:

- Fodder Plants
- Vegetables
- Cereals
- Seed Trade
- Potatoes
- Maize & Sorghum
- Oil & Protein Plants
- Plant Biotechnology
- Grape Vine
- Ornamental Plants
- Sugar Beets

A powerful network for plant breeding

In Germany, a unique network of organisations representing different aspects of plant breeding interests has emerged: GFPI facilitates pre-competitive joint breeding-related research, GFPI Service GmbH deals with patent issues, SFG with official plant variety testing and STV with the enforcement of plant variety rights.



German Federation for Plant Innovation

- Co-ordination of applied research
- Commissioning scientific institutions with research projects
- Procurement of third-party funding with financial participation of GFPI members
- Transfer of results into breeding practice



GFPI-Service GmbH

- Information on intellectual property issues
- Patent survey and monitoring
- Support for patent application and patent appeal proceedings
- Administrative project co-ordination



German Plant Breeders' Association

Representation of professional interests vis-à-vis politics, science and administration



Seed Trust Administration GmbH

- Monitoring of licence agreement compliance
- Handling of plant variety rights violations
- Implementing the farm saved seed regulations
- Services for the entire value adding chain in relation to seeds and plants for planting



Society for the Promotion of Seed Varieties GmbH

- Services in the field of plant variety examinations
- Facilitating official VCU examinations as professionally qualified body acting on behalf of the German Plant Variety Office
- Examination of plant varieties registered in other EU countries under German cultivation conditions
- International seed projects

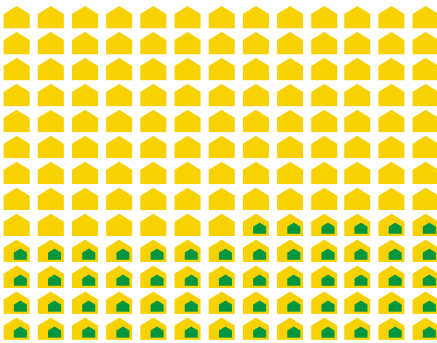
Plant breeding means diversity

Approximately 60 of the 130 member companies of the German Plant Breeders' Association BDP carry out own breeding programmes, pertaining in total to 115 different species. Due among other things to their high investments into R&D, German plant breeding supplies more than 3,500 plant varieties, thus enabling a sustainable agriculture that can adapt to the changing climate.

// Diversity of plant breeding in Germany

130

plant breeding and seed trading companies



58 of which carrying out own breeding programmes



approximately
5,800
employees



German breeding programme for
115 plant species



more than
3,500
plant varieties registered in Germany

3,100
ha trial field area



Representation of professional interests on supra-national and international level

For all issues that fall into the competence of the bodies of the EU, BDP is in close contact with its European umbrella organisation Euroseeds, whereas on a global level, the International Seed Federation (ISF) is the voice for the interests of plant breeding. BDP is active in a multitude of bodies in both Euroseeds and ISF.



Gregor Mendel Foundation

Gregor Mendel Foundation's objective is to heighten public perception for plant research and plant breeding and to promote science and research applicable to plant breeding. To this end, the foundation awards the Innovation Prize Gregor Mendel to personalities that have gained particular merit in the fields of breeding research and/or plant breeding.





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