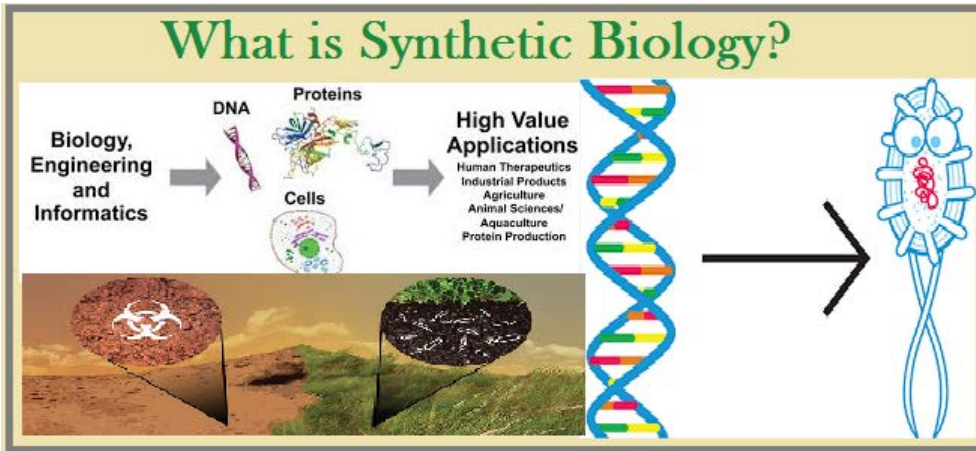


# Synthetic Biology: Designing and redesigning organisms

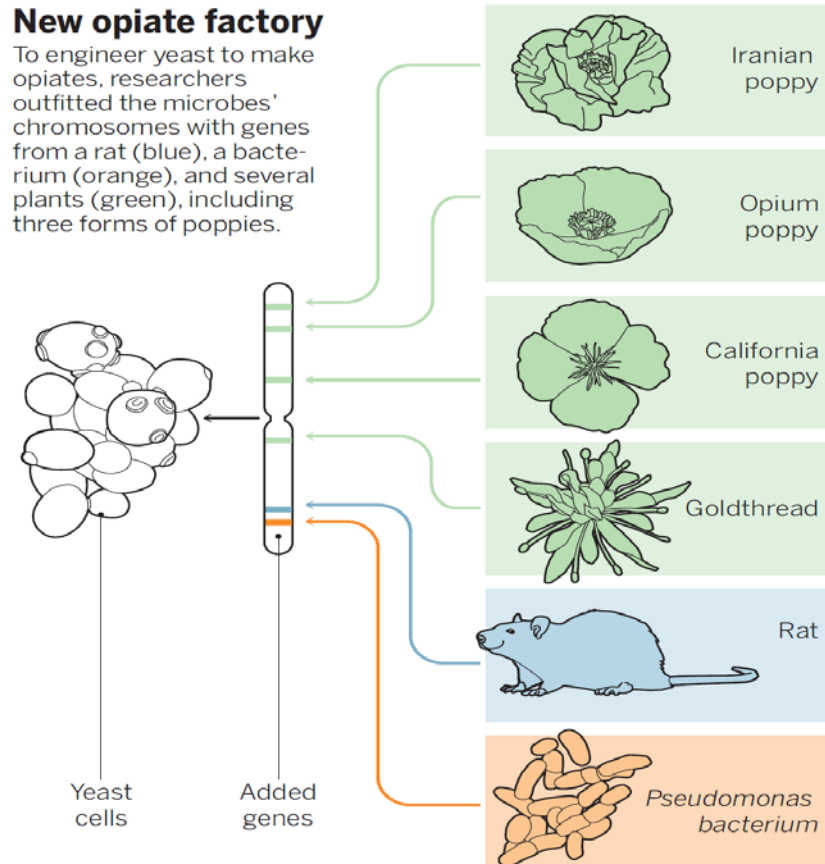


Shikha Goyal, jagranjosh.com

Applying engineering principles to biology; redesigning organisms for useful purposes by engineering them to have new abilities

## New opiate factory

To engineer yeast to make opiates, researchers outfitted the microbes' chromosomes with genes from a rat (blue), a bacterium (orange), and several plants (green), including three forms of poppies.

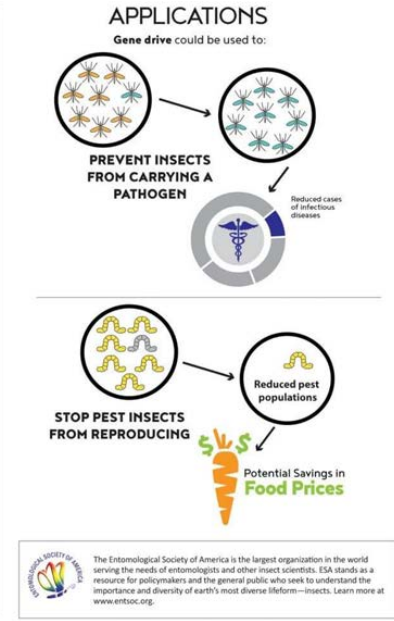
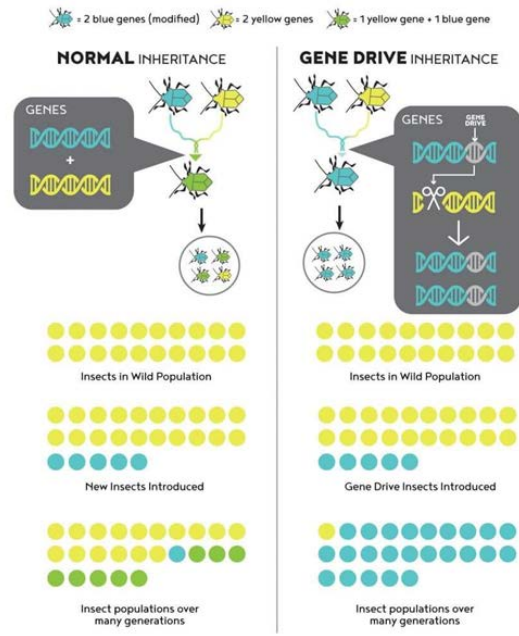


R. Service, Modified Yeast Produces Opiates from Sugar, Science Aug. 2015

Enhancing inheritance of traits to reduce a pest population or increase prevalence of desirable traits

# WHAT IS GENE DRIVE?

**Gene drive** is a method that enhances the inheritance of a modified [or preferred] trait in a specific species. The **goal** of the genetic modification may be to replace or reduce a pest population or to increase the prevalence of desirable traits in a beneficial species like silkworms or honey bees.



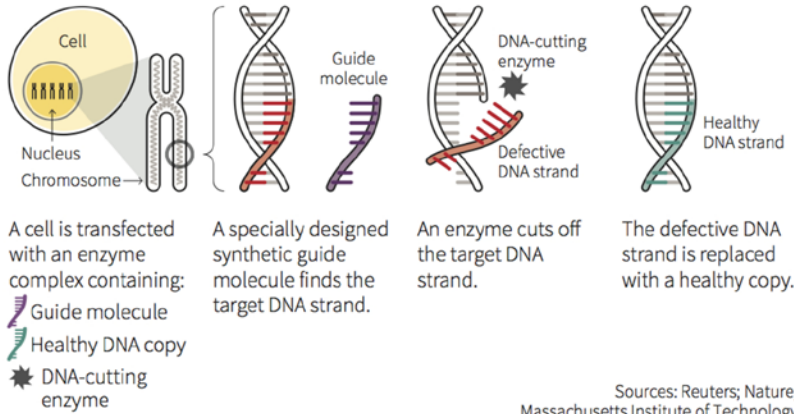
Genetic literacy project

# Genome editing tools: CRISPR-Cas and more

## DNA editing

A DNA editing technique, called CRISPR/Cas9, works like a biological version of a word-processing programme's "find and replace" function.

### HOW THE TECHNIQUE WORKS

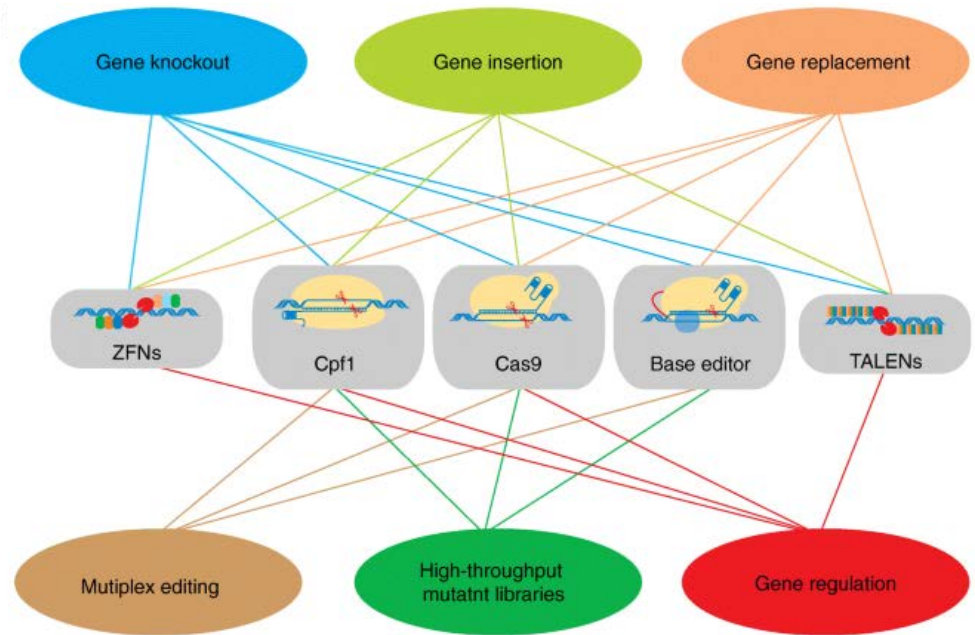


Sources: Reuters; Nature; Massachusetts Institute of Technology

W. Foo, 24/04/2015



Manipulating an organism's genetic material (deleting, inserting, or replacing a DNA sequence) To correct a disorder or improve a feature



Zhang, et. al., *Applications and potential of genome editing in crop improvement* (Genome Biology, Nov 2018)

Draft  
International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with  
Genetic Resources

Prepared by Mr. Ian Goss  
Chair, WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

April 30, 2019

- **ARTICLE 9**
- **REVIEW**

- 

- The Contracting Parties commit to a review of the scope and contents of this instrument, addressing issues such as the possible extension of the disclosure requirement in Article 3 to other areas of IP and to derivatives and **addressing other issues arising from new and emerging technologies that are relevant for the application of this instrument**, no later than four years after the entry into force of this instrument.

Draft

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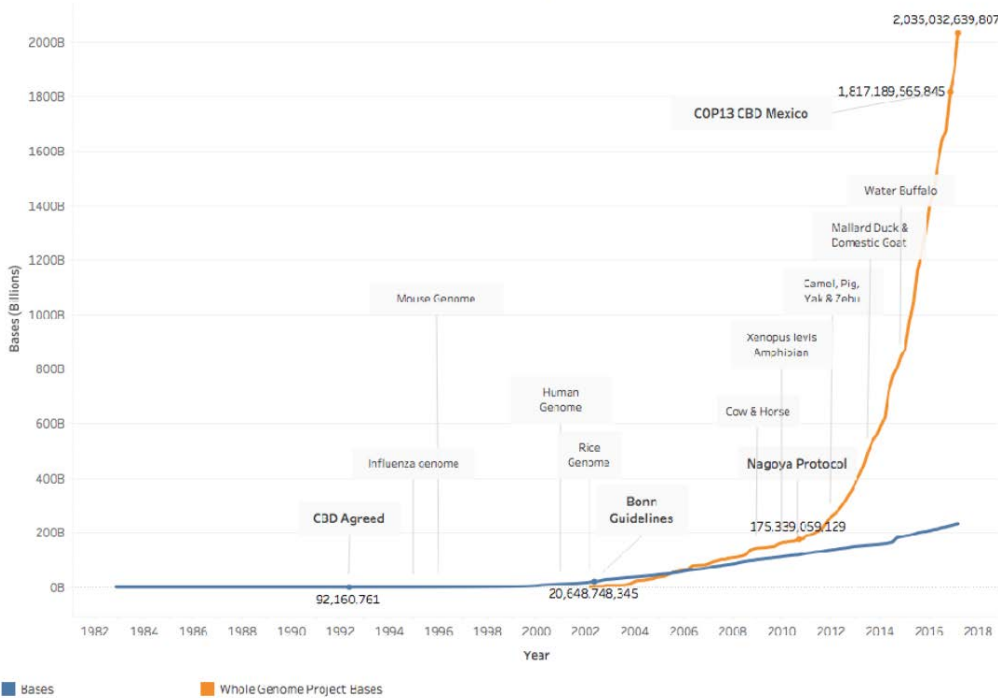
- Notes on Article 9
- 1. This article is a compromise text developed to address the view of some members that the scope of the instrument should include other IP rights **and issues**. Notwithstanding this view, members also recognised that the primary commercial use of GRs within the IP system is within the patent system and that further work is required to determine the applicability to other IP rights. In addition, this article attempts to reconcile differences of view regarding the inclusion of derivatives within the scope of the instrument. **This would appear to be prudent noting ongoing discussions in other international forums.**
- 2. This approach enables the instrument to be progressed as a foundation instrument with an in-built mechanism to address additional issues within a predetermined time-frame.

# Vast amounts of sequence data is being sequenced, stored, and accessed publicly accessible databases

It cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion to sequence the reference human genome in 2000, by 2006, the cost had dropped to ~\$14 million and by late 2015 to below \$1,500. *National Human Genome Research Institute*

low cost of genome sequencing + high value of aggregated sequences for screening & alignment searching = more sequences being uploaded to publicly accessible databases and thus to less need to access physical genetic material.

Genbank: Trends in Bases & Whole Genome Project Bases (cumulative) with landmarks



Source: [GenBank and WGS Statistics](#). Note, the version of the data above uses a uniform scale.

Paul Oldham



# An example of using sequence homology and publicly accessible DSI for crop improvement

## OsERF922 knockout to enhance rice blast resistance:

1. Guo *et al.* found that the tobacco OPBP1, an ERF transcription factor is involved in disease resistance
2. Dongfeng Liu *et al.* searched for a similar gene in *oryza* using BLAST (Genbank's Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) and found OsERF922 and characterized it as an ERF type gene that increases rice disease susceptibility
3. Fujun *et al.* used CRISPR to mutate (using NHEJ) OsERF922 resulting in increased *oryza* disease resistance

•“BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences. The program compares nucleotide or protein sequences to sequence databases and calculates the statistical significance.” <https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>



# Some international fora where “DSland genetic resource (GR) discussions are underway

UN Bodies:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol (NP)**
  - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
  - FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)
  - World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework
  - **World Intellectual Property Organization Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore**
- Other Bodies:
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)