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Poster: Plant biotechnology

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Abs # 1073: [Is Your Inventive Work in Plant Biology Subject to Denial of Service?](#)

Presenter: [Connett, Marie B.](#), [Contact Author](#)

Authors [Connett, Marie B.](#) (A) [Jefferson, Richard A](#) (A)

Affiliations: (A): [CAMBIA and the BIOS Foundation](#)

Web Site: <http://www.cambia.org>; www.bios.net

Much work at research institutions does not reach end users, at least in part because few entities have leverage to obtain the licenses to secure a pathway to commercialisation. Adding regulatory costs and concerns about public acceptance, it is usually only considered worthwhile for the highest margin biotech products. Prospects are small for end uses in subsistence and regionally adapted crops. Improvement and application of technologies that might support wider public acceptance, such as downregulation of endogenous genes and homologous recombination, is also slowed. Multiple bacteria can be induced to transfer genes into plants (#7575). Unlike most patents, any research institution or company can get a license to use this technology only by agreeing to make available, to all others that agree to the same conditions, information on the safety of the technology and improvements, and not to assert derivative IP rights against licensees (making a protected commons). We developed a protected commons workspace, www.bioforge.net, using secure collaborative software with proven use in the rapidly moving competitive field of informatics. Those with permission obtained by agreement to the legal conditions of a BIOS license can access the protected commons from any time zone. In the software model, many individuals adapt the technology to many platforms, supporting not only multiple profitable products but a community valuing inventive efforts. Spared at least some of the resource-hungry process of negotiating multiple licenses, more can be devoted to research and to the end users, an innovative way of bringing the patent system back to original purposes.

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