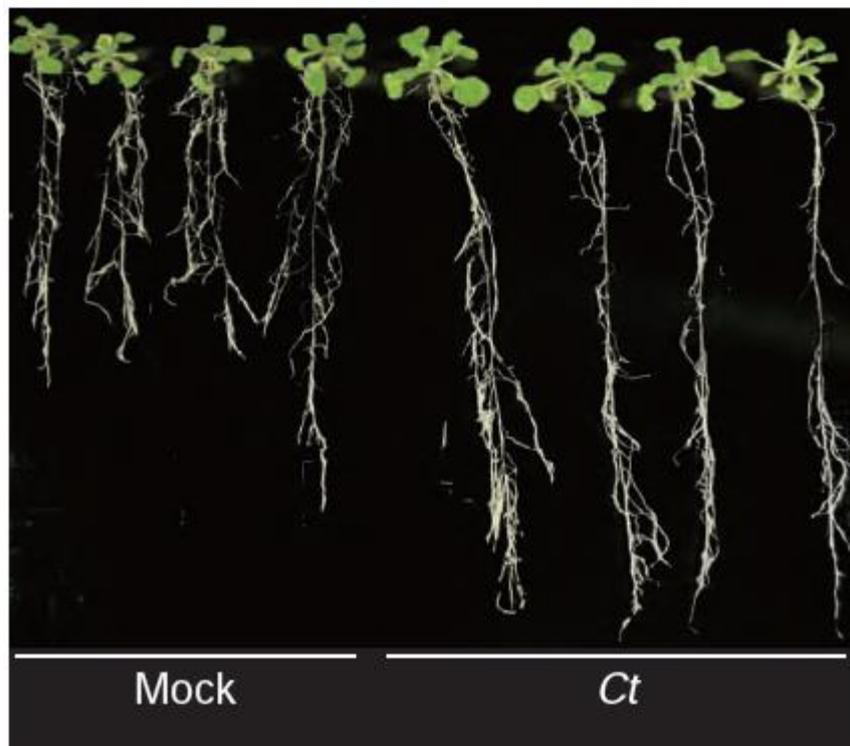


PlantResponse Incorporates to its Portfolio a New Symbiotic Plant-Microorganism

Madrid, 22 April 2016 — PlantResponse Biotech, a best-in-class agricultural biotechnology company based in Madrid (Spain), is exclusively developing a novel technology based on the recent discovery of a new form of symbiotic association between an endophytic fungus and plants, and which has recently been published in the prestigious journal CELL (<http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674%2816%2930130-1>).



Arabidopsis thaliana plants inoculated with *Colletotrichum tofieldiae* (right) and mock inoculated (left) growing in low phosphate conditions. Source: Cell Press.

This breakthrough - the result of a collaboration between researchers from the Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP (UPM-INIA), Madrid, Spain) and the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (Cologne, Germany) - is based on the formation of a natural mutualistic association between an endophytic fungus, *Colletotrichum tofieldiae* (Ct), and the host plant which results in increased production of fruits and seeds compared to non-colonised control plants. Ct colonises the plants through the roots and travels to the above ground tissues, transferring

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the macronutrient phosphorus to shoots, promoting plant growth and increasing fertility under phosphorus-deficient conditions.

PlantResponse products that are being developed around this type of plant-microbe association will significantly contribute to sustainable agriculture, since this symbiosis promotes plant growth and yield, and so is expected to decrease the need for inorganic fertilizers.

PlantResponse is currently using its proprietary fast-track platform to develop a Ct-derived product for different target crops, which will reach the global agricultural market in the coming years. PlantResponse has exclusive Patent license rights of exploitation and commercialization.

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About PlantResponse Biotech

PlantResponse Biotech is a Spanish green-biotech company that develops novel natural products that confer resistance, increase yield and enhance plant responses to biotic and abiotic stress. This approach enables more sustainable crop production with minimal environmental impact, by reducing the use of chemicals and other agricultural inputs which create residues. Aiming to bridge the gap between early research and the market and bring solutions efficiently to farmers, PlantResponse has focused on developing and commercializing highly innovative products by taking advantage of the know-how and techniques acquired through its experience in the agricultural domain.

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