Spot

Results returned by the farmers (farmers who participated in a rebate program returned their grain elevator receipts documenting harvests from adjacent fields with and without the use of Rhizobium Gold Coat inoculant) confirmed the performance of the inoculant with an average yield increase of one bushel per acre. Realizing the product was unlikely to change U.S. farmers' routine practice, the company explored the foreign markets, especially in places where farmers were likely to push for maximum yield due to high land values. To date, Rhizobium Gold Coat inoculant for soybean, and an Azosporillum inoculant (that utilizes the same proprietary fermentation and packaging technologies developed at Agracetus) remain the only commercial products resulting from Agracetus' R&D activities. Initially introduced to the European market in 1990, these products are still being sold in Europe and in South America under license from W.R. Grace.

The implication that "the company's R&D in transgenic plants were placed in the forefront" by Ken Barton and Russ Smestad after the departure of Winston Brill in 1989, and Allen Dines in 1990, is incorrect outright. All the transgenic plant projects with cotton, soybean, corn, and bean-including the cotton fiber project, their associated technologies (including the proprietary electrical particle gun) and patents (including the one awarded in 1992, covering all genetically engineered cotton products), and most of the commercialization efforts (including particle-gun transformation as a service)-began, and in some cases were completed and succeeded, at Agracetus prior to 1989. One only needs to check the filing dates of the patents to confirm these facts. Today, Agracetus is enjoying the fruits of the seeds of success (rather than the seeds of decline as suggested) laid through the years by Winston Brill while he was its head of R&D.

As a management consultant, Kidd should have recognized the contributions by a visionary executive like Winston Brill and give the proper credit to whom it is due.

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Errata

Figure 1 (A and B), which appeared on page 64 of "Improvement of Ornamental Characters and Fragrance Production in Lemon-Scented Geranium Through Genetic Transformation by *Agrobacterium rhizogenes*" by Pellegrineschi et al. in the January issue, needs clarification. The bars to the right in each pair (which appear black instead of hatched) represent the "transformed cuttings." Additionally, the units in the column headings of Table 1, page 65, should read μ l/g, not ml/g.

The data source for Table 1, which appeared on page 158 of "Epigenesis: The Missing Beat in Biotechnology?" by Richard Strohman in the February issue, should read, "Data sources: Reference 2 and 19."



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