



Beck's, Ragt partner with Phytoform to accelerate AI-driven corn trait development

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Collaboration will leverage AI-powered gene tuning to develop next-generation corn varieties with improved plant architecture, higher harvestable yields and enhanced productivity



Beck's and RAGT have partnered with agricultural biotechnology company Phytoform to develop next-generation corn traits using artificial intelligence, marking a significant step towards applying precision gene tuning to improve crop productivity across major global corn-growing regions.

The multi-company collaboration will combine Phytoform's proprietary CRE.AI.TIVE™ platform with Beck's corn breeding expertise, RAGT's global breeding programmes, proprietary germplasm and commercial market knowledge. The initial research programme will focus on optimising whole-plant architecture to improve harvestable yield and overall productivity in key markets, including the United States, South America and potentially Europe.

The partnership comes as seed companies increasingly turn to artificial intelligence to accelerate crop improvement while addressing mounting pressure on growers to produce higher yields with greater resource efficiency.

At the centre of the collaboration is Phytoform's CRE.AI.TIVE platform, which uses artificial intelligence to identify precise genetic edits within a plant's native regulatory DNA. Rather than introducing foreign genes, the technology fine-tunes when, where and to what extent existing genes are expressed, enabling the development of both simple and complex agronomic traits through targeted gene regulation.

Because the platform works within the crop's own genome, the resulting varieties may, in certain jurisdictions, be regulated in a manner similar to conventionally bred crops, potentially simplifying commercial adoption while aligning with evolving regulatory frameworks and market preferences.

For Beck's and RAGT, the collaboration provides access to AI-enabled trait discovery that complements conventional breeding programmes and could accelerate the delivery of differentiated corn hybrids with improved field performance. Optimising plant architecture is expected to enhance harvestable yield while supporting stronger productivity across diverse production environments.

The agreement also highlights the growing convergence of artificial intelligence, gene editing and plant breeding as seed developers seek faster and more precise approaches to crop improvement. By integrating AI-driven discovery with elite germplasm and established breeding programmes, the partners aim to shorten development timelines for commercially valuable traits.

Beyond corn, Phytoform said its CRE.AI.TIVE platform is crop-agnostic, creating opportunities to extend AI-powered gene tuning to additional crops and a broader range of agronomic challenges in the future.