Technology Transfer: Introduction
Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Mission

“Conduct research to develop & transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination”

ARS research solves real problems, focusing on impact.
ARS Guiding Principles & Values

• Provide leadership to solve critical national agricultural technical problems

• Develop and transfer high quality scientific research, technologies, and information

• Support long-term research to provide a foundation for problem solving and policy formulation

• Promote interdisciplinary research and systems approaches

• Respond to the needs of customers, stakeholders, and partners

• Promote integrity, ethical conduct, and public accountability in all of our activities
“Research is only successful if the information and technologies developed are transferred to those who need them.”
Why Do Technology Transfer?

- Facilitates adoption of research outcomes - greater impact
- Enhances economic development
- Supports and furthers ARS mission
- Required by Federal law
Technology Transfer Principles

• Facilitate partnerships to allow adoption of research outcomes for **broad US public benefit**

• Protect intellectual property **only** if it enhances adoption of research outcomes, not income generation

• Enhance U.S. economic development, global competition, & sustainable economic security
Technology Transfer Mechanisms

- Cooperative research

- Patenting and licensing (ARS does not utilize trademarks, trade secrets, or copyrights)

- Scientific publications and presentations
- Trade journals and newsletters
- Press releases and videos
- Demonstrations, field days, and workshops
- Public databases, websites, and germplasm
Technology Transfer Strategy → Adoption Research Outcome
Technology Transfer Strategies

IP protection needed

Exclusive License

IP protection not needed

Non-Exclusive License

Public Domain
Technology Transfer Tactical Plans

1. Research Plan
   - IP landscape
     - go
       - Partner Needed?
         - yes
           - Funds Needed or Collaborative Research Relationship
             - scientific publication & scientific conference
               - trade journal article & field days
               - TT: Public Domain
         - no
           - Re-evaluate Research Plan
  - no go
    - Re-evaluate Research Plan

2. Research Plan
   - IP landscape
     - go
       - Partner Needed?
         - yes
           - Collaborative Research Relationship
             - Invention Disclosure
               - Patent Committee
                 - No patent required for TT
                 - Patent application submitted
                   - scientific publication & scientific conference
                     - trade journal article & field days
                     - TT: Non-exclusive License
         - no
           - Re-evaluate Research Plan
  - no go
    - Re-evaluate Research Plan

3. Research Plan
   - IP landscape
     - go
       - Partner Needed?
         - yes
           - Collaborative Research Relationship
             - Invention Disclosure
               - Patent application submitted
                 - No go
                   - Re-evaluate Research Plan
               - Biological Materials License
                 - TT: Exclusive License
         - no
           - Re-evaluate Research Plan
  - no go
    - Re-evaluate Research Plan
Scientists have a team to help develop a tech transfer strategy and tactic plan for their research.
ARS Technology Transfer Program

Area Offices:

- Coordinator and Support Staff
- Implement TT Policy & Procedures

Office of Technology Transfer, Beltsville, MD:

- Partnership, Patenting and Licensing Staff
- Develop TT Policy & Procedures
OTT Partnership Section

- Approve agreements that address IP concerns
- Support agreement development with the Area, EAD & OIRP
- Coordinates ARP Network
- Teams with ONP & Line Management to determine TT strategies
OTT Patenting Section

✓ Manages invention disclosure review process
✓ Prepares, files, & prosecutes U.S. patents
✓ Obtain research results to maximize patentability and quality of patent claims
OTT Licensing Section

✓ Manages license application, drafting & negotiation process
✓ Collects & distributes royalties
✓ Facilitates & directs foreign filings with contractor
✓ Obtain research results to maximize commercial partner success and the impact of research outcomes
Visit Office of Tech Transfer website for contact information for partnership, patenting and licensing staff:

www.ars.usda.gov/business
ARS Technology Transfer Program

Area Offices:

• Coordinator and support staff
• First point of contact for scientists & companies
• Implements TT policy & procedures
• General TT advice & coordinate TT training
• Negotiate & implement research agreements
• Reviews reports & documents for IP management implications
Tech Transfer is a Team Effort

OTT & Area TT Office are here to help
Thank you!

To learn more about technology transfer in ARS:

http://www.ars.usda.gov/business