

# Genomics-Assisted Sweetpotato Improvement: Strengthening the Speedbreeders CoP

Progress to date....

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7<sup>th</sup> Annual SPHI Technical  
and Steering Committee Meeting  
ILRI Campus  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
October 7-9, 2016



## NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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Ann Tomko, Program Coordinator  
Bode Olukolu, Molecular Breeding  
Ken Pecota, Breeder  
Luis Duque, Breeder, Data capture  
Sharon Williamson, Research Specialist  
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Zhao-Bang Zeng (CoPI) Statistics/QTL/GS  
Guilherme Da Silva Pereira (Postdoc)  
Marcelo Mollinari (Postdoc)

Lina Quesada (coPI) Pathology



Robin Buell (coPI) Genome Browser  
John Hamilton, Bioinformatics Engineer  
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Grant Godden, Postdoc  
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Lukas Mueller (coPI) Database Development  
Alex Obgona, Postdoc  
Shan Wu, Postdoc  
Alex Ogonna, Postdoc, Database Development  
Bryan Ellerbrock, Database Development



International  
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biosciences  
eastern and central africa

### CIP Lima

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Wolfgang Gruneberg, SP Breeding, Global Lead  
Merideth Bonierbale, Program Leader  
Jan Kreuze, Virologist  
Reinhard Simon, Database Development  
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### CIP SSA

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Robert Mwanga, SP Breeding Uganda, East Africa  
Luka Wanjohi, Database Development, Website  
Mercy Kitavi, Postdoc, Molecular Breeding, Capacity Development



Benard Yada, (coPI) Breeder  
Gorrettie Ssemakula, Breeder  
Milton Otema Anyanga, Entomologist



Lachlan Coin (coPI)  
Chenxi Zhou, PhD Student, China



Marian Quain, Biotechnology, TC

# Sweetpotato Convening A Vision for Sweetpotato Improvement in Africa:

Modern Breeding Tools  
Increased Potential, Improved Genetic Gain,  
Reduced Hunger and Poverty

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Seattle, WA  
June 3-5, 2013

# The Genomic Tools for Sweetpotato Improvement Project – GT4SP



GENOMIC TOOLS  
FOR SWEETPOTATO  
IMPROVEMENT

## Scope

- Est. Sep. 2014
- 20 PI's
- 7 Institutions
- 6 Countries
- 4 Continents
- 15 Time Zones
- 1 Crop
- \$12.4 M

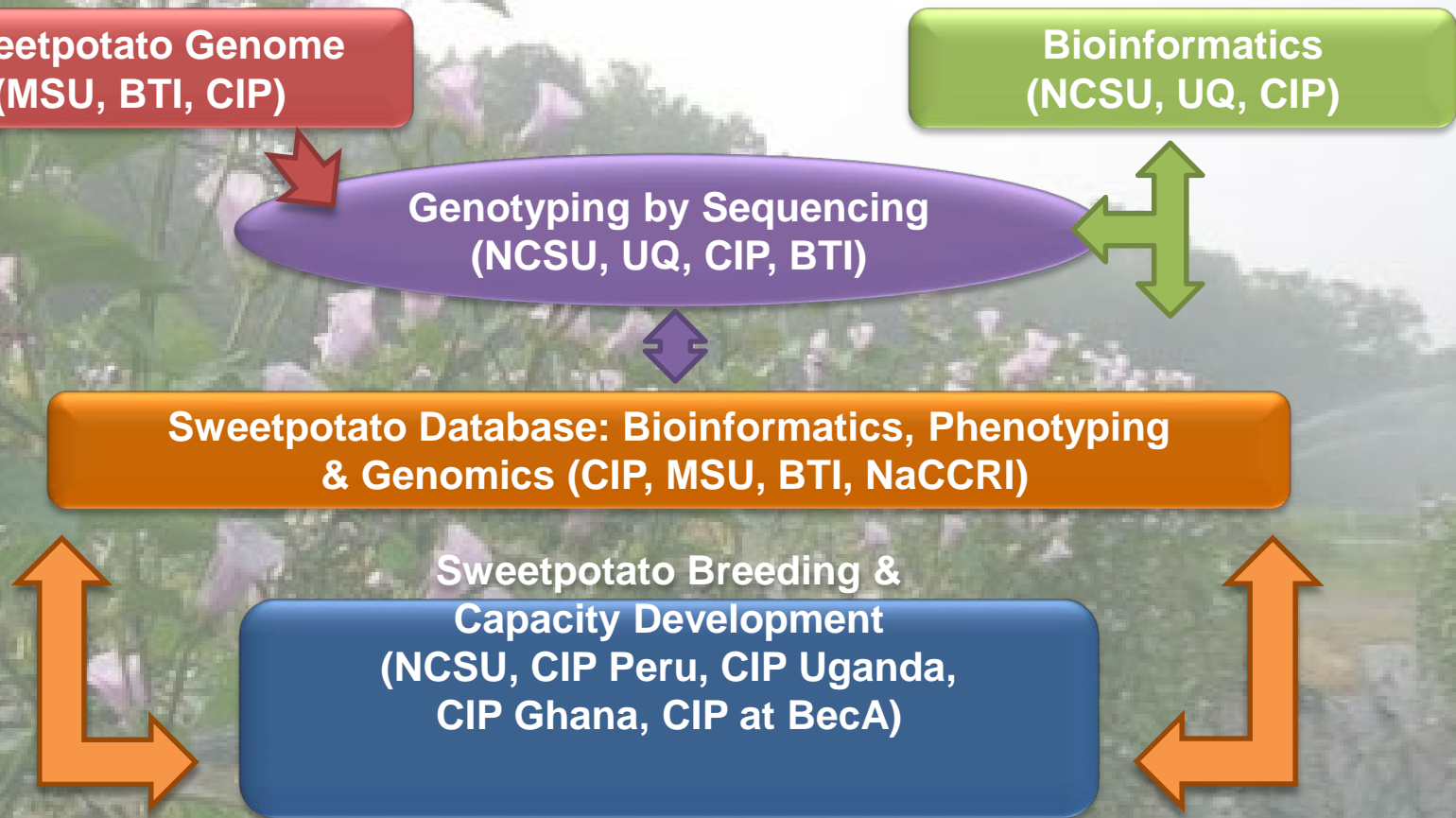
BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

# A “Vision” for MAB Breeding in SSA

**Breeding pipeline investments should include:**

- **Genomic Resources –**
  - A reference genome
  - Marker development – we are way behind the curve....
  - A robust set of SNP markers and a low-cost genotyping platform
  - Advanced laboratory sequencing linked with developing country phenotyping and breeding activities
  - 2x and 6x mapping, training and test populations
- **Phenotyping, analytics and database resources –**
  - Improved phenotyping options
  - Web-based bioinformatic resources
  - New database, data collection and analysis resources
- **Human Resources and Capacity Development –**
  - Continue to develop a dynamic team of breeders and allied disciplines
  - Training in the use of traditional and genomic breeding methods
  - Effective communication and collaboration
  - Multi-institutional training and capacity development
- **A common vision and continuity of effort.**
- **A stellar team to implement phase 1 !!**

# The Genomic Tools for Sweetpotato Improvement Project – GT4SP



**An ambitious project to sequence sweetpotato and develop modern breeding tools for a food crop that sustains million of people in SSA.**

Collaborators: Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell, Michigan State University, University of Queensland, Australia; The International Potato Center, Peru; BioSciences East and Central Africa, Kenya; National Crops Resources Research Institute, Uganda; Crops Research Institute, Ghana





# GT4SP Project Meetings



Start-Up, San Diego  
Jan. 2015



1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mtg.  
San Diego, Jan. 2016



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SASHA-GT4SP Joint Meeting, Mukono, Uganda







## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SASHA-GT4SP Joint Meeting, CIP-ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya





**15<sup>th</sup> SPHI Sweetpotato SpeedBreeders Annual Meeting 6-7 June 2016 Workshop**  
**BecA-ILRI Research Platform, Nairobi, Kenya**  
*Theme: An eye opener in planning the integration of molecular markers in sweetpotato breeding programs*



Time	Activity/Session	Responsible
June 5	Arrival	Tassy Kariuki
June 6	<i>Day 1, Monday</i>	
7:30 am	<b>Registration</b>	Tassy Kariuki
	<b>Chair: Dr. Edward Carey</b>	<b>Note taker: Dr. Bode Olukolu</b>
8:00 am	Welcome note from the BecA-ILRI hub Director, and SASHA Leader	Dr. Appolinaire Djikeng, Dr. Jan Low
8:30 am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Genomics-assisted sweetpotato improvement: Hope or hype?	Dr. Craig Yencho
9:30 am	Genetic diversity studies of the sweetpotato using DNA markers: what have we learnt?	Dr. Marc Ghislain
10:10 am	<b>Health Break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
10:30 am	Basics of marker-assisted selection/breeding and its potential use for sweetpotato improvement	Dr. Awais Khan
11.10 am	Accurate sweetpotato phenotyping of agronomic traits; why it is important for MAS	Dr. Awais Khan & Bramwel Wanjala
12:00 pm	Sweetpotato genotyping procedures for SSA (recorded video/ppt)	Dr. Mercy Kitavi
12.30 pm	<b>Lunch break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
2:00 pm	<b>BecA lab tour facility; An advantage in SSA</b> what is available and how the sweetpotato community can make use of it regarding the incorporation of molecular procedures in their breeding programs	Dr. Mercy Kitavi
3:00 pm	<b>Laboratory practical exercise</b> DNA extraction from sweetpotato roots and leaves Assess DNA quality & quantity PCR preparation (markers assays)	Dr. Dorcus Gemenet Dr. Mercy Kitavi Dorah Ndege
4:00 pm	<b>Health Break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
4:30-6.00 pm	Laboratory practical exercise – continued	Dr. Dorcus Gemenet Dr. Mercy Kitavi Dorah Ndege

# Genomics-Assisted Sweetpotato Improvement Workshop (day 2)

June 7	<i>Day 2, Tuesday</i>	
8:00 -8.30 am	Briefing session	Dr. Dorcus Gemenet & Dr. Mercy Kitavi
8:30 am	<b>Practical exercise</b> – Clone identification, germplasm fingerprinting, parent selection & Genetic diversity analysis using SSR data	Dr. Mercy Kitavi
10:00 am	<b>Health Break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
10:20 am	<b>Practical exercise</b> – Sweetpotato QTL mapping	Dr. Dorcus Gemenet
12:30 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
2:00 pm	<b>Practical exercise</b> – Genome wide maps; SNP marker development in hexaploid sweetpotato using Genotyping by sequencing (GBS)	Dr. Bode Olukolu
4.00 pm	<b>Health Break</b>	Tassy Kariuki
4:20 pm	What do we know about the <i>Ipomoea</i> genome and how can this be used in breeding improved sweetpotato varieties?	Dr. Robin Buell
5:00 pm	Discussions/Consultations and AOB	Dr. Mercy Kitavi
5:30 pm	<b>End</b>	







# On-Site Capacity Building

- Mercy Kitavi visited and trained staff in Uganda and Ghana – between July and August 2016
- Pending visit to Mozambique
- Several webinars conducted and pending
- Posted on SweetpotatoKnowledgePortal

# SSA NARS Genomic infrastructure

- Basic molecular genetic facilities exist among most NARS partners, but not all.
- Sequencing capabilities generally not available.
- Computational and bioinformatics capabilities lacking.
- Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA-ILRI Hub) – a key partner.
  - Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund - 3 GT4SP fellows identified

# Major Accomplishments



# Two Diploid Reference Genomes for Sweetpotato – A first...

Dr. Zhangjun Fei

## *I. trifida* NCNSP-0306

	Scaffold*		Contig	
	Size (bp)	Number	Size (bp)	Number
N100 (Shortest)	500	30,343	1	44,841
N90	23,196	984	4,204	10,947
N80	212,487	311	14,711	5,596
N70	518,084	179	28,599	3,494
N60	911,096	112	45,660	2,303
<b>N50</b>	<b>1,480,604</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65,826</b>	<b>1,516</b>
N25	3,646,777	21	155,697	414
N00 (Longest)	16,580,315	1	1,067,799	1
Total	462,089,635	30,343	433,252,193	44,841

\*Scaffolds >= 500bp are included.

**87.8%**

Estimated genome size: 526.5 Mb

## *I. triloba* NCNSP-0323

	Scaffold*		Contig	
	Size (bp)	Number	Size (bp)	Number
N100 (Shortest)	500	4,018	1	31,277
N90	2,012,206	76	8,536	12,672
N80	2,667,000	57	15,561	8,955
N70	3,686,450	42	22,163	6,606
N60	4,855,166	32	29,383	4,891
<b>N50</b>	<b>6,461,009</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36,931</b>	<b>3,562</b>
N25	9,551,788	9	61,831	1,252
N00 (Longest)	19,833,707	1	313,171	1
Total	457,090,054	4,018	437,557,497	31,277

\*Scaffolds >= 500bp are included.

**92.2%**

Estimated genome size: 495.9 Mb



# Diploid *Ipomoea* v1 Assembly Annotation Summary

Annotation after final MAKER run and functional annotation assignment:

## Structural Annotation Summary:

	<i>I. trifida</i>	<i>I. triloba</i>
Number of Gene Models:	34,277	34,122
Avg Gene Length:	3,527.3	3,835.22
Avg Transcript Length	1,462.7	1,530.4
Avg CDS Length:	1,319.8	1,391.4
Avg Exon Length:	263.8	259.9
Avg Intron Length:	456.2	473.4
Single Exon Transcripts:	11,412	9,798

- Locus Name Assignment:
- *I. trifida* locus name: v1\_itf\_[GT]000000
- *I. triloba* locus name: v1\_itb\_[GT]000000

## Functional Annotation Summary:

	<i>I. trifida</i>	<i>I. triloba</i>
TAIR	27,549	26,751
PFAM	1,296	1,218
Swiss-Prot	318	328
Conserved Hypo.	1,439	1,457
Hypothetical	3,675	4,368

The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR)  
Protein Families Database  
Swiss Protein Database

## Sweetpotato Genomics Resource

<http://sweetpotato.plantbiology.msu.edu/>

# RNAseq Annotation

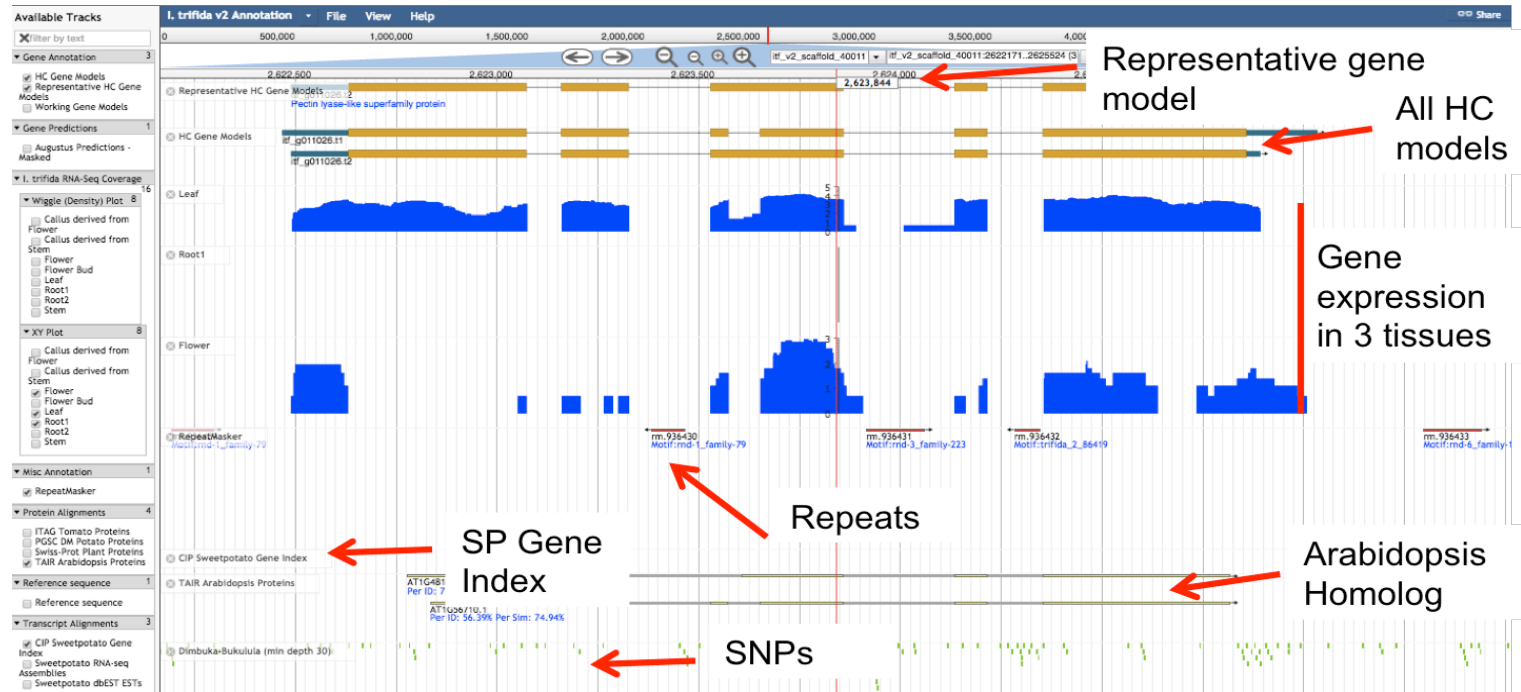
*I. trifida* (NCNSP-0306) and *I. triloba* (NCNSP-0323)

Accession	Library	Raw		Cleaned		mapped	
		No. pairs	length	No. pairs	length	No. mapped	%
<i>I. trifida</i>	Callus from flower	21,848,047	151	21,003,512	140	18,231,691	86.8
	Callus from stem	19,079,976	151	18,295,387	141	15,985,394	87.37
	Flower bud	9,983,745	151	9,466,255	142	8,028,621	84.81
	Flower	16,243,164	151	14,485,548	141	11,942,268	82.44
	Leaf	16,460,756	151	15,594,184	140	13,765,383	88.27
	Root1	10,371,929	151	8,620,931	145	6,890,570	79.93
	Root2	11,330,169	151	9,333,983	143	7,505,456	80.41
	Stem	13,732,963	151	13,213,076	136	11,521,863	87.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119,050,749</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>110,012,876</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>93,871,246</b>	<b>85.33</b>
<i>I. triloba</i>	Flower bud	14,805,985	151	14,179,939	140	13,665,688	96.37
	Flower	15,722,899	151	13,559,219	143	12,318,763	90.85
	Leaf	17,295,636	151	16,652,971	139	16,107,108	96.72
	Root1	12,626,254	151	10,903,081	142	7,681,265	70.45
	Root2	10,380,650	151	9,090,481	144	8,422,508	92.65
	Stem	22,110,610	151	21,160,167	140	19,950,834	94.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92,942,034</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>85,545,858</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>78,146,166</b>	<b>91.35</b>



# Diploid *Ipomoea* Genome Annotation: Jbrowse Genome Browser – A first...

Robin Buell



Tracks available on the Jbrowse:

- Genome Annotation (Loci, Gene Models)
- Gene Predictions (Augustus, SNAP, FGENESH)
- MAKER Transcript Evidence
- MAKER Protein Evidence
- CIP Sweetpotato Gene Index Alignments
- RepeatMasker Repeats
- RNA-Seq Coverage – Wiggle
- RNA-Seq Coverage – XY
- I. trifida 0431-1 SNPs

# Genotyping-by-Sequencing

Strategy: Optimized enzyme and fragment size selection for SP

Optimal # of fragments/SNPs:

- low density (genetic map)
- high density (GWAS/GS)

Cost effectiveness:

- exclude repeat regions
- unusable for SNP calling
- methylation sensitive enzyme





# DArTseq for hexaploid sweetpotato: B x T mapping population

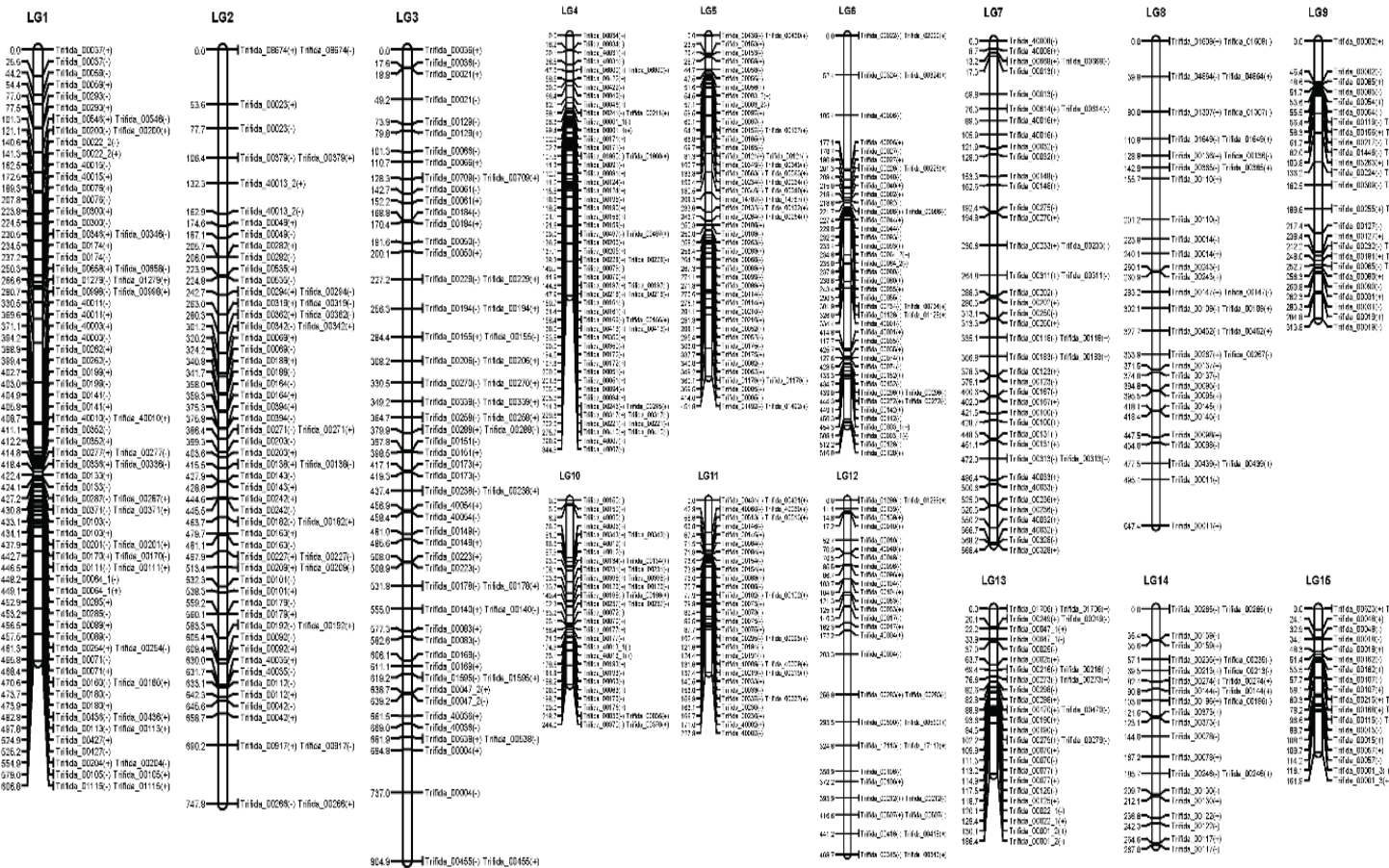
33,086 SNPs identified  
in BT population

After quality analyses,  
11,091 SNPs mapped  
on 95 linkage groups.

Linkage Groups	Number of Markers	Max Length (cM)	Average Interval (cM)	Max Interval (cM)
1	332	86.93	0.26	6.67
2	182	81.91	0.45	5.19
3	165	83.72	0.51	8.99
4	158	103.54	0.66	13.33
5	171	84.84	0.50	17.29
6	239	83.66	0.35	5.66
7	160	64.27	0.40	9.70
8	222	58.97	0.27	2.96
9	362	97.22	0.27	10.45
10	147	70.70	0.48	12.08
11	389	117.02	0.30	10.01
12	272	73.19	0.27	10.46
13	149	76.79	0.52	6.32
14	132	85.74	0.65	10.00
15	227	69.20	0.31	5.97
16	138	82.34	0.60	11.48
17	249	79.19	0.32	4.81
18	139	71.28	0.52	6.67
19	118	90.27	0.77	15.56
20	337	81.53	0.24	6.67
21	130	86.83	0.67	12.96
22	163	67.23	0.42	10.69
23	98	68.77	0.71	7.78
24	137	61.31	0.45	4.83
25	121	83.22	0.69	14.23
26	322	61.09	0.19	2.82
27	116	66.81	0.58	8.58
28	113	68.76	0.61	11.52
29	276	85.92	0.31	8.55
30	136	47.51	0.35	5.19
31	112	65.36	0.59	7.14
32	218	70.50	0.32	3.73
33	182	71.47	0.39	6.69
34	201	60.85	0.30	5.58
35	92	74.59	0.82	8.24
36	91	87.65	0.97	12.96
37	102	63.50	0.63	13.36
38	90	83.62	0.94	14.44
39	95	62.93	0.67	6.72
40	98	72.47	0.75	21.48
41	104	66.17	0.64	19.26
42	225	63.80	0.28	4.81
43	106	63.67	0.61	8.89
44	93	55.35	0.60	5.53
45	84	59.75	0.72	5.93
46	75	56.51	0.76	6.72
47	89	70.81	0.80	14.98
48	80	69.24	0.88	11.28
49	80	74.61	0.94	20.74
50	106	59.21	0.56	15.36

Linkage Groups	Number of Markers	Max Length (cM)	Average Interval (cM)	Max Interval (cM)
51	81	68.63	0.86	11.32
52	82	57.55	0.71	12.22
53	85	70.77	0.84	16.23
54	80	49.01	0.62	7.84
55	153	56.28	0.37	5.80
56	197	94.69	0.48	7.40
57	94	77.16	0.83	17.67
58	208	98.44	0.48	9.63
59	163	66.03	0.41	5.22
60	198	74.01	0.38	9.12
61	90	51.53	0.58	9.51
62	72	46.00	0.65	9.85
63	74	76.09	1.04	20.74
64	70	54.15	0.78	13.49
65	67	51.29	0.78	13.70
66	143	61.32	0.43	15.25
67	70	70.64	1.02	18.15
68	53	55.00	1.06	18.96
69	63	55.34	0.89	13.15
70	58	43.96	0.77	10.49
71	52	32.38	0.63	11.11
72	49	45.37	0.95	10.07
73	64	36.87	0.59	5.93
74	45	23.05	0.52	4.07
75	49	32.40	0.67	9.29
76	95	42.08	0.45	4.51
77	40	28.53	0.73	6.67
78	30	52.00	1.79	16.60
79	40	49.53	1.27	11.28
80	30	15.19	0.52	3.33
81	31	9.32	0.31	1.85
82	25	27.99	1.17	16.00
83	21	20.13	1.01	3.70
84	24	15.67	0.68	5.24
85	27	14.20	0.55	3.72
86	26	11.52	0.46	3.70
87	15	17.88	1.28	5.19
88	15	9.48	0.68	5.73
89	12	8.28	0.75	1.90
90	11	19.96	2.00	6.74
91	17	4.12	0.26	1.49
92	13	3.41	0.28	1.91
93	16	4.08	0.27	1.48
94	8	5.31	0.76	2.33
95	12	5.59	0.51	2.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>11091</b>	<b>5504.06</b>	
<b>Max</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>117.02</b>	<b>21.48</b>
<b>Min</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>3.41</b>	
<b>Average</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>57.94</b>	<b>0.63</b>

High-density genetic map of the *I. trifida* CIP M9 x M19 mapping population.



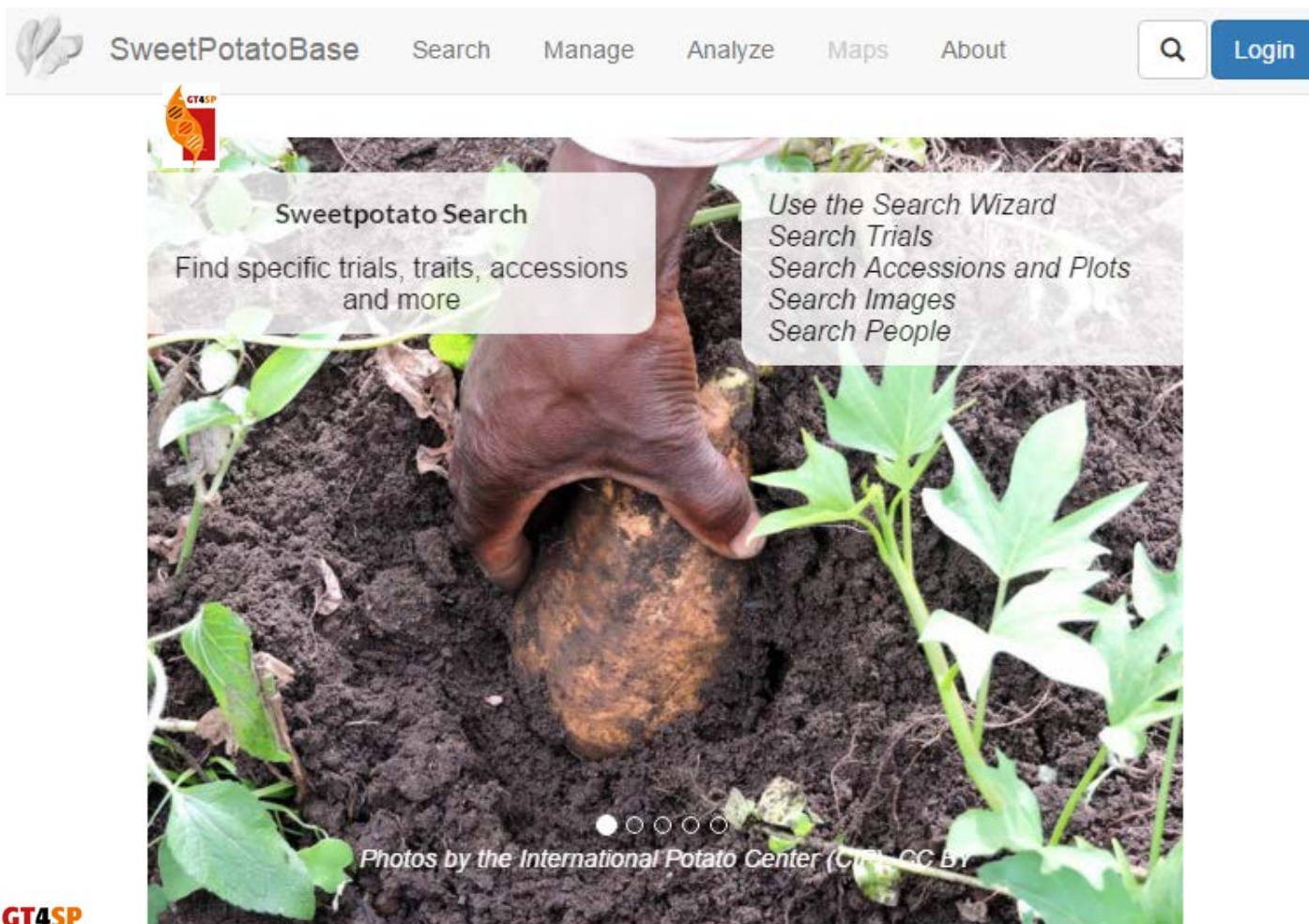
Map was made using GBS data generated by Bode Okulu at NCSU on 212 progeny plus 2 parents in a F1 cross of M9 X M19. This map indicates the position of the scaffolds obtained from the Trifida assembly. Only the starting and ending position of each scaffold is shown (indicated with + and – respectively). As a result some apparently large gaps greater than 50cM are long scaffolds. Where scaffolds have been split, this is indicated using \_1 and \_2 to indicate the split scaffolds.

# GT4SP Mapping Populations

- M9 x M19 – Diploid *I. trifida*
  - 212 clones
- Beauregard x Tanzania (BT)
  - 316 clones
- Tanzania x Beauregard (TB)
  - 247 clones
- New Kawogo x Beauregard (NKB),
  - 287 clones
- Mwanga Diversity Population,
  - 8 x 8 mating design,
  - 1,920 clones
- Multi-location, multi-year phenotyping in Peru, USA, Ghana and Uganda



# Managing Phenotypic Data SweetPotatoBase and FieldBook App.





# Meeting the Data Management Needs



SweetPotatoBase

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ogbalex



## Trial detail for SPYLPT2013\_GH-Tono

### Trial details

Breeding Program	Ghana (Ghana)	[change]
Trial Name	SPYLPT2013_GH-Tono	[change]
Trial Type	[type not set]	[change]
Year	2013	[change]
Trial Location		[change]
Planting Date		[change]
Harvest Date		[change]
Description	163 sweetpotato clones were assayed in this Preliminary Trial of a yield breeding program for 25 traits at Tono	[edit]

### + Physical Trial Layout

### + Traits assayed

### + Trial JBrowse

### + Files

### + Associated loci (0)

### + Experimental data



SweetpotatoBase

International  
Potato Center

## Highly Interactive Data Analysis Platform for Clonal Plant Breeding



HIDAP v1.0 [07/06/2016]

HIDAP is a tool designed to help breeders of clonal plants (likw potato and sweetpotato) carry out field trial planning, documentation, analysis and reporting

International Potato Center (CIP)



# **What's needed and how do we get there?**

## **Lesson's Learned -**

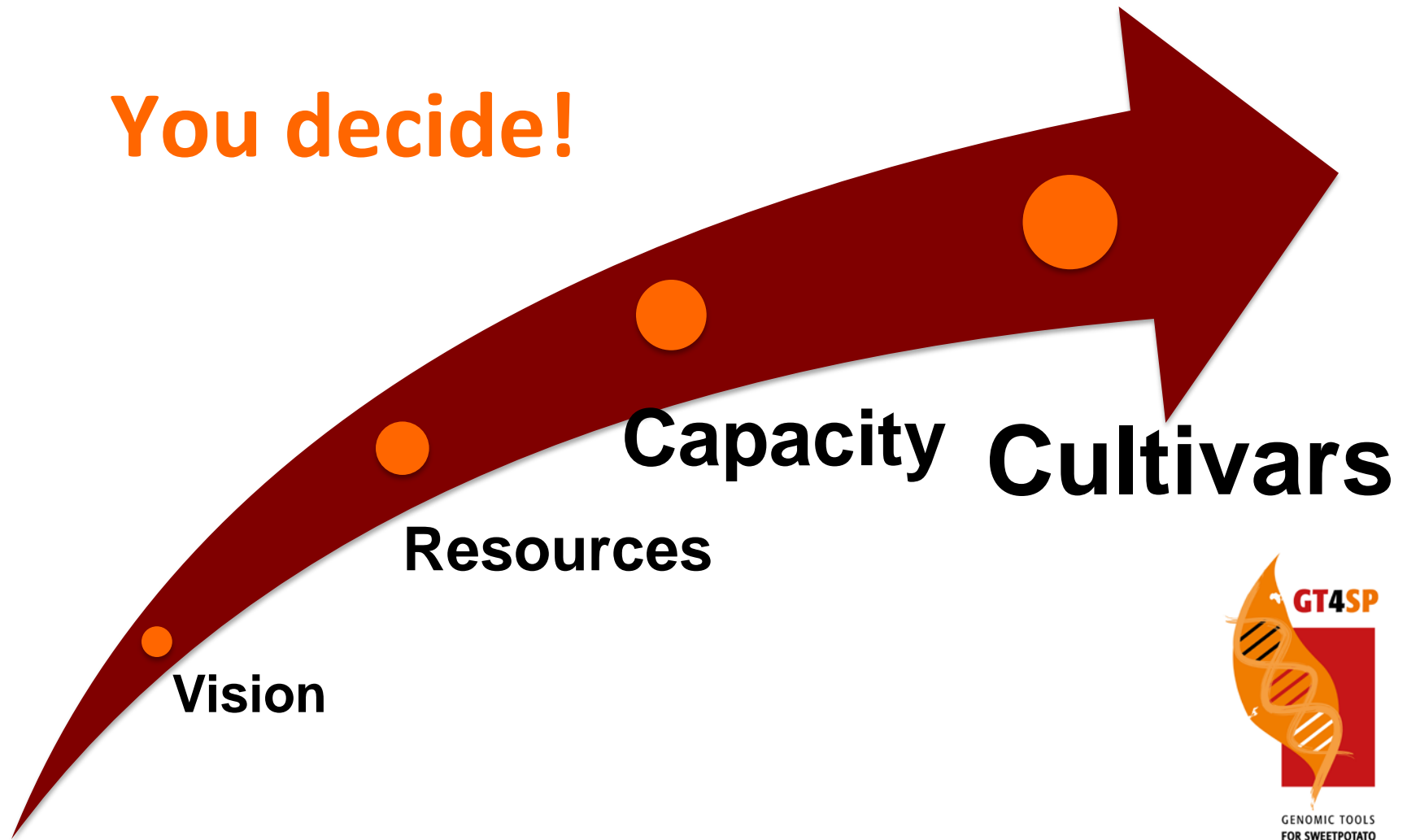
- **Reference genome(s)**
- **A sequence-based genotyping platform**
- **Breeder friendly bioinformatics and analytical environments**
  - **This is easier said than done! What will this look like?**
  - **Special needs for clonally propagated, polyploid crops?**
  - **Assured technical support to breeders required**
- **Populations (QTL mapping and GWAS)– We're breeders....no worries**
- **Improved phenotyping and data collection capabilities including mechanization equipment...**
- **Sustained funding – multiple sources (NGO, Gov., private industry)**
- **Sustained capacity development – people, institutional, programs, farmers, industry – all are critical.**

**For more information see:**  
**[SweetpotatoGenomics.CALS.NCSU.edu](http://SweetpotatoGenomics.CALS.NCSU.edu)**



# Genomic-Assisted Breeding in Sweetpotato – Hope or Hype?

You decide!





# Acknowledgements

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Think and Do  
[ncsu.edu](http://ncsu.edu)

