



beej<sup>ki</sup>baat  
voice of the seed



**EDITION APRIL 2025**



**Raghavan  
Sampathkumar  
Executive Director**

Dear Members,

As we are all set to step into May 2025, the pace of agricultural innovation continues to accelerate. This month's edition of Beej Ki Baat brings together some of the most exciting global developments in gene editing, sustainable agriculture, and food systems. From the resilience of wild barley to the promise of new CRISPR tools, science is redefining what's possible for farmers and food security. We also spotlight India's growing bio-economy, policy progress on GM crops, and the need for enhanced investment in agri-research. These breakthroughs remind us that technology, when applied ethically and inclusively, can be a true enabler of transformation—from climate-resilient varieties to space farming. As always, FSII remains committed to facilitating dialogue, fostering innovation, and advocating for a future-ready agriculture sector. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and welcome your feedback.

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**FSII In News**



[FSII - Federation of Seed Industry of India members got featured in the April 2025 edition of AgroSpectrum India!](#)



[Punjab bans sale of hybrid paddy seeds – Thoughts by Chairman, FSII, Mr. Ajai Rana](#)

**INDIA**



**Vivek Wadhwa**  
The writer is CEO, Vionix Biosciences

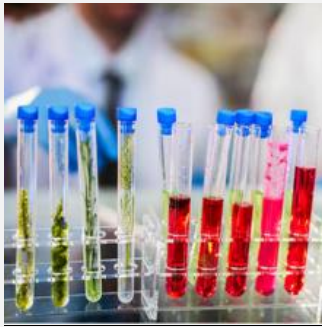


**CRISPR, brighter than AI: India must invest in innovation, ethical use of this transformative gene-editing tool**

India has the chance to lead in CRISPR technology by driving ethical gene editing innovations in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. By establishing a

national research initiative, fast-track regulatory approvals, and encouraging public-private partnerships, India could develop cost-effective treatments, improve food security, and address environmental challenges, setting a global example.

[Read full article...](#)



**[India's bio-economy soars to \\$165.7 billion in 2024, doubling in four years](#)**



**[There is progress on GM food crops- DBT](#)**



**[Integrated farming system: Viable approach for sustaining farmers' income](#)**



**[Shivraj and Bill Gates discussed on various topics related to agricultural and rural development](#)**



**[Farmers to agri-entrepreneurs, paving the way for Viksit Bharat: Naveen Jindal](#)**



**[Farmers should use tech to enhance soil quality, boost agricultural productivity: Union Minister Bhagirath Choudhary](#)**

## GLOBAL



### **Global Food Crops Grown Under Cover Market Forecast To Reach \$113.04 Billion By 2029 With 12% Annual Growth In New Report**

The food crops grown under cover market has seen rapid expansion, with projections indicating growth from \$64.28 billion in 2024 to \$71.74 billion in 2025 at a CAGR of 11.6%. Key drivers of past growth include extended growing seasons, pest and disease protection, climate control, water conservation, urban agriculture, and crop diversification. The food crops grown under cover market is expected to grow rapidly, reaching \$113.04 billion in 2029 at a CAGR of 12.0%. Growth will be fuelled by population growth, climate change mitigation, vertical farming expansion, sustainable farming, and consumer preference for local produce.

[Read full article...](#)



[China develops high-protein corn to reduce soybean dependence amid trade tensions](#)

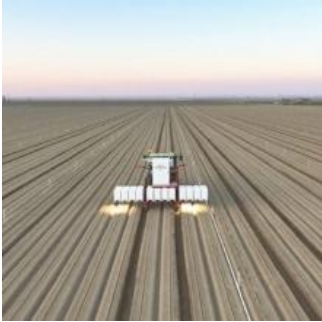


[Its time to hit the reset button on GMOs](#)



[Scientists shielding farming from climate change need more](#)

public funding. But they're getting less



Robot lasers may open the door to near chemical-free agriculture



Gene-edited non-browning banana could cut food waste



New bioinsecticide shows efficacy of over 85% in controlling fall armyworm

## RESEARCH



### **Powerful New Modes of Action for Nitrogen Fixation using Gene-Editing Technology**

In line with innovative ag solutions for growers in the U.S. Pivot Bio has introduced a new nitrogen-fixing solution, which has been successfully used by growers on millions of acres to date. The company's third-generation nitrogen solution for corn, will be

commercially available in 2026, and marks a major advancement in nitrogen innovation, as its the first product with multiple modes of action and significant benefits to farmers, who work hard to feed, clothe and fuel the world.

[Read full article...](#)



**[Wild Barley Genomics paves the way for climate-resilient crops](#)**



**[New CRISPRs Expand Upon the Original's Abilities](#)**



**[Turning the humble potato into a bruise-resistant and vitamin-enriched super spud—thanks CRISPR gene editing](#)**



**[Cosmic cuisine: Synthetic biologists are exploring cellular agriculture to grow food in space](#)**



**[CRISPR Breakthrough Unlocks the Genetic Blueprint for Super-Sized Produce](#)**



**[Researchers launch genomics project on 1,001 Philippine traditional rice varieties](#)**

## From The Secretariat



[One science, one intent, and One Law-  
Insight by ED, FSII, Mr. Raghavan  
Sampathkumar](#)

["Commercial Plant Breeding:  
Strategies for Hybrid & Varietal  
Development" organized by AgMatrix in  
association with FSII](#)

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## Stay Tuned With Us



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For more information about Federation of Seed Industry of India visit [www.fsii.in](http://www.fsii.in)

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