Bioengineering in Crop Disease Management

Bhagyashree Priyadarshini, Monalisa Sahoo, Bharati Sahu and Jagyaswani Nayak
C. V. Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-752054
*Corresponding Author: jagyaswaninayak3@gmail.com

Crop diseases are a major threat to global food security, resulting in yield reductions and economic losses for the farmers. Traditional agricultural disease management strategies have limits, prompting the development of bioengineering technologies. These methods involve the inserting resistant genes into crops, using RNA interference (RNAi) technology, genome editing. With bioengineered crops showing the both successes and challenges. As the global population continues to grow, the demand for the food increases, and the threat of crop diseases becomes more significant. The potential of the bioengineering in crop disease management is vast, with the emerging technologies providing promising prospects for the future. Bioengineering technologies provide a more sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional agricultural disease management strategies, assuring food security for the future generations. The use of resistance genes, RNAi, genome editing, can significantly reduce the impact of the crop diseases on the yields and promote the sustainable agriculture practices.

Crop diseases are a major threat to global food security, affecting the yield and quality of crops. Bioengineering approaches offer promising solutions for the disease management, including the development of disease-resistant crops and the precision control strategies. In recent years, there has been a surge of interest in the application of engineering principles to address crop disease challenges. Disease management practices can help to ensure the sustainability by protecting crop yields, maintaining and improving the crop producer profitability, lowering losses along the distribution chain, and reducing the negative environmental impacts of diseases and the disease management. Crop disease management promotes the sustainability by enhancing food security for both farmers and consumers(Andersen,2000). As the global population continues to expand, utilizing an integrated approach to the crop disease management will be critically important for agricultural sustainability and environmental protection. Bioengineered crops that provide protection against the insects and diseases, or tolerance to herbicides (Anderson et al.,2019). In the same way that the pathogen populations adjust to conventionally cultivated resistance, we can expect the same in reaction to the deployment of engineered resistance mechanisms minimising disease pressure through integrated disease management continues to be an important technique for minimising selection pressure towards resistant characteristics. Thus, GE traits should be used in conjunction with appropriate disease management practices (Lamichhane et al.,2016). In the past few years, advances in crop breeding have provided a number of new technologies in the food and agriculture industry (Ali et al.,2021). Approaches to genetic crop improvement cover a wide range of strategies, from the simple phenotypic selection through genome editing.

Bioengineering Strategies for Plant Disease Resistance

There is a wide variety of published strategies for engineering disease resistance, and ongoing research and expanding genetic resources (Cochrane et al., 2010) are likely to lead to additional strategies. Furthermore, several applications are possible within the majority of those strategies. These findings show that bioengineering opens up a wide reservoir of genetic possibilities for future generations. This will enable disease resistance breeding to stay very dynamic in the face of pathogen adaptation to virulence on resistant crops. While it is difficult to predict which Bioengineering techniques will have the most influence on crop disease control in the next decades, all of those discussed below show promise and, in the author's opinion, warrant further research. Some have shown proof-of-concept, while others have been field-tested and, in some cases, introgressed into commercially viable variants. All strategies described below take advantage of and in most cases, mimic processes that occur in Nature (Vincelli., 2016).

RNAi for Improving Disease Resistance in Plants

RNAi has long been the go-to method for gene silencing in a variety of biological domains, but it has also been widely exploited as a plant-protection platform. Plants, as sessile organisms, must tolerate a wide range of biotic and abiotic stressors that have a negative impact on growth and output. Depending on the environmental conditions, several biotic stressors such as insects, fungus, and nematodes attack their host plants and cause significant yield loss. Insects, like plants, have RNAi machinery that is mostly used to defend against viruses (Matranga and Zamore, 2007). Exogenous application of dsRNAs in plants via dsRNA injection or feeding insects dsRNA-containing artificial diets (Baum et al., 2007) or developing transgenic plants expressing dsRNAs targeting vital insect genes (Vélez and Fishilevich, 2018; Zotti et al., 2018; Di Lelio et al., 2022). Once this fact was revealed, researchers began focusing their efforts on strengthening the integrated pest control system by synthesising dsRNAs that target insects that cause significant agricultural damage. We've talked about many ways that use "RNAi-as the central mechanism" to boost disease resistance in plants.

Conclusion

In conclusion, engineering disease resistance in crops involves a range of strategies that leverage natural defence mechanisms or mimic processes found in nature. These strategies have the potential to increase crop disease resistance, reduce dependency on chemical pesticides, and improve agricultural sustainability. Increased plant awareness of infection via PAMP receptor gene transfer broadens the variety of pathogens that can that can trigger a natural defense response in crops. This method has resulted in enhanced resistance to bacterial infections . Antimicrobial substances can be produced in agricultural plants by adding genes encoding antimicrobial peptides or enzymes, which can lower pathogen activity and increase disease resistance. This approach has been effective against bacterial and fungal infections. The use of RNA interference (RNAi) to silence essential pathogen genes selectively targets specific genes in pathogens, limiting their ability to cause disease. This method has protected crops from destructive pathogens. Engineering the CRISPR/Cas immune system in plants provides a targeted immune response against invading DNA from pathogens, particularly DNA viruses. This technique shows promise for combating challenging viruses that are difficult to control through traditional breeding methods. While these strategies hold great potential, considerations of public acceptability and further research are necessary, as some involve genetic modification and the introduction of foreign DNA sequences. Overall, crop disease resistance techniques bring up a vast pool of genetic potential for future generations. By lowering the use of chemical pesticides, boosting crop yields, and permitting dynamic responses to disease adaptation, they provide hope for sustainable agriculture. Continued research and development of these solutions will help us protect crops and ensure food security.

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