

National Screen of Biological Seed Treatments

Laura Lindsey
Indiana CCA Conference
December 19, 2023



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What is Science for Success?

- Agronomists at land-grant institutions across the US delivering soybean Best Management Practices
- Summarize existing and ongoing QSSB-supported soybean checkoff research
- Collaborate on national research trials 2019 and 2020: Foliar fertilizers and soil-applied N and S fertilizers
2021 and 2022: N-fixation, biologicals, and soil health
- Amplify our state-level research and Extension knowledge into National Extension impact



<https://soybeanresearchinfo.com/>

@SoybeanScience1

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National Screen of Commercially Available Biological Seed Treatment for Soybean

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Biological Seed Treatment Market






Huge number
of biological
seed treatment
for soybeans
on the market


Trade show at 2022 Commodity Classic

- 22 Companies
- 40 Different products
- Multiple active ingredients
 - *Bradyrhizobium*
 - *Azospirillum*
 - *Bacillus*
 - *Pseudomonas*
 - ... and more!




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- *Bradyrhizobium*
 - N-fixing bacteria, providing ~40% of the total crop N demand
 - Fields with history of soybean...rarely any benefit to additional inoculation

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- *Bradyrhizobium*
 - N-fixing bacteria, providing ~40% of the total crop N demand
 - Fields with history of soybean...rarely any benefit to additional inoculation


In Ohio, 70% confident of 1.5-2.0 bu/acre yield increase with inoculation.

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- *Bacillus*
 - Plant-growth promoting bacteria
 - Improve nutrition supply/improve plant resistance to disease
 - India- *Bacillus* increased zinc solubilization (Sharma et al., 2011)
 - Egypt- *Bacillus* enhanced drought tolerance (Sheteiwy et al., 2021)

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- *Trichoderma*
 - Greenhouse studies...Biocontrol against soybean charcoal rot, white mold, and root lesion nematode (Khaledi & Taheri, 2016; Macena et al., 2020; Kath et al., 2017)
 - Little effect of soybean seedling performance IF plants were not exposed to biotic or abiotic stress (salinity, chilling, heat) (Mastouri et al., 2020)
 - Yield increase in Brazil
 - When combined with a fungicide
 - In soil infected with root lesion nematode (Zandona et al., 2019; de Oliveira et al., 2019)

- *Pseudomonas*
 - Promote plant growth by suppressing pathogens, synthesizing growth-stimulating plant hormones, and increasing disease resistance (Preston, 2004; Kasotia et al., 2012)
 - Suppression of fungal root pathogens and nematodes in greenhouse, but not necessarily translated to field soils (Timper et al., 2009)



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- *Azospirillum*
 - Proposed benefits- Increased root growth; improved mineral and water uptake
 - In Brazil, co-inoculation with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* improved soybean growth and number of nodules...especially under drought (Cassan et al., 2009)
 - In US, co-inoculation increased soybean yield in 2 out of 25 site-years (de Borja Reis et al., 2002)

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- *Glomus*
 - Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, promote P uptake (Smith and Read, 2008)
 - Greenhouse...Increase soybean yield (Koyama et al., 2019) and reduced disease (Zambolim and Schneck, 1983)
 - Ghana field studies- *Glomus* + half rate of P fertilizer = Full rate of P fertilizer (Thioub et al., 2019)

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- *Delfia*
 - Very little published information...
 - In canola, *Delfia* increased yield due to greater S availability (Banerjee and Yesmin, 2004)

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- *Methylobacterium hispanicum*
 - Isolated from drinking water in Seville, Spain
 - Almost no field research/agronomic research published

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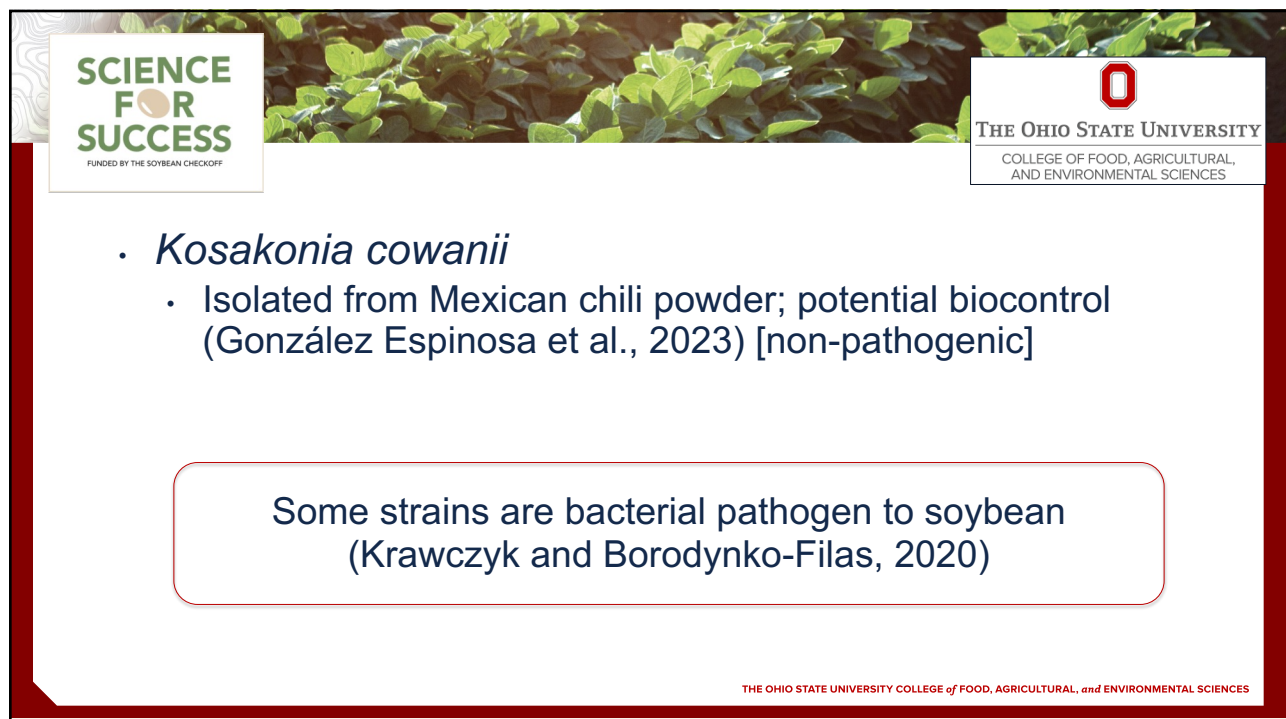
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- *Kosakonia cowanii*
 - Isolated from Mexican chili powder; potential biocontrol (González Espinosa et al., 2023) [non-pathogenic]

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- *Kosakonia cowanii*
 - Isolated from Mexican chili powder; potential biocontrol (González Espinosa et al., 2023) [non-pathogenic]

Some strains are bacterial pathogen to soybean
(Krawczyk and Borodynko-Filas, 2020)

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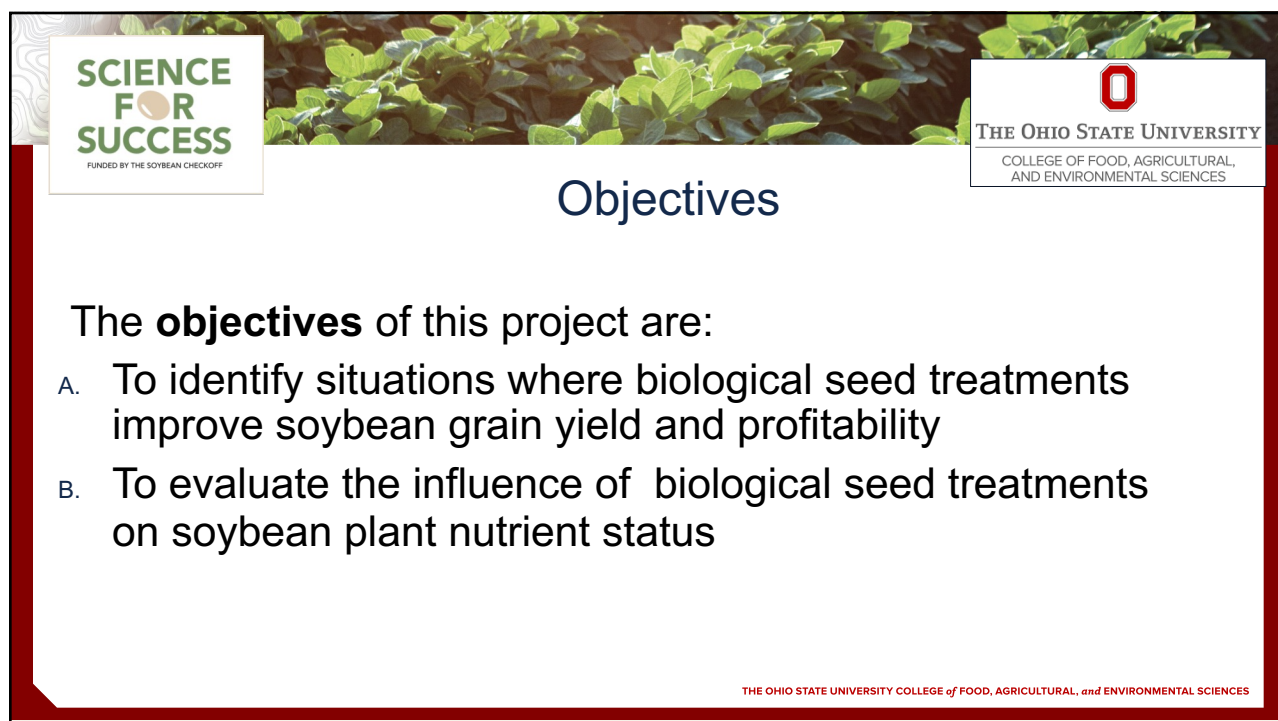
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- What are the gaps?
 - Studies from Brazil...also Middle East, India, Africa
 - Efficacy is shown in greenhouse or lab environments
 - Work in more 'stressful' environments?

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Objectives

The **objectives** of this project are:

- A. To identify situations where biological seed treatments improve soybean grain yield and profitability
- B. To evaluate the influence of biological seed treatments on soybean plant nutrient status

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Methodology



In 2022:

- 17 states
- 49 locations in the USA
- Small plot trials
- Randomized complete block design with six to eight replications at all sites

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List of treatments (products) and active ingredients in each biological product, 2022

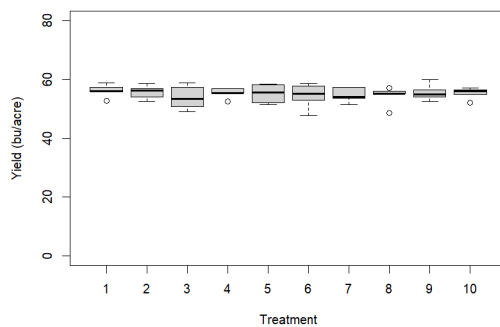
Treatment (product)	Active ingredients
1	<i>Azospirillum brasilense</i> , <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> , <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> , <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> , <i>Rhizobium</i>
2	<i>Trichoderma virens</i>
3	<i>Bradyrhizobium</i> spp.
4	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> , <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i>
5	<i>Pantoea agglomerans</i>
6	<i>Pseudomonas brassicacearum</i>
7	<i>Bradyrhizobium elkanii</i> , <i>Delftia acidovorans</i> + <i>Bacillus velezensis</i>
8	<i>Bacillus velezensis</i>
9	<i>Glomus intraradices</i> , <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Glomus aggregatum</i> , <i>Glomus etunicatum</i>
10	Untreated Control – seeds treated with fungicide + insecticide only

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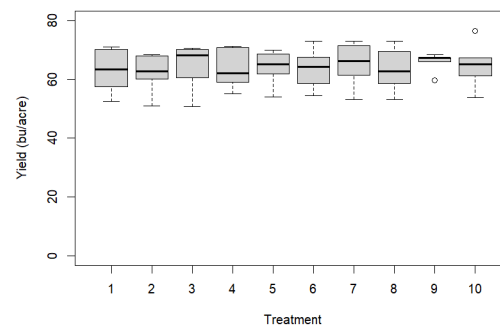
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2022- Indiana

Wanatah, Indiana 2022



West Lafayette, Indiana 2022

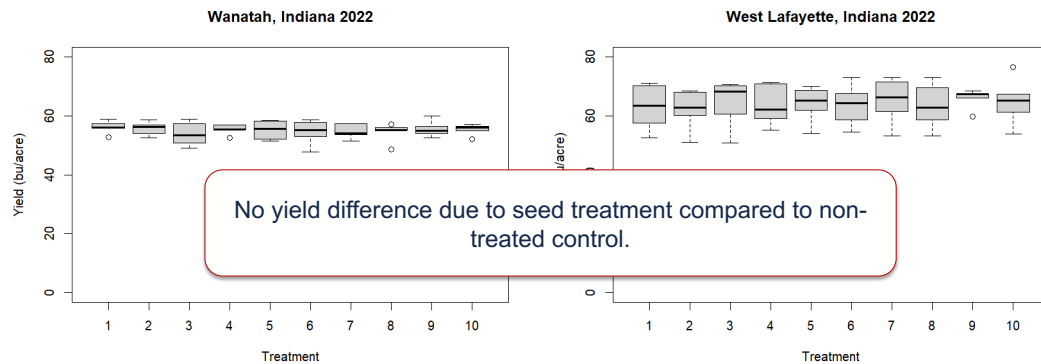


Trial by: Dr. Shaun Casteel

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2022- Indiana

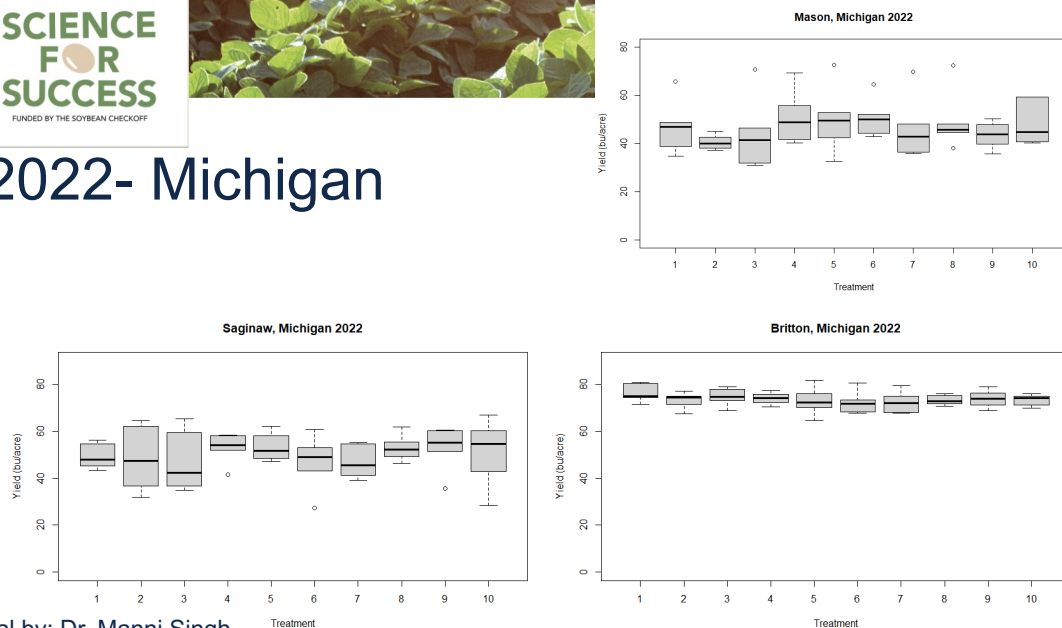


Trial by: Dr. Shaun Casteel

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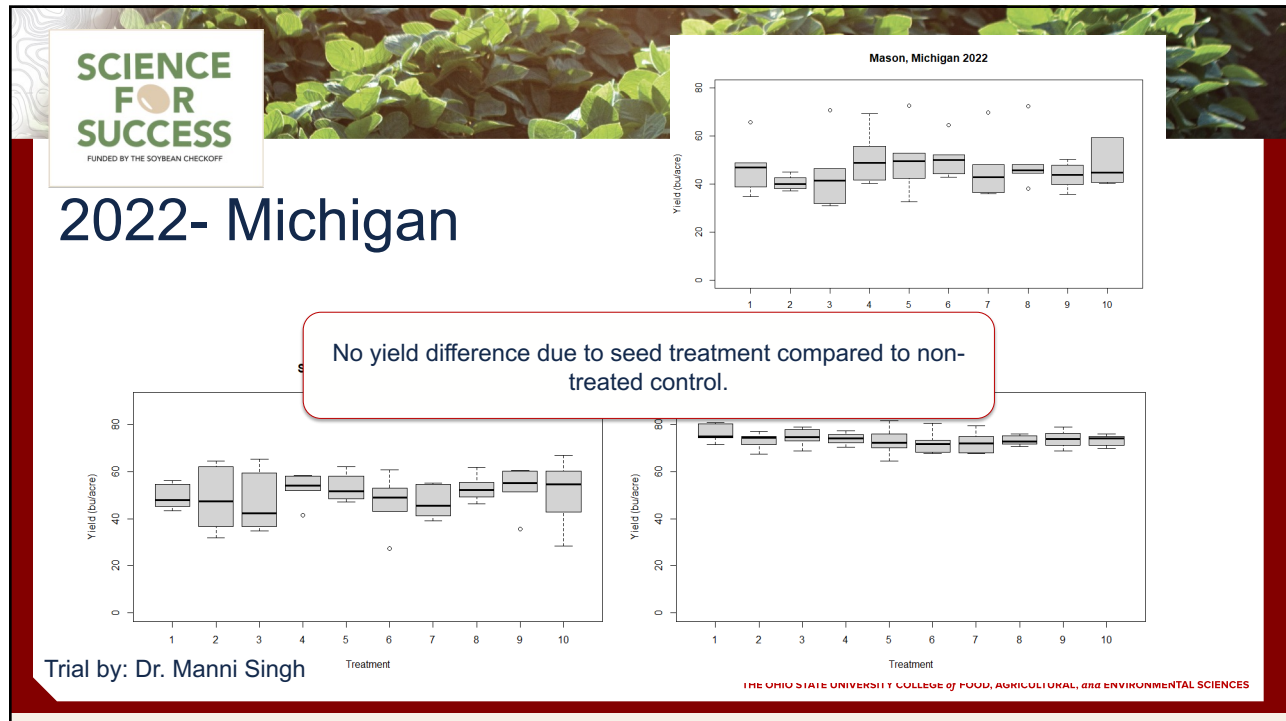
2022- Michigan



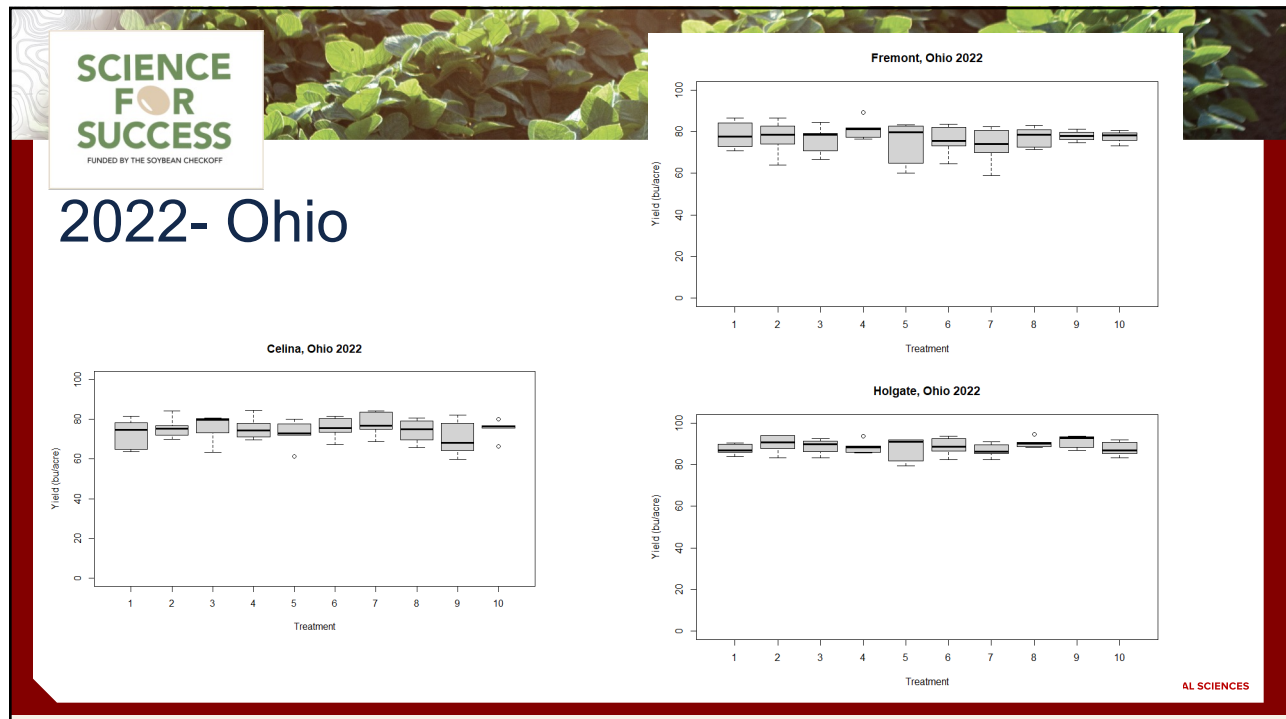
Trial by: Dr. Manni Singh

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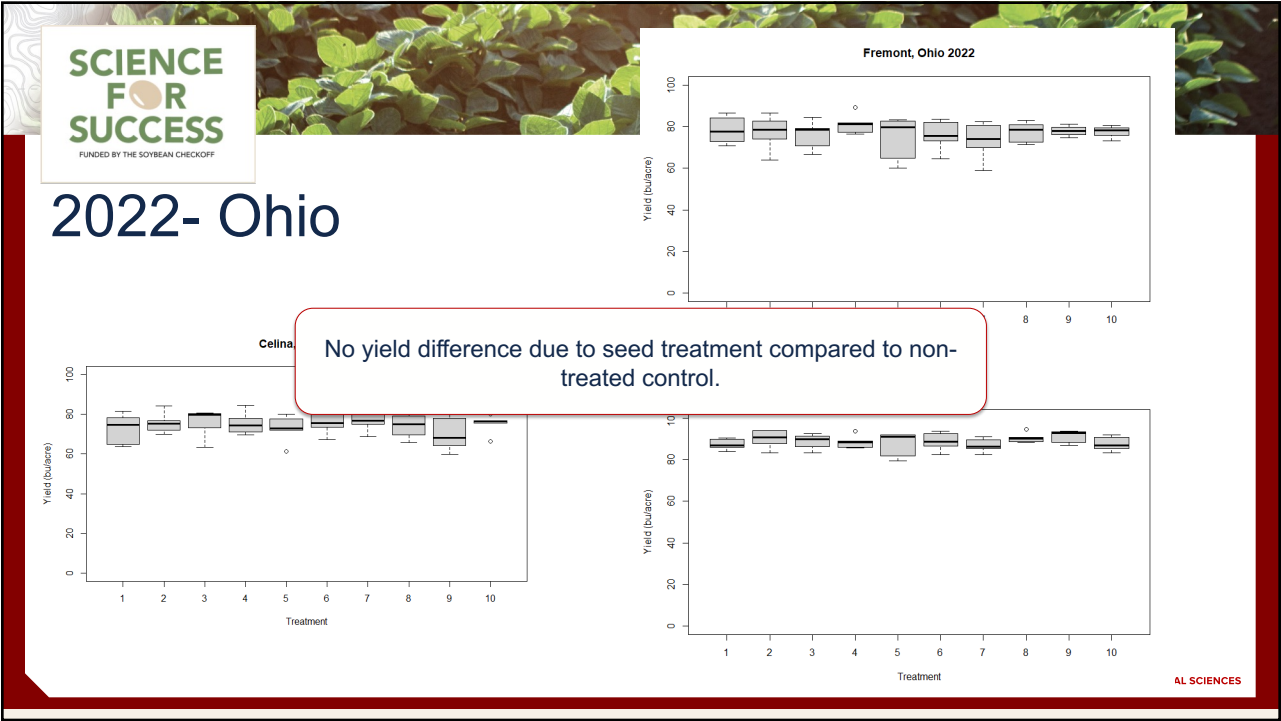
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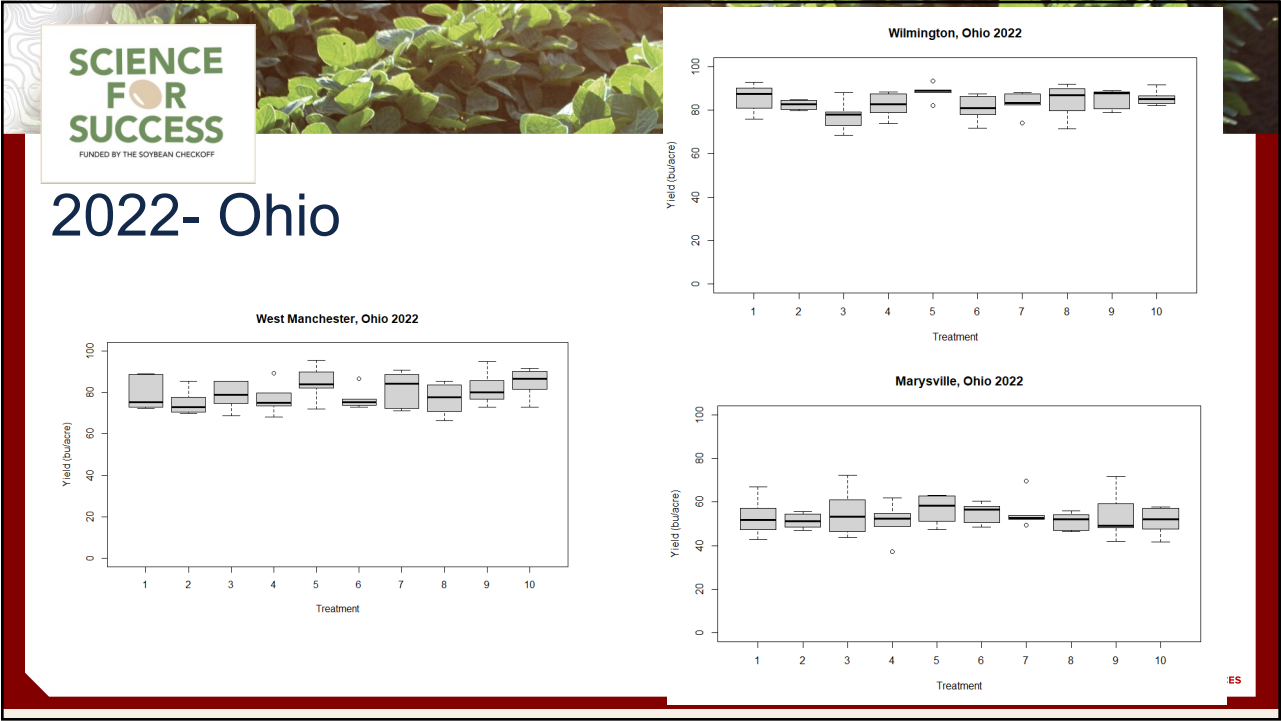
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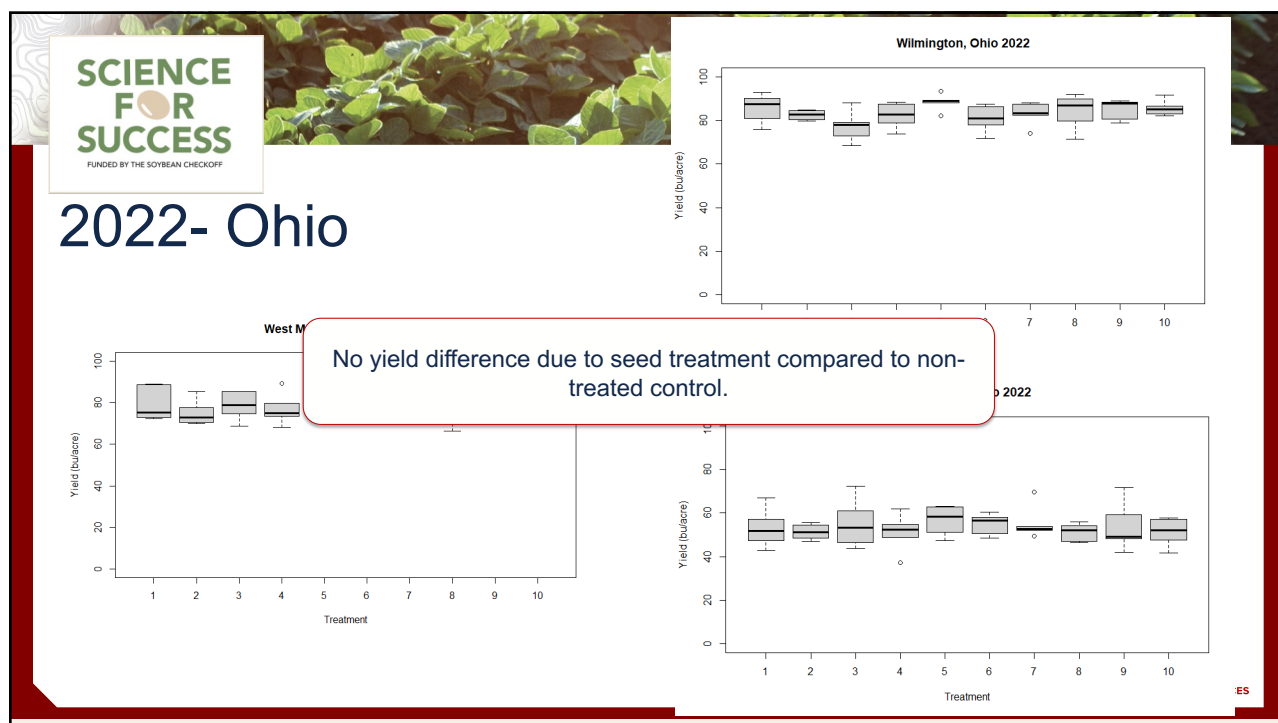
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Preliminary Results

In 2022:

- Indication of a treatment by location effect ($p = .10$)
- Higher probability of positive response in southern states

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Preliminary Results

In 2022:

- Indication of a treatment by location effect ($p = .10$)
- Ohio, Iowa, and South Dakota did not have any treatments with a probability of response $>60\%$.

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Preliminary Results

In 2022:

- Treatment #2 (*Tricoderma virens*) showed higher probability of response compared to the other treatments
 - Range of 0.5-2.3 bpa compared to non-treated control
 - States: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin

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Preliminary Results

In 2022:

- Treatment #4 (*Bacillus*, *Bradyrhizobium*) showed higher probability of response compared to the other treatments in northern environments
 - Range of 0.4-1.6 bpa compared to non-treated control
 - States: Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Wisconsin

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List of treatments (products) and active ingredients in each biological product, 2023

Treatment (product)	Active ingredients
1	<i>Azospirillum brasilense</i> , <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> , <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> , <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> , <i>Rhizobium</i>
2	<i>Kosakonia cowanii</i> strain SYM00028
3	<i>Bradyrhizobium</i> spp.
4	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> + <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i>
5	<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain PTA-4838
6	<i>Methylobacterium hispanicum</i>
7	<i>Bradyrhizobium elkanii</i> , <i>Delftia acidovorans</i> + <i>Bacillus velezensis</i>
8	<i>Bacillus velezensis</i>
9	<i>Glomus intraradices</i> , <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Glomus aggregatum</i> , <i>Glomus etunicatum</i>
10	Untreated Control – seeds treated with fungicide + insecticide only

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2023 Results

- Still receiving harvest data...
 - 25 locations analyzed
 - 2 locations with positive yield response (VA & WI)

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Key Take-Aways...So Far

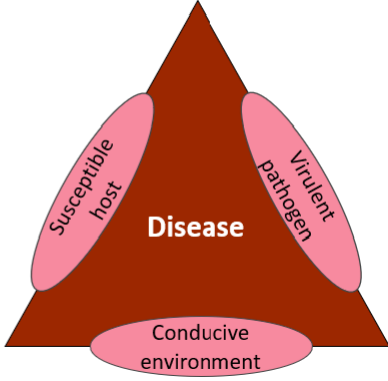
- More likelihood of response in south vs north?
- Responsive locations had overall small yield response <2.5 bu/acre

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Disease


Susceptible host

Virulent pathogen

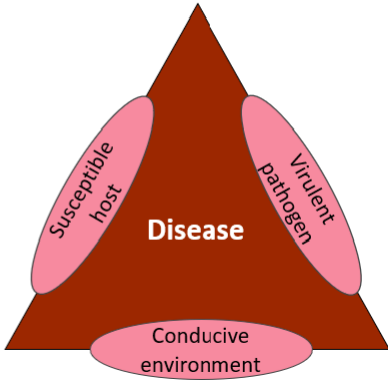
Conducive environment

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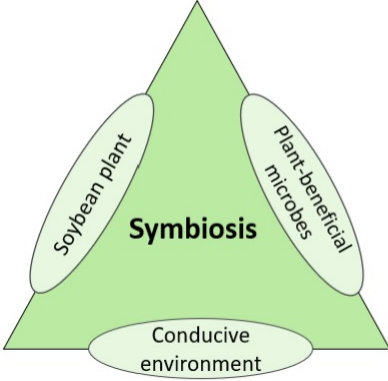


Disease

Susceptible host

Virulent pathogen

Conducive environment



Symbiosis

Soybean plant

Plant-beneficial microbes

Conducive environment

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On-going work needed in this area:

- Biology is more challenging than chemistry
- Delivery technology research is on-going
- High productive vs low productive soil differences?

environment

environment

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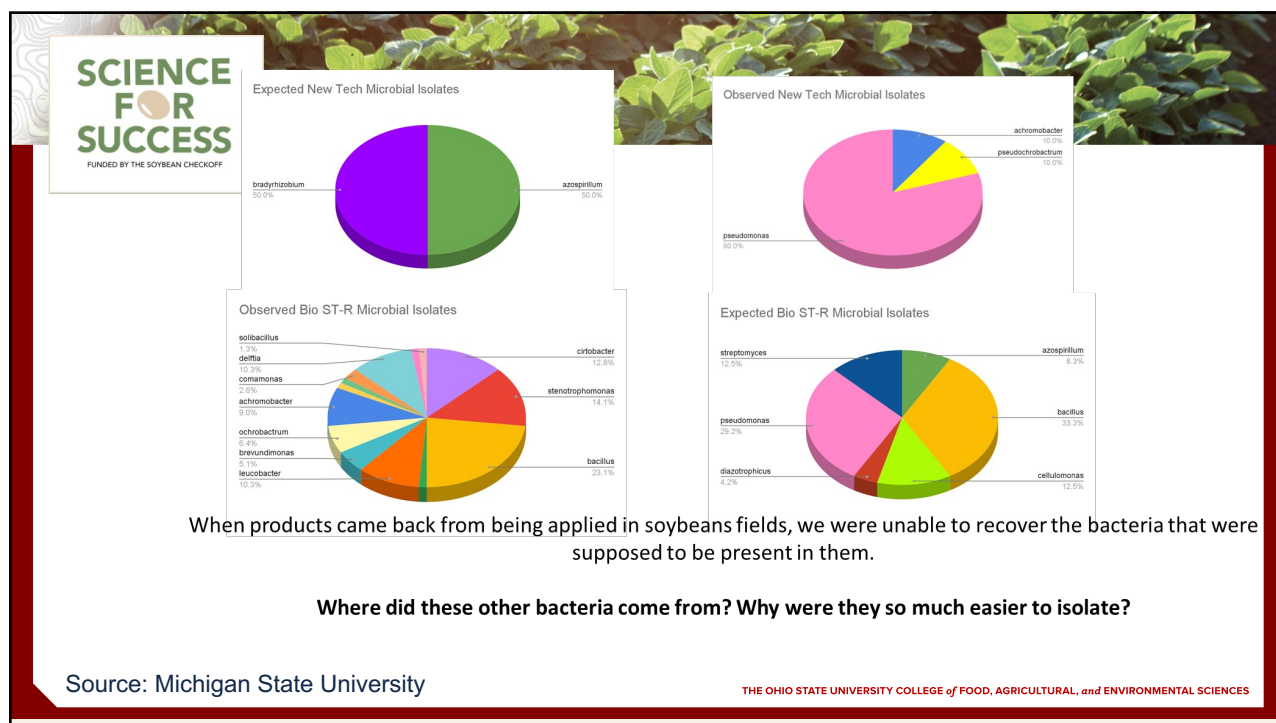
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Key Reminders...

- Biological seed treatments...Need to be delivered at high concentration and need to be alive
 - Some will die along the way
 - Make sure you follow label instructions and handle products appropriately

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Upcoming research at Michigan State

- We obtained fresh products from companies to sequence what comes from them directly.
- These products were used for the 2023 field experiments, as well as a contamination experiment to understand where these other microbes come from by testing different:
 - Water sources** for rehydration (sterile, distilled to tap)
 - Containers** they were mixed in (sterile to dirty)
 - Storage temperature** (-20C freezer, fridge, and room temperature)
 - Storage location** (lab, greenhouse, Agronomy farm headhouse)
 - Storage time** (1 hour, 1 day, 1 week)

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Next Steps

- Continue to collect 2023 data
- Look at other management and location information (till vs no-till, planting date, pH, CEC, texture...)

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Next Steps

- Hiring statistician to look at various growing environments vs grouping by state boundaries



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Keep following
Science for
Success as we
continue to work on
this project!



Fabiano Colet

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NEW PROJECT FOR 2023

- What should you plant first? Corn or Soybean?
- Results- Virtual Meeting- Friday, February 2, 2024
- Registration: go.osu.edu/cornsoy
 - \$10 for entire day
 - CEU credits will be available
- Subscribe to CORN newsletter to stay up to date



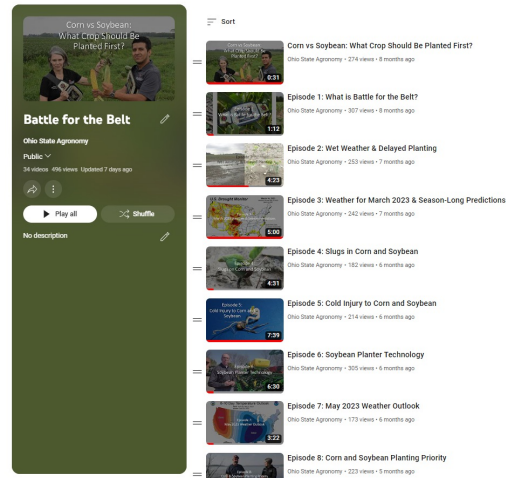
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Ohio State Agronomy YouTube Channel

- 33 videos
- Slugs, cold injury, seedling disease, insect pests, drought response, herbicide injury, growing degree day calculations, tar spot, Palmer amaranth ID, yield estimates...



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Twitter!

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Locations

- ❖ Northwest Agricultural Research Station
 - ❖ Custar, Wood County
- ❖ Western Agricultural Research Station
 - ❖ South Charleston, Clark County
- ❖ Wooster Campus
 - ❖ Wooster, Wayne County



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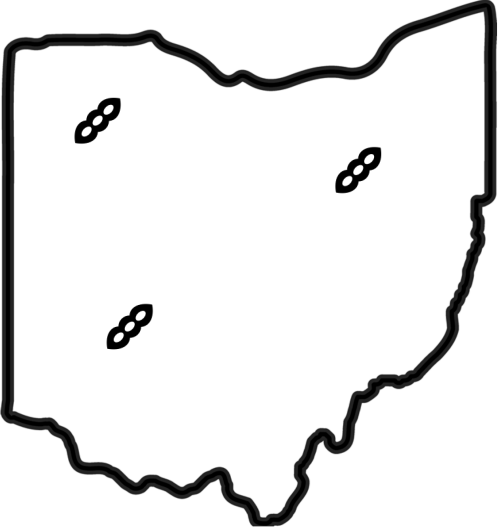
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Locations

- ❖ Northwest Agricultural Research Station
 - ❖ Custar, Wood County

Planting Date	Yield (bu/acre)
4/12/23	85 A
4/26/23	84 A
5/11/23	81 B
5/25/23	78 B
6/8/23	71 C



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Locations

- ❖ Western Agricultural Research Station
 - ❖ South Charleston, Clark County

Planting Date	Yield (bu/acre)
4/12/23	92 A
4/26/23	87 A
5/11/23	88 A
5/25/23	70 B
6/8/23	69 B



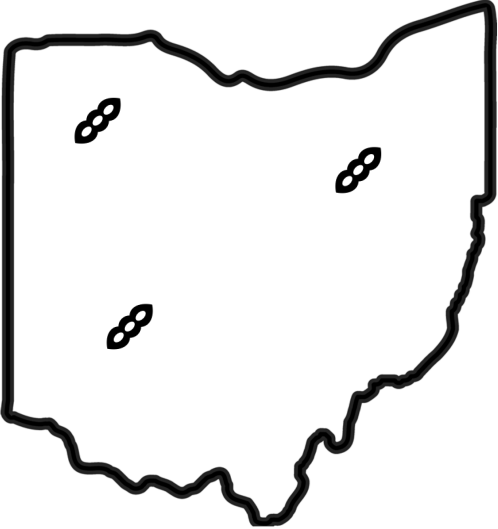
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Locations

- ❖ Wooster Campus
 - ❖ Wooster, Wayne County




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**NORTH CENTRAL
EXTENSION
RISK
MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION**



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