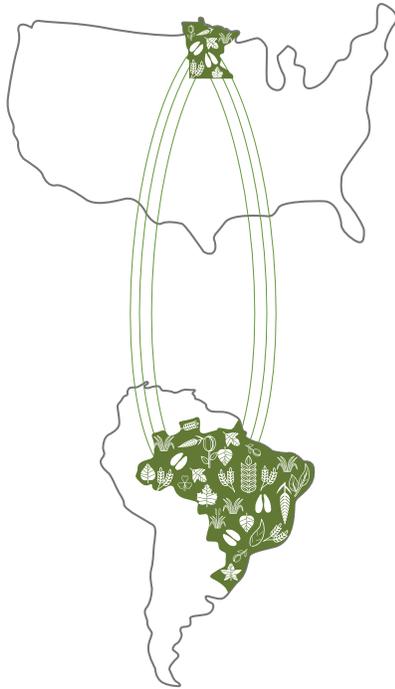


Brazil and Minnesota discovering solutions to the world's agricultural challenges together

A strategic innovation partnership between Embrapa, Brazil and the University of Minnesota



The global agricultural research and development (R&D) ground is shifting. The rise of the private sector and the shift in global agricultural R&D capacity from rich countries (including the U.S.) to agriculturally large and rapidly growing countries (including Brazil) is an opportunity for the University of Minnesota to make the most of these changes for the mutual benefit of citizens and scientific partners.

Partnering in ways that harness mutual scientific advantages, while respecting the intellectual property claims of the research partners, yields demonstrable gains from trade in scientific knowhow and expertise.

Why Brazil and Minnesota?

Science thrives on discoveries stemming from diversity. Many of the pest, disease, soil management, climate, and weather risk challenges faced by farmers in Minnesota are shared by producers in Brazil and elsewhere in the world. To be sure, there are local agricultural conditions that require locally adapted solutions but, especially in the pre-commercialization phases of agricultural R&D, there are large mutual gains from strategic international R&D partnerships.

CFANS, in partnership with LabexFlex-UMN, an Embrapa-staffed lab located on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus, will stimulate gains from scientific trades based on the differences in the temperate-tropical agricultural environments and the scientific capabilities of the University of Minnesota and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).

The University of Minnesota was actively engaged in the formative thinking that helped launch Embrapa in 1973. Four decades later, Embrapa has grown to be one of the world's preeminent agricultural R&D organizations. Revitalizing the University's strategic research partnership with Embrapa benefits the Minnesota farming and agri-business communities served by the University. By drawing together, and scaling and diversifying our shared research expertise and knowledge, we will accelerate the discovery of solutions to the many shared production problems that confront temperate and tropical agriculture in corn, soybeans, wheat, pastures, livestock, and many other commodities.



Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, RIS Scientific Lead Kevin Silverstein, Philip Pardey, and Mateus Batistella.

Who is Embrapa?

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) was founded in 1973 to develop and tailor new agricultural technologies that best suit the production challenges facing tropical agriculture and livestock agricultural systems. Over the subsequent decades, Embrapa has grown into a research powerhouse. Today Embrapa has 17 centralized units in its Brasília headquarters and 46 decentralized research units in all regions of Brazil. It employs almost 2,500 researchers, 86 percent of whom have Ph.D. or post-doctoral degrees from universities in Brazil and abroad.

Food and agricultural R&D at the University of Minnesota

One of the country’s original land-grant institutions, the University of Minnesota is proud of its history as a research university. The University of Minnesota is dedicated to its mission of promoting access to higher education and collaborating to advance knowledge benefiting communities, the state, and the world.

The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) supports the University of Minnesota’s goal of becoming one of the world’s top research universities through interdisciplinary and aligned research efforts and a systems approach to complex problems. At CFANS, our unique collaborative approach helps us unearth hidden, yet sometimes obvious, solutions to critical problems. CFANS-based research, education, and outreach initiatives make a difference to Minnesota and around the world. The University of Minnesota is repositioning itself in response to rapidly changing public-private and local-global research realities to remain at the forefront of agricultural innovation worldwide.



Philip Pardey, Professor and Director, International Science and Technology Practice and Policy Center (InSTePP), CFANS Director of Global Research Strategy

LabexFlex-UMN

LabexFlex-UMN represents the first of a new form of virtual Embrapa laboratories linking the world-class food and agricultural researchers at the University of Minnesota to the large pool of scientific expertise within Embrapa. The lab was launched in early October 2016 with the arrival of Mateus Batistella (previously director general of Embrapa’s Satellite Monitoring Center) as the local Embrapa facilitator of LabexFlex-UMN.

The University of Minnesota facility operates in conjunction with Labex-USA located in the USDA-ARS facilities in Beltsville, Maryland. LabexFlex-UMN facilitates strategic research partnerships involving the University of Minnesota and Embrapa and their respective public and private sector research partners.



Mateus Batistella, CFANS Visiting Scholar, Embrapa facilitator of LabexFlex-UMN



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WANT TO KNOW MORE? www.apec.umn.edu | www.embrapa.br

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