

Chapter 7

Agricultural Biotechnology



Outline:

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Plant tissue culture
- 7.3 Genetically Modified Plant
- 7.4 Animal cloning
- 7.5 Genetically modified animal

Learning outcomes:

- Describe the steps in plant tissue culture.
- Describe the steps of genetic engineering in plant.
- Distinguish *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and Gene gun/Biolistic bombardment system for the transformation of plant.
- Distinguish animal cloning and genetically engineered animal.
- Describe the methods for the creation of a transgenic animal.

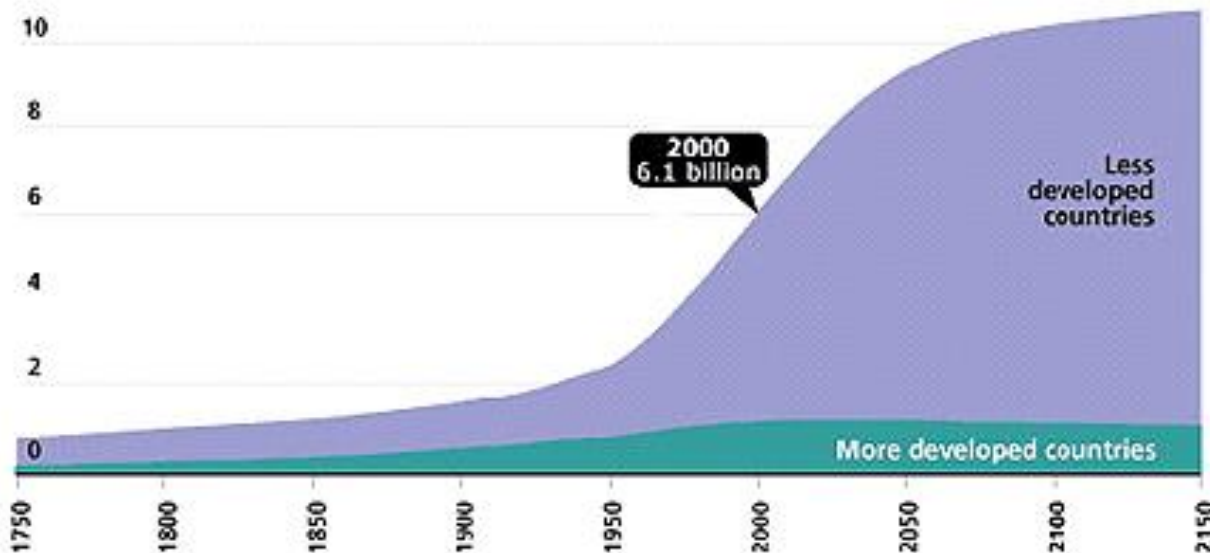
7.1 Introduction

- Increase of world population



World Population Growth, 1750–2150

Population (in billions)



Source: United Nations, *World Population Prospects, The 1998 Revision*; and estimates by the Population Reference Bureau.



7.1 Introduction

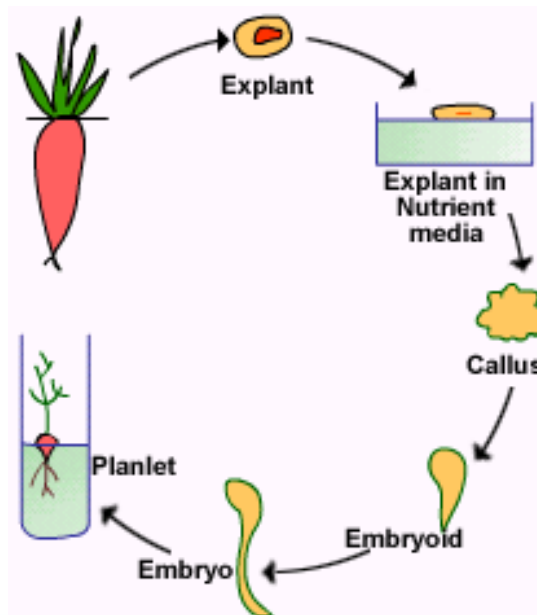
- Food security
- Selective breeding VS Agricultural biotechnology



7.2 Plant tissue culture

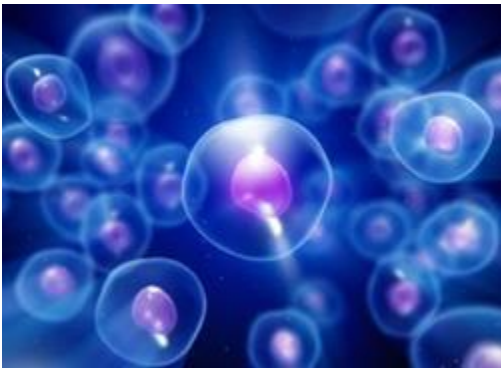
- **Totipotency:**

- ability of a cell or tissue or organ to grow and develop into a fully differentiated organism.
- An entire plant can be regenerated from a single cell.



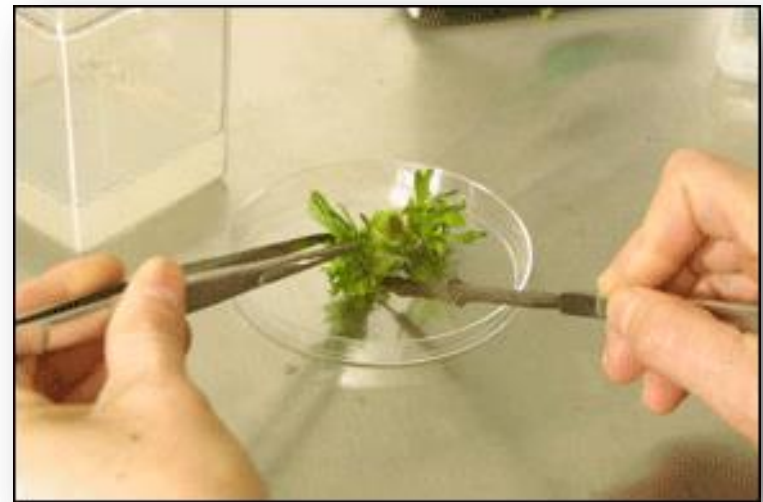
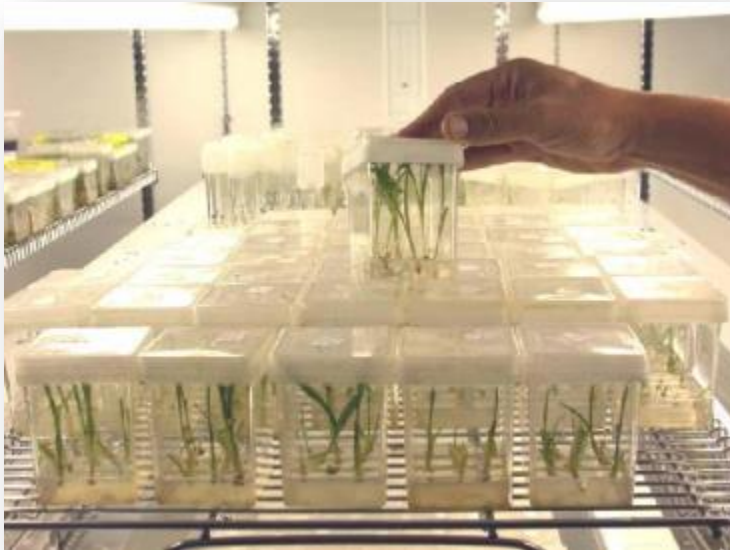
Discussion

- Is **totipoteny** found in human/animal?



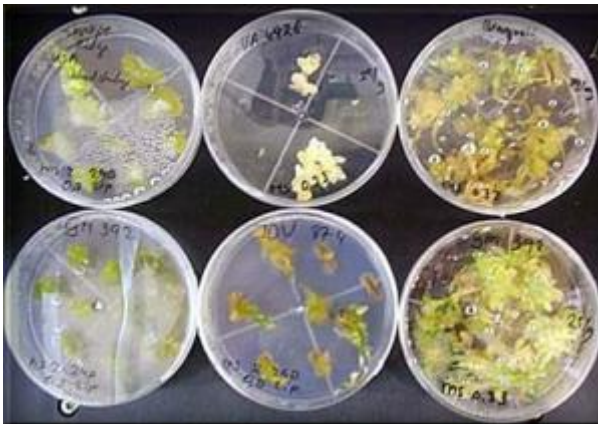
7.2 Plant tissue culture

- **Plant tissue culture:**
 - A process of growing a plant in the laboratory from **cells** rather than seeds.
 - Also called **micropropagation**.



7.2 Plant tissue culture

- callus culture- solid medium
- suspension culture- liquid medium.



7.2 Plant tissue culture

a mass of tissue or cells (**explant**) must be removed from the **plant of interest**



undifferentiated cells form a crystalline white layer on top of the solid medium, called the **callus**



undifferentiated callus cells to develop into a **plant shoot**

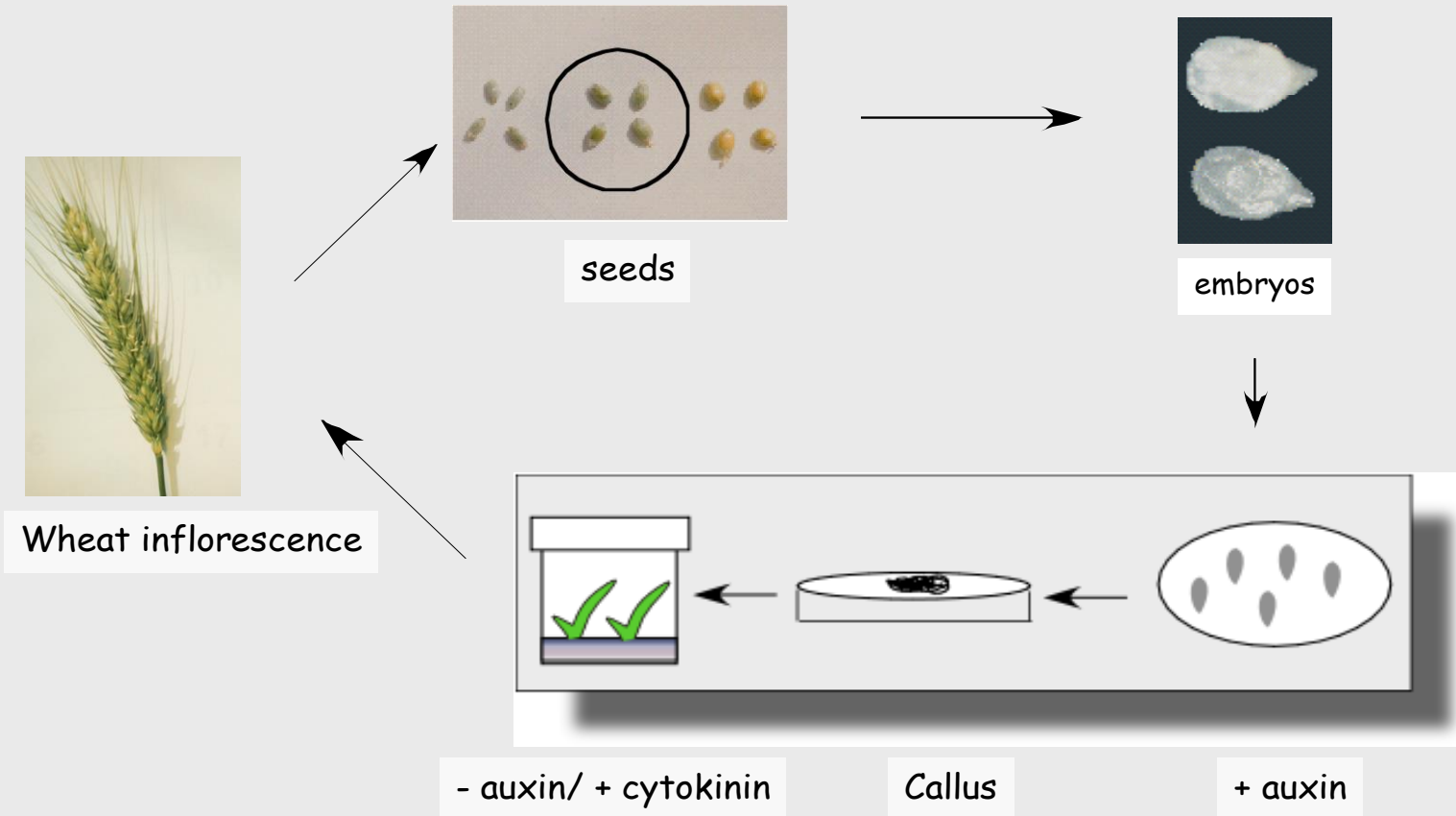


root hairs to start growing from some of the shoots



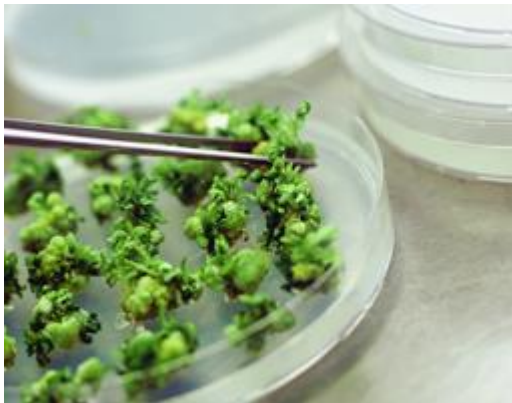
plantlet

Tissue Culture:



Discussion

- What is the advantages of plant tissue culture?



The advantages

- To produce **many copies** of the **same** plants
- To produce plants **anytime** we want although the climates are not appropriate to produce a plant. Moreover, if seed is not available, it is possible to produce a plant with this method.
- If there is plant with partially infected tissue, it is possible to **produce new plant without infection**.

The advantages

- Very helpful in the **genetically modified organism studies**.
- Very useful solution for the **prevention of starvation** in third world countries since the process is highly efficient
- The **time** required is **shortened**, no need to wait for the whole life cycle of seed development.

7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- **Genetic engineering** in plant: enabling **directed changes** to be made to the genotype of a plant, circumventing the random processes inherent in conventional breeding
- GM plant/crop : plants with the **DNA** that has been **modified** using genetic engineering techniques

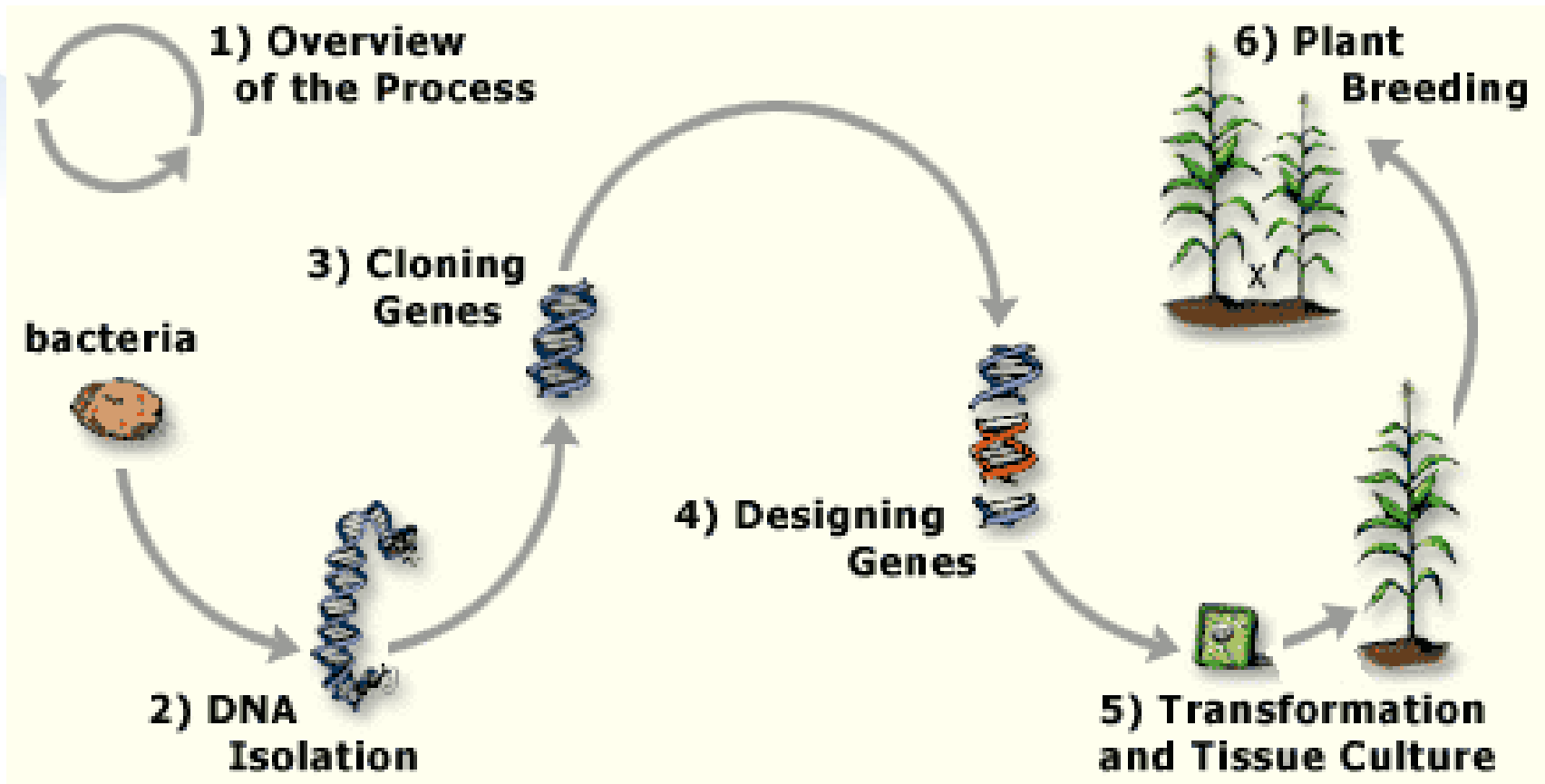


7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

There are **five major steps** involved in GM plant:

1. DNA is extracted from an organism that has the desired trait.
2. The desired gene is located and copied.
3. The gene is inserted into a single plant cell using a transformation method.
4. The cell multiplies and grows a new plant that contains the transgene in all of its cells.
5. Through backcross breeding the transgenic plant is crossed with a plant from a high yielding line. The resulting hybrids are the genetically modified plants that can enter the marketplace.


7.3 Genetically Modified Plant



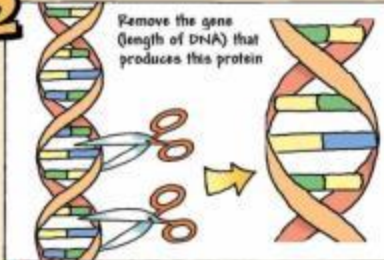
HOW ARE GM CROPS MADE?



1 Identify an organism with the desired characteristics
e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) - a bacterium which produces a protein that kills specific insects.




2 Remove the gene (length of DNA) that produces this protein



3 Transfer this gene into the plant you want to protect, e.g. maize, by either...

Firing them into the plant using a special gene gun...


Or give the gene to a soil bacterium which puts it into the plant for you.



4 Plant cells that take up the new gene are grown into full size plants and are checked to make sure that they develop normally and are safe.



5 E.g. in maize, the transferred Bt protein protects against stem borer caterpillars which eat the leaves, bore into the stalks and infect the mealie cobs. The caterpillars die when they eat the maize - but other insects and animals are unharmed.




6 Alternatively, instead of adding new genes, a gene already in the plant can be switched off, on, or altered to improve a specific characteristic, such as in fruit where a gene can be switched on to slow down ripening and reduce harvest damage.



7 In South Africa, GM organisms have to be approved by national government before they can be used. To date, crops approved for production in South Africa include:

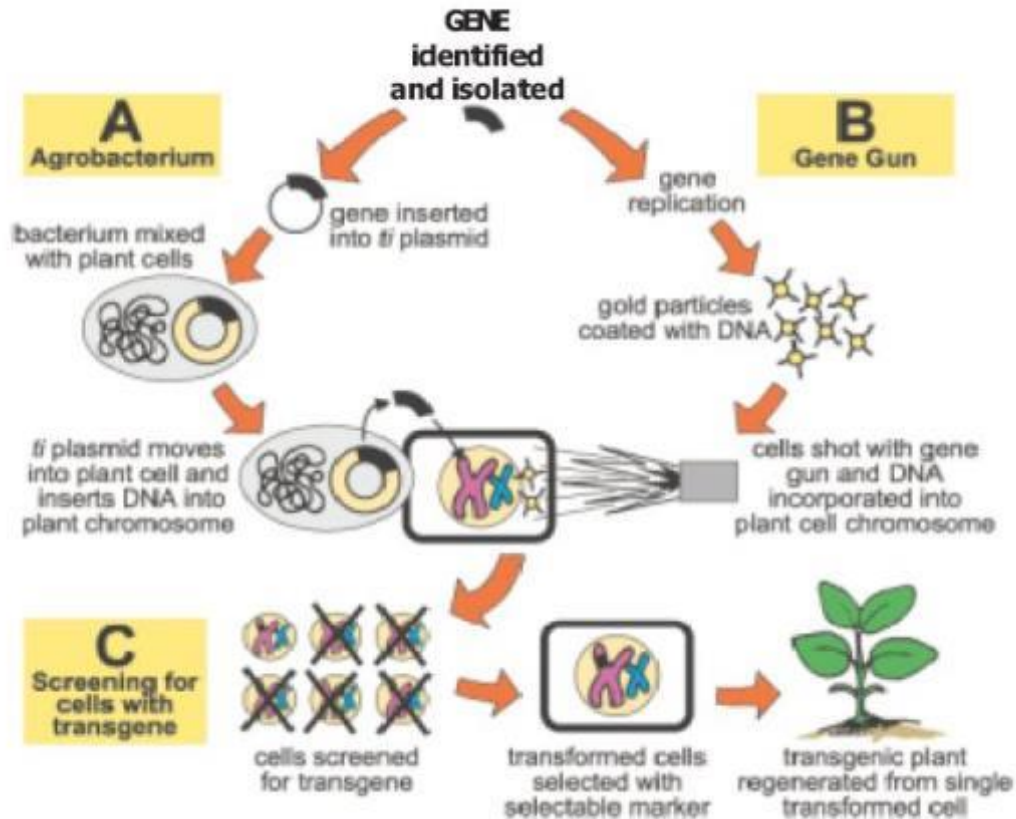
- insect tolerant and herbicide tolerant maize (yellow and white);
- insect tolerant and herbicide tolerant cotton and herbicide tolerant soya.




http://www.pub.ac.za/resources/docs/cartoon_gm_crops.pdf

7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- Transformation of foreign DNA into plant:
 - ***Agrobacterium tumefaciens***
 - **Gene gun/Biolistic bombardment system**



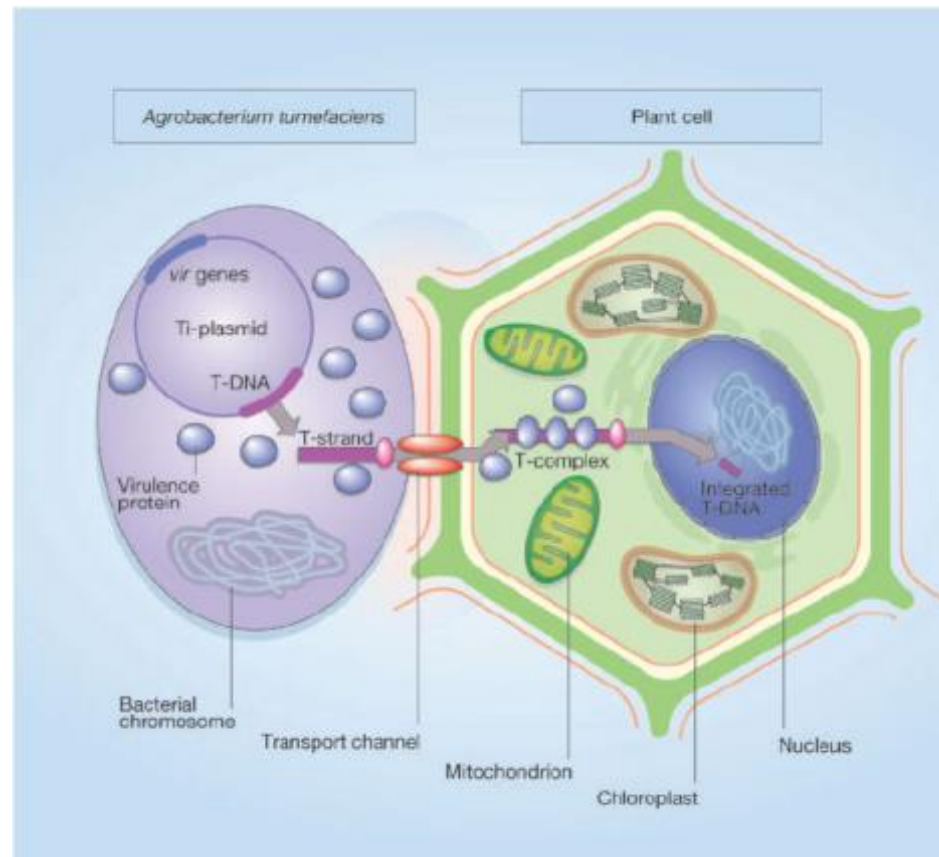


7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*
- A soil bacterium that causes Crown Gall disease
- During the infection, a **specific segment of the Ti plasmid DNA** (T-DNA- responsible for tumour formation) is **transferred** from the bacteria to the plant.
- Scientists have exploited this genetic transfer in order to get genes with desired properties into plant cells.

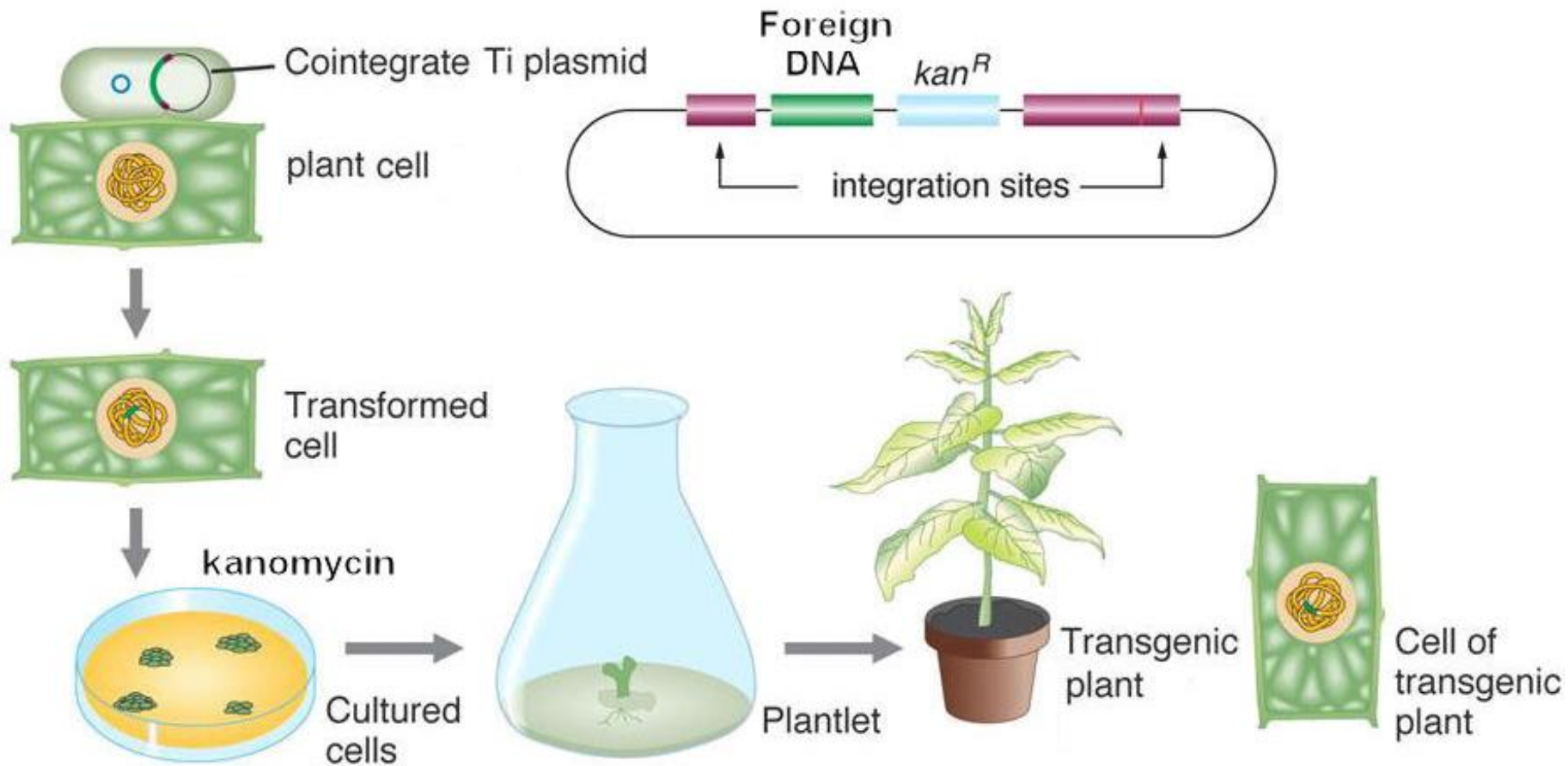
7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*



7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

• *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*



7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- Gene gun/Biolistic bombardment system
 - Used to blast **tiny metal beads** coated with **DNA** into an embryonic plant cell
 - Aimed at the nucleus or the chloroplast
 - Use marker genes (antibiotic resistance) to distinguish genetically transformed cells
 - useful in plants that are resistant to *Agrobacterium*

http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/mcvay/es204/es%20docs/animation/s/transgenic_plants.swf



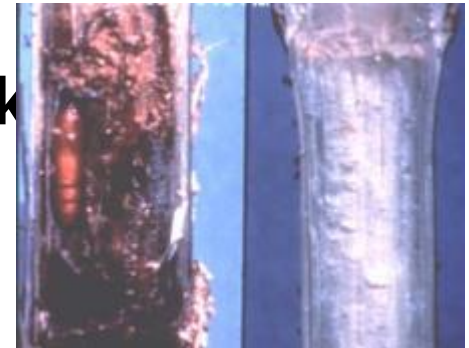
7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- Examples of GM crops



Insect resistant cotton – Bt toxin kills the cotton boll worm

Insect resistant corn – Bt toxin kills European corn borer



7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- Examples of GM crops



**Herbicide resistant crops
- soybean, corn, canola**

**Virus resistance - papaya resistant to
papaya ringspot virus**



7.3 Genetically Modified Plant

- Gene gun/Biolistic bombardment system



**Golden Rice – increased Vitamin
A content**

Discussion

- What is the advantages of GM plant/crops?



Discussion

Describe the process of making fish tomato.



**Antifreeze gene
from winter flounder**



Tomato



GM Tomato



7.4 Animal cloning

- Cloning - the creation of an organism that is an **exact genetic copy** of another
- Clones are not exactly identical
 - Shaped by experiences and environments
- Clones may be old before their time
 - Shortened telomeres
- Example: Dolly the sheep



OK, CLONE!
HERE'S ALL
MY HOMEWORK!

NO WAY, MAN!



7.4 Animal cloning

- **DNA** from donor cell must be inserted into an egg
- **Egg** is prepared by **enucleation**
 - Pipette suctions out the nucleus
- DNA from donor cell put into egg cell
- Embryo is transferred to a surrogate mother for gestation

<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/tech/cloning/clickandclone/>



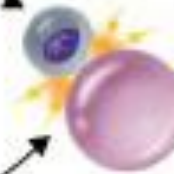
A donor cell is taken from a sheep's udder.



Donor Nucleus



These two cells are fused using an electric shock.



Egg Cell



An egg cell is taken from an adult female sheep.

The nucleus of the egg cell is removed.



The fused cell begins dividing normally.



Embryo

The embryo is placed in the uterus of a foster mother.

Cloned Lamb



The embryo develops normally into a lamb—Dolly



Discussion

- Is it possible to clone a dinosaur?



7.5 Genetically modified animal

- **Genetically modified animal / transgenic animal:**
 - **Animals which have been genetically engineered to contain one or more genes from an exogenous source.**
 - Improve genetic Features of domesticated Animals

Transgenic Animals



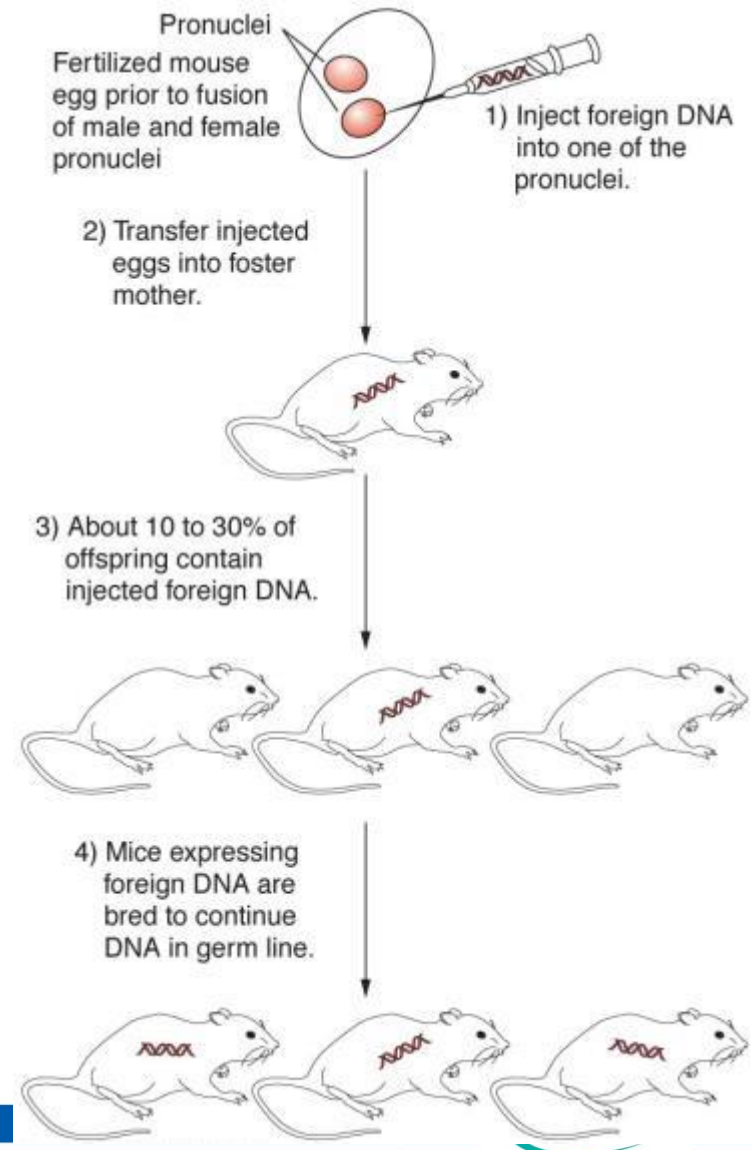
7.5 Genetically modified animal

- Three major method for the creation of a transgenic animal:
 - Nuclear microinjection
 - Retrovirus-mediated gene transfer
 - Embryonic stem cell-mediated gene transfer



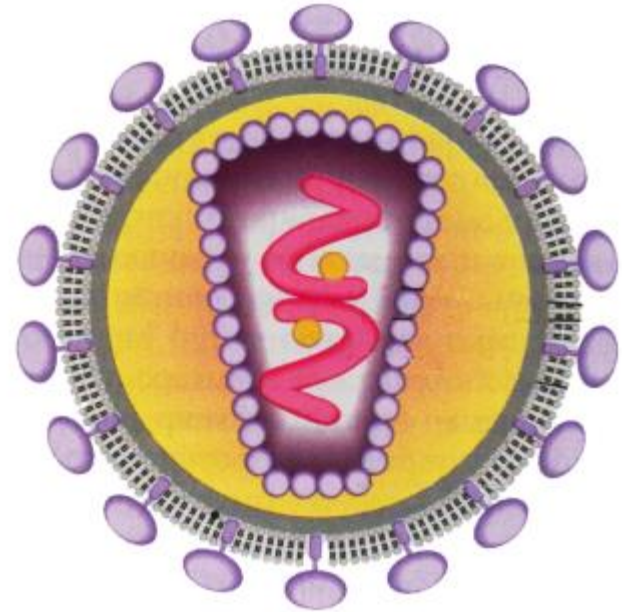
7.5 Genetically modified animal

- Nuclear microinjection
 - Introduces the transgene DNA at the **earliest possible stage** of development of the **zygote**
 - DNA is injected directly into nucleus of egg or sperm



7.5 Genetically modified animal

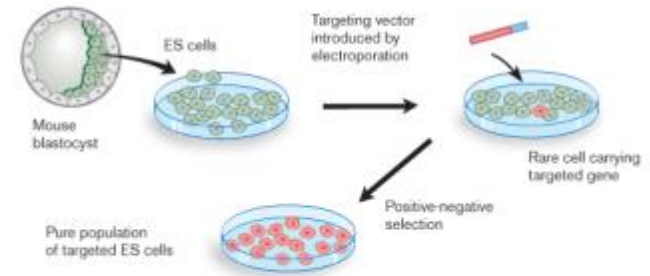
- Retrovirus-mediated gene transfer
 - **Infecting mouse embryos with retroviruses** before the embryos are implanted



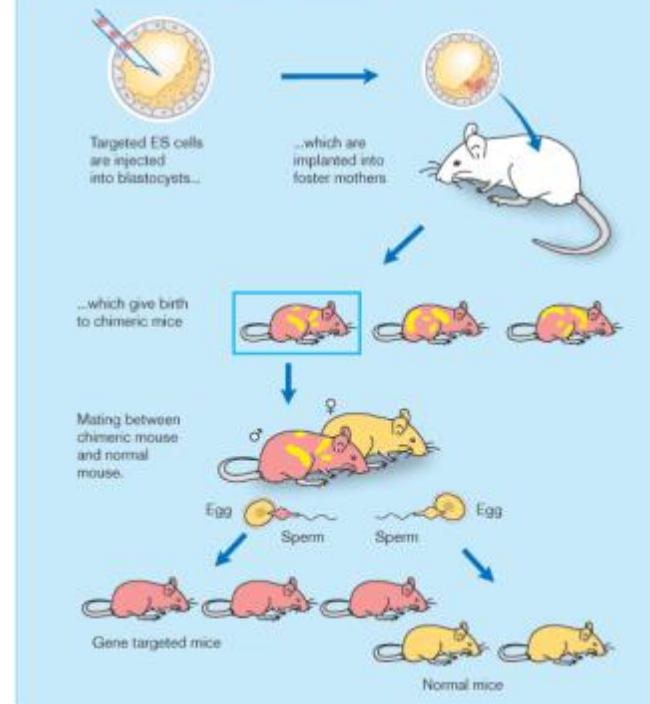
7.5 Genetically modified animal

- Embryonic stem cell-mediated gene transfer
- **Embryonic stem cells are mixed with DNA and will absorb the DNA**

A. Gene targeting of embryonic stem cells



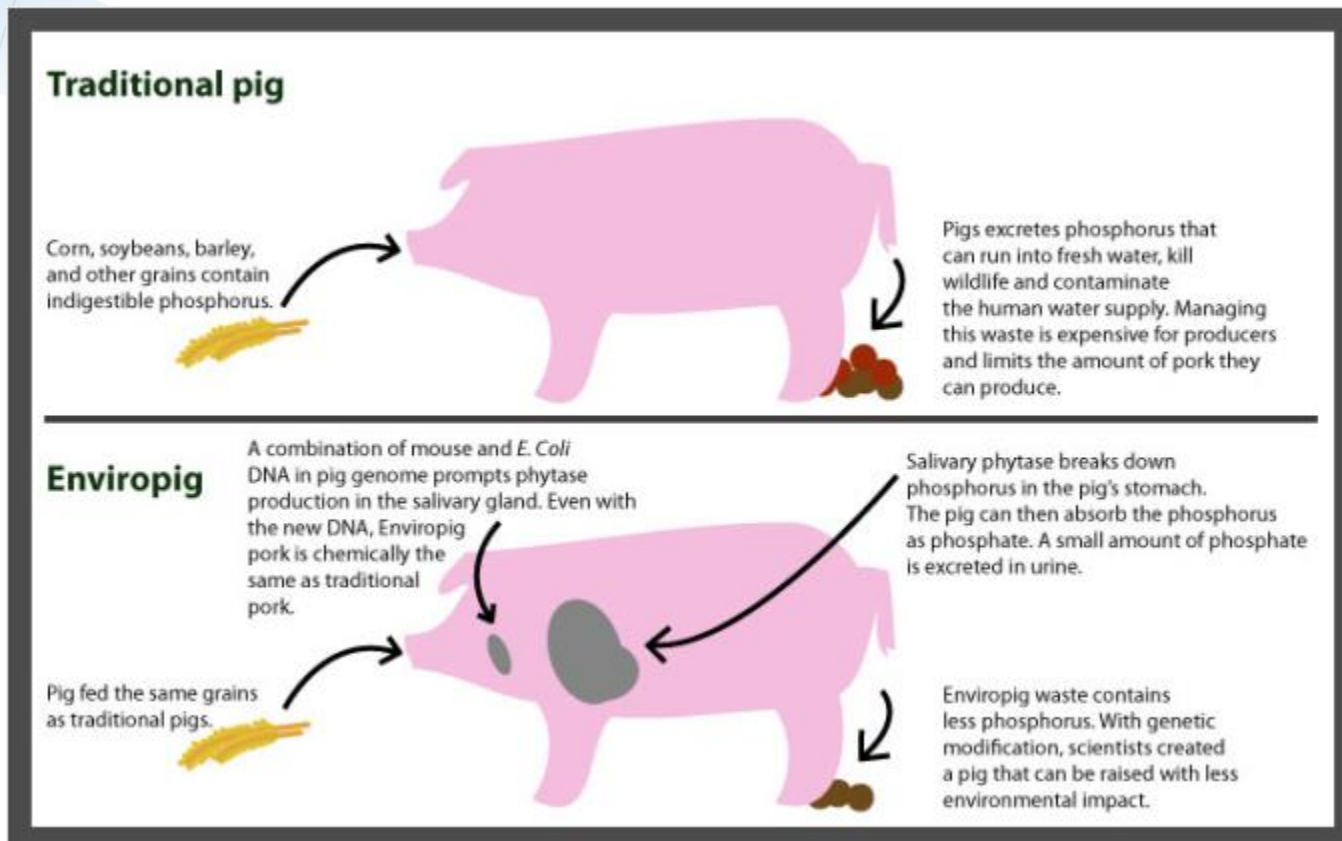
B. Generation of gene targeted mice



http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2007/advance_d.html

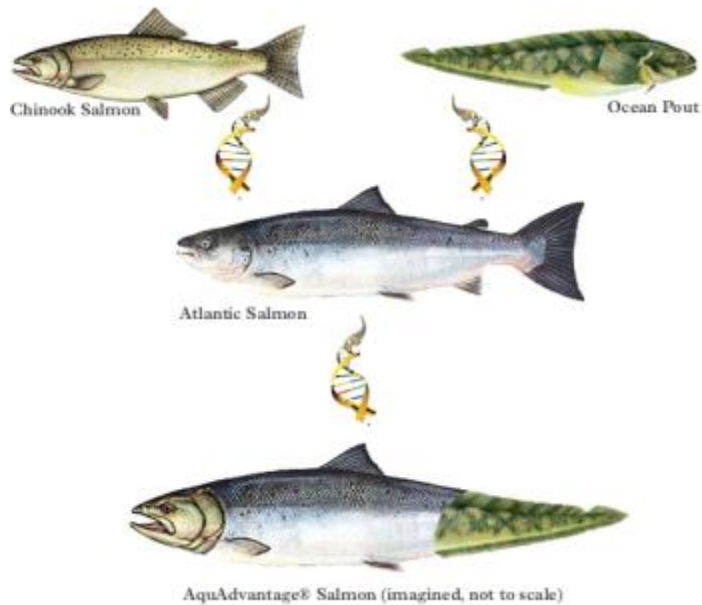
7.5 Genetically modified animal

- Example of GM animals



7.5 Genetically modified animal

- Example of GM animals
- GM salmon
- AquAdvantage salmon



Extra reading

- <http://www.scq.ubc.ca/your-guide-to-plant-cell-culture/>
- <http://www.dnatube.com/video/5576/FlavrSavr-TomatoFirst-Transgenic-Crop>
- <http://www.monsanto.com/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://palmer-dna-tech-project-2012.wikispaces.com/Rachel+Laufmann>
- <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/tech/cloning/>
- <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/tech/cloning/clickandclone/>

THANK YOU