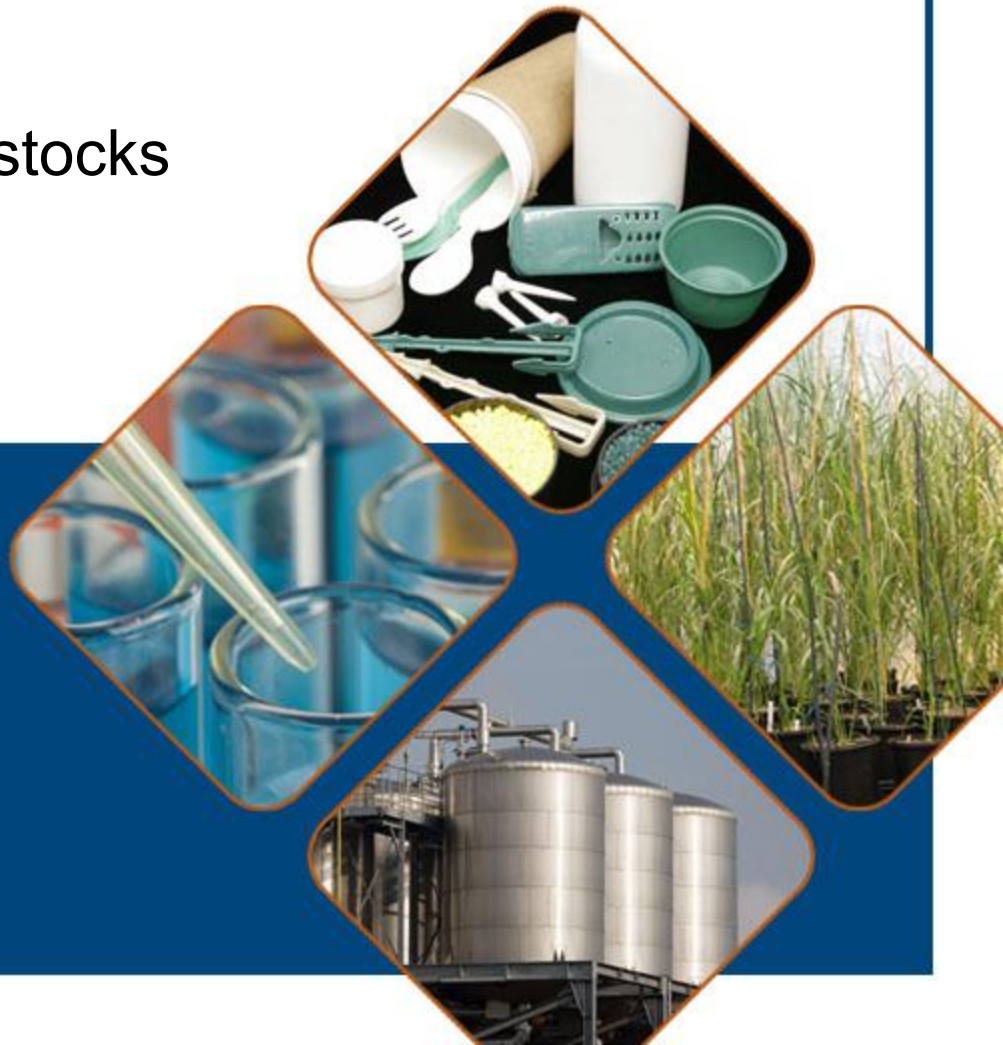




## Renewable Enhanced Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (REFABB)

Kristi D. Snell, PhD  
Director, Plant Sciences  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012



## Bio-Industrial Evolution

Through bioscience and engineering, we bring clean, sustainable, and economically viable solutions to the world in materials and chemicals.



# Our Core Capabilities

- Metabolic Engineering
- Multi-gene Expression
- Analytical Expertise
- Process Engineering
- Over 500 Patents Issued and Pending

## Fermentation



## Industrial Crops



Two Primary Pathways

Efficient Recovery Process

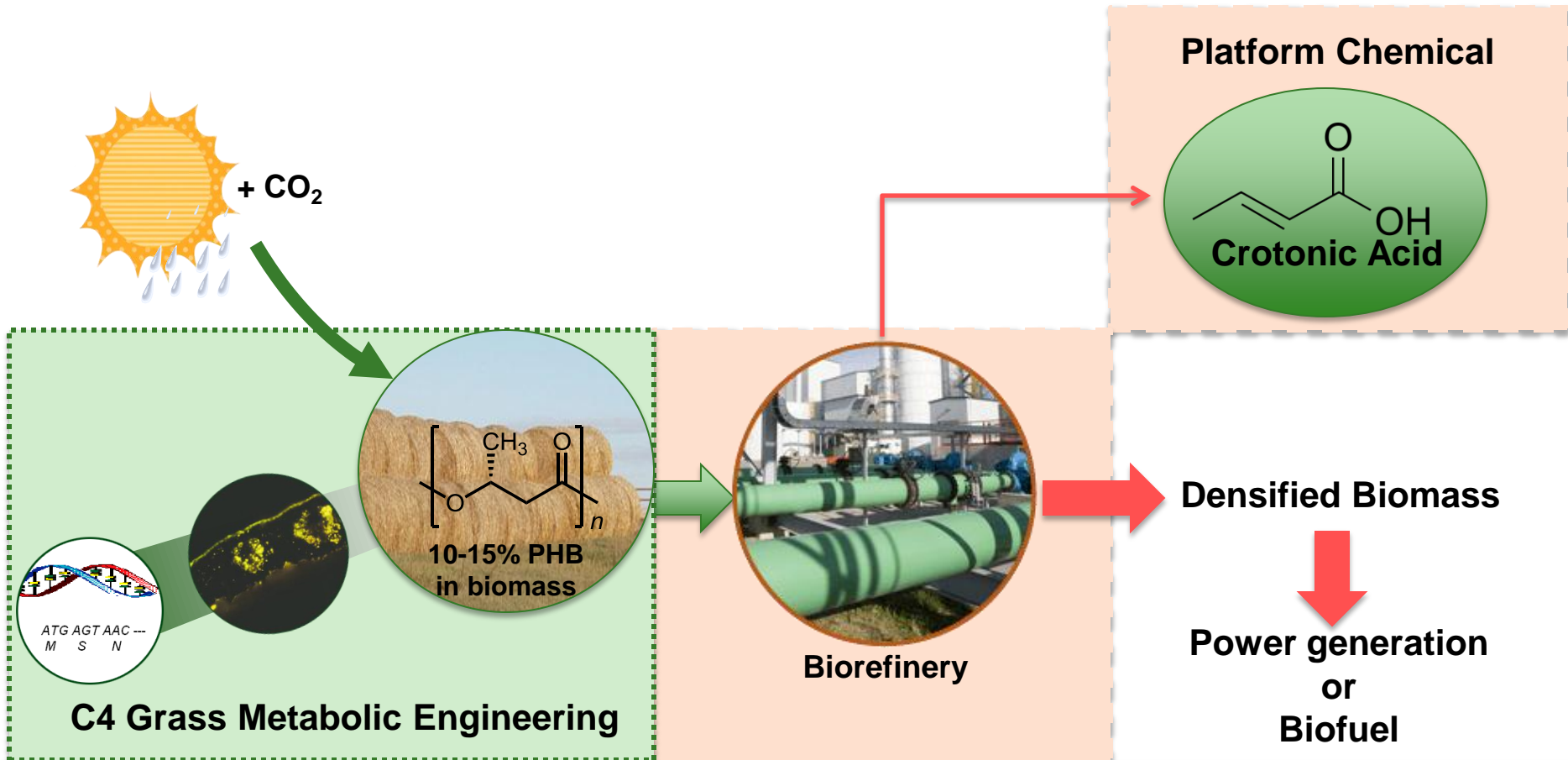


***Strong integrated technical and operational expertise is at the core of our success***

# Metabolix Biocracker Technology

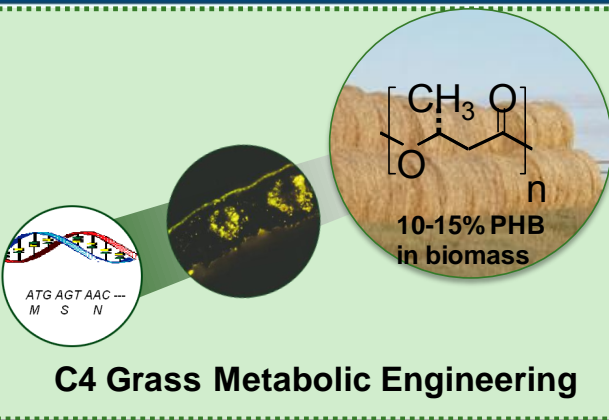
*Produce Chemicals Directly from PHB Biomass Crops*

**DOE- BRDI Office of Biomass Funded Program**  
*Renewable Enhanced Feedstocks for Advanced  
Biofuels and Bioproducts (REFABB)*



# C4 Grass Metabolic Engineering

## *Key enabling Technology*



Status: 6% PHB in switchgrass leaf ~ 2% in biomass

Challenge: Robust engineered biomass crop with >10% PHB in biomass

Key metabolic engineering needs:

- Advanced metabolic modeling
- Next generation plant genetic engineering systems including advanced multi-gene constructs and transformation systems
- High throughput screening
- Gene containment technology

# Torrefaction

## *Key process technology*

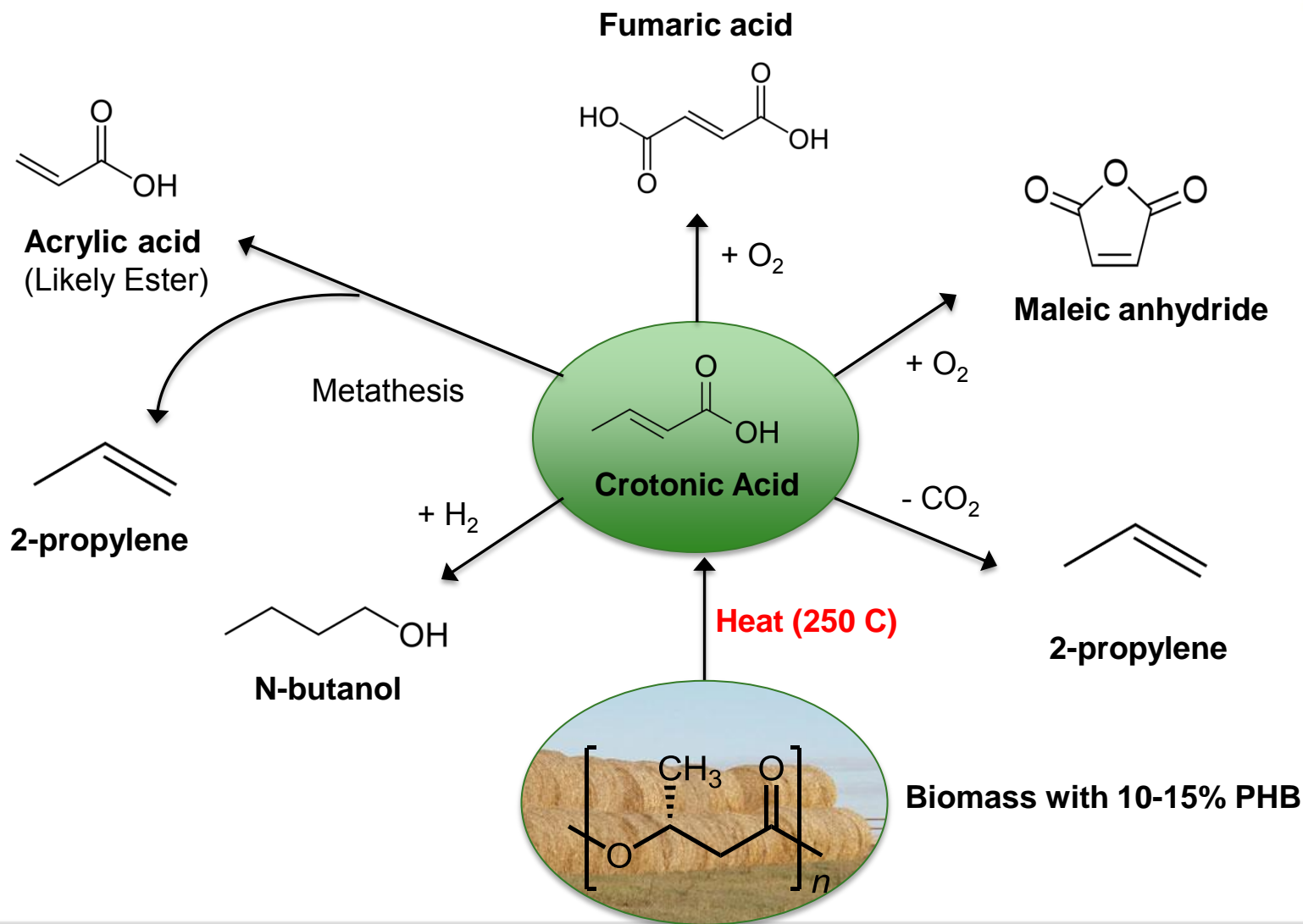


**Biorefinery**

- Densify biomass to retain ~80% of energy content
- PHB depolymerizes to volatile crotonic acid and is readily recovered
- CapEx per distributed torrefaction facility processing 500,000 TPY biomass ~\$90 million
- Low CapEx enables direct farmer/grower participation in facilities

# Metabolix Biocracker Platform Chemical

## PHB Derived Crotonic Acid as Commodity Platform Chemical



# Biocracker Chemical Market Opportunity

## Large Addressable Markets for Chemical Co-Products

- PHB-based chemicals have large addressable markets:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Revenue/yr</u>	<u>Annual Capacity</u>	<u>Existing Petro Industry CO<sub>2</sub> emission/yr</u>
Butanol	\$ 3.5 billion	3 million ton	~5 million ton
MAN	\$ 2.5 billion	2 million ton	~3 million ton
Acrylic acid	\$ 8.0 billion	4 million ton	~8 million ton
Propylene	\$ 80 billion	65 million ton	~50 million ton

- Fuel production offsets at least 10 million ton CO<sub>2</sub> per million ton chemical
- Low capital torrefaction facilitates biomass power or gasification cycle
- Products cost advantaged with oil at \$50/bbl



Paints



Fibers



Super Absorbant  
Polymers

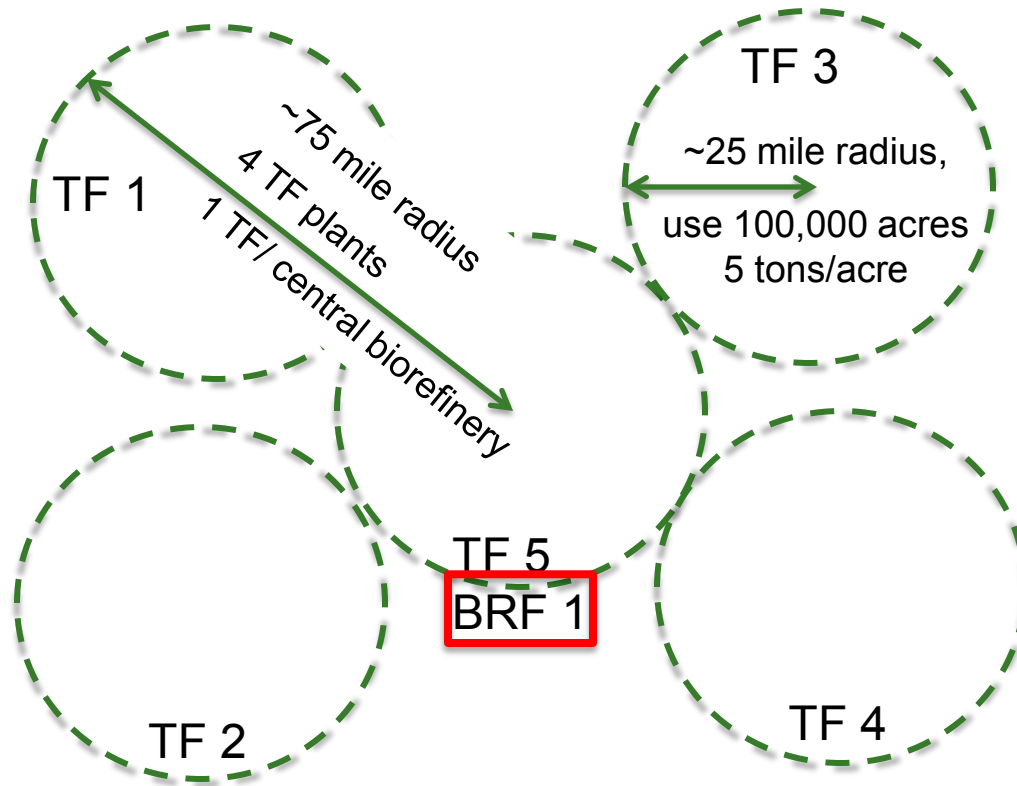


Water Treatment



# Biorefinery Deployment Model

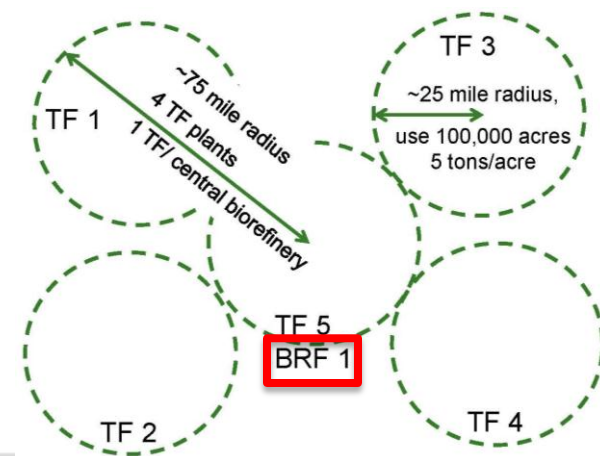
Biomass from ~ 5 torrefaction facilities is aggregated at central refinery for further conversion achieving scale



# Metabolix Biorefinery Overall Impact

## *Environmental and Economic Impacts for 0.5M Acres*

- Each Centralized Biorefinery Supports:
  - Torrefaction facilities      Five (ea. process biomass from ~100,000 acres)
  - Total farm acres              500,000 acres (<5% of land in a 75 mile radius)
  - Total biomass processed      2,500,000 tons
  - Farm revenue                  \$200 million (\$80/ton energy crop)
  - Factory jobs                    400 (40 at each torrefaction facility and 200 at central facility)
  - Total revenue                  \$500-600 million from chemical and fuel/power sales
  
- Each Centralized Biorefinery Saves or Eliminates:
  - Greenhouse gases              ~ 3.5 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>/yr
  - Fossil fuel                        ~ 2.75 million bbl/yr or
  - Electricity                        ~ 300 MW<sub>e</sub>
  - Petrochemicals                 340,000 ton/yr



# Metabolix Biocracker: Solutions for Dedicated Biomass Crop Challenges

Challenge	Solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grower commitment to supply on a continuous basis</li></ul>	Low CapEx distributed processing plants to enable farmers as co-investors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logistics to aggregate quantities of biomass consistent with world scale thermal plants (1-2 million tpy)</li><li>• Cost of densification relative to value</li></ul>	Densification of biomass to enable transportation and storage, economics driven by value added co-product
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-products must scale with the bioenergy/fuel sector</li></ul>	Focus on commodity chemical markets paralleling the existing petro industry

# Summary of REFABB Program

*(Renewable Enhanced Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts)*

## Task A.

### Core plant science activities for producing high levels of PHB in switchgrass

- Develop C4 crop model system
- Increase carbon flow to PHB in C4 model system
- Increase carbon flow to PHB in switchgrass
- Develop novel gene containment technology in switchgrass
- Increase transgene expression via alternative plastid transformation strategies

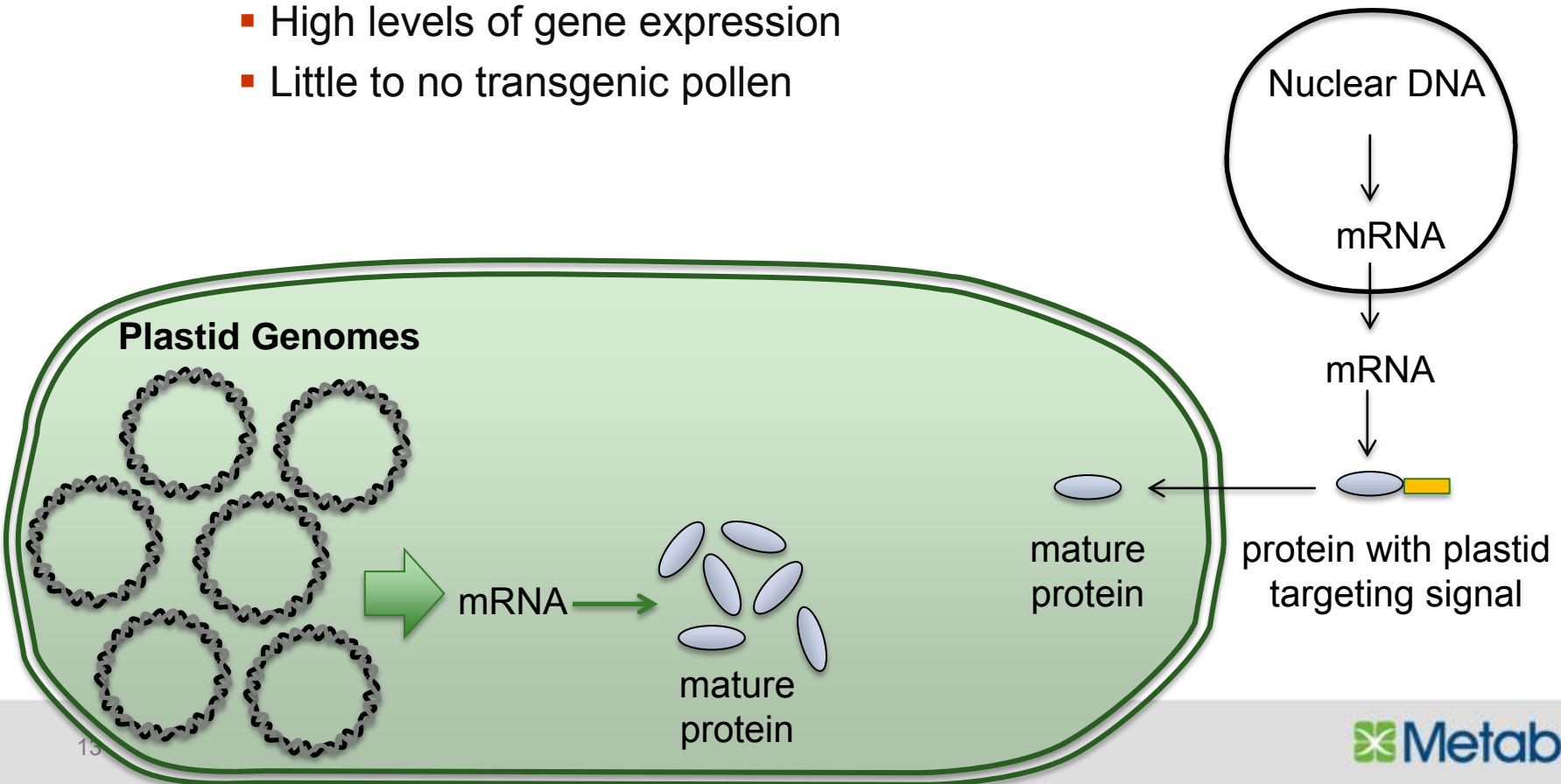


# Increase transgene expression via alternative plastid transformation strategies

*Reproducible plastid transformation procedures for monocots are not available despite repeated efforts in multiple labs*

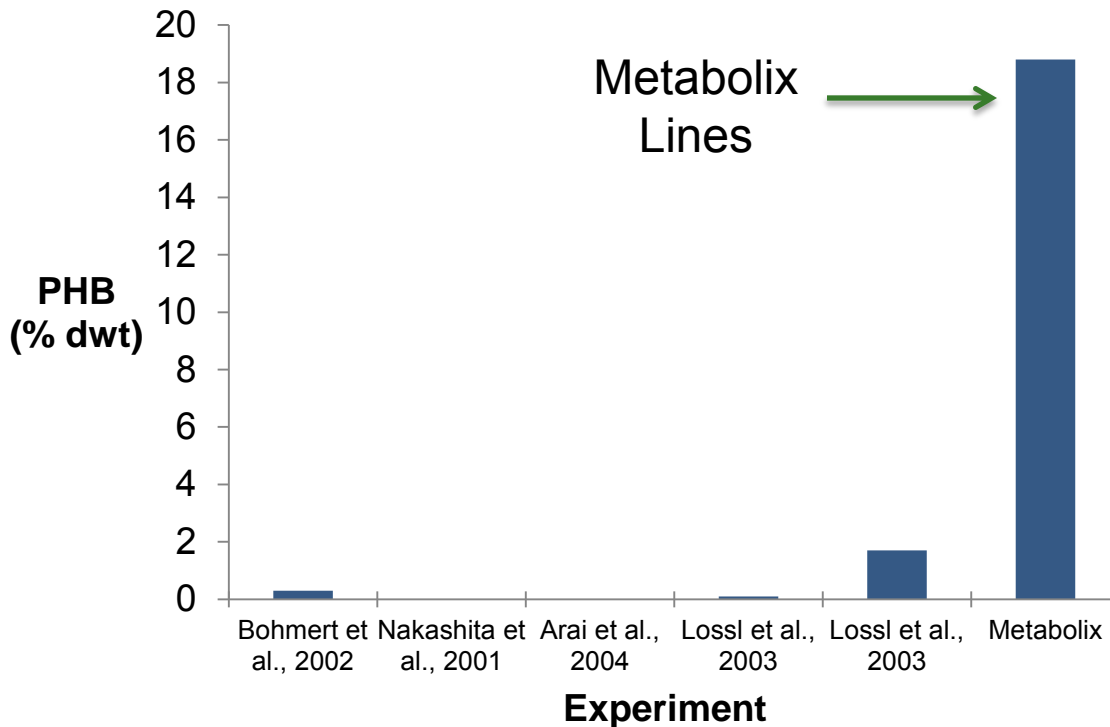
## Benefits of plastid transformation

- High levels of gene expression
- Little to no transgenic pollen



# Production of PHB in Tobacco using Plastid Transformation

## PHB Production in Leaves of Tobacco



- Achieved up to 18% dwt in leaf samples
- 8.8% in whole tobacco plant
- Within commercial target levels for biomass crops
- Obtained fertile plants that set seed

Published in Bohmert-Tatarev et al., 2011, *Plant Physiology* Focus Issue on Plastid Biology

# Summary of REFABB Program

*(Renewable Enhanced Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts)*

## Task B.

**Develop and validate key process technologies for an integrated biorefinery**

- Develop and optimize torrefaction process and crotonic acid recovery
  - Working with Kwesi Boateng and Charles Mullen
  - Eastern Regional Research Center (EERC) of USDA-ARS
- Develop catalyst technology to convert crotonic acid to commodity chemicals
  - In-house at Metabolix
  - Select catalysts evaluated at EERC



# Achieving a Sustainable Biobased Industry

- Innovation is essential to create a successful sustainable biomass based industry for the production of biobased products, bioenergy and biofuels
- Innovation requires real scientific and technological breakthroughs
- RISK taking is essential for innovation – if every experiment works as predicted – this is not consistent with game changing technology
- Continued government support is needed to help fund the research



**Thank you**