

**Company Introduction** 



### Who is Pairwise?

Pairwise is a six-year-old health-focused food and agriculture company transforming how we produce and consume food.

We use CRISPR to help solve the pressing problems in our food system that we are facing today: sustainability and adapting to climate change while delivering benefits to consumers and growers.

### TIME

Pairwise Named one of America's Top GreenTech Companies 2024













## We are founded and led by food, agriculture & genomics experts

ABOUT US



Tom Adams, PhD
Chief Executive Officer



Haven Baker, PhD Co-founder



Feng Zhang, PhD MIT, Broad Institute



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David Liu, PhD Harvard



J. Keith Joung, PhD
Arena Bioworks



Tom Adams, PhD
Chief Executive Officer



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Y

Lynsey Wenger, MBA Chief Financial Officer



lan Miller, JD
Chief Operating Officer



Ryan Bartlett, PhD
Chief Technology Officer



- Headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, USA
- Employs 100+ people across the nation
- Approximately 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of greenhouse space



# FULCRUM PLATFORM

Our innovative platform of solutions allows us to focus on achieving real results for our partners.



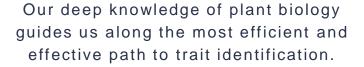
Agronomic expertise in over 60 crops
Successful edits in 14 crops



SHARC REDRAW



Results-oriented ability to home in on the benefits that matter most, and pivot as needed



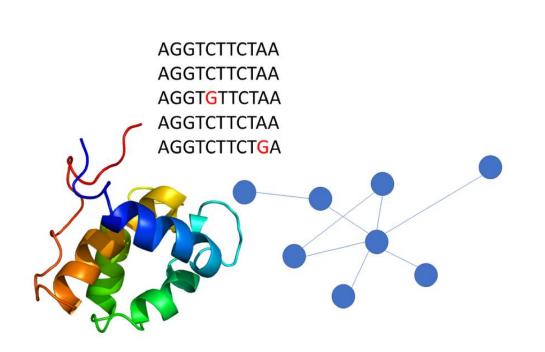
Our proprietary tools enable us to apply gene editing technology (e.g., CRISPR) in a manner that no one else in the world can. Our enterprise scale process provides the best chance for achieving the desired effect in just one generation.

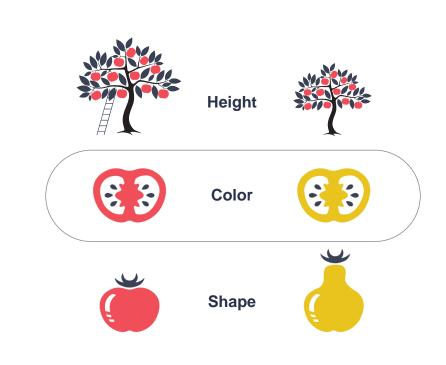


## Editing enables fast, precise genetic changes, making investment in specialty crops possible

Data science and computational biology methods inform the process

Gene editing dramatically accelerates the plant breeding process



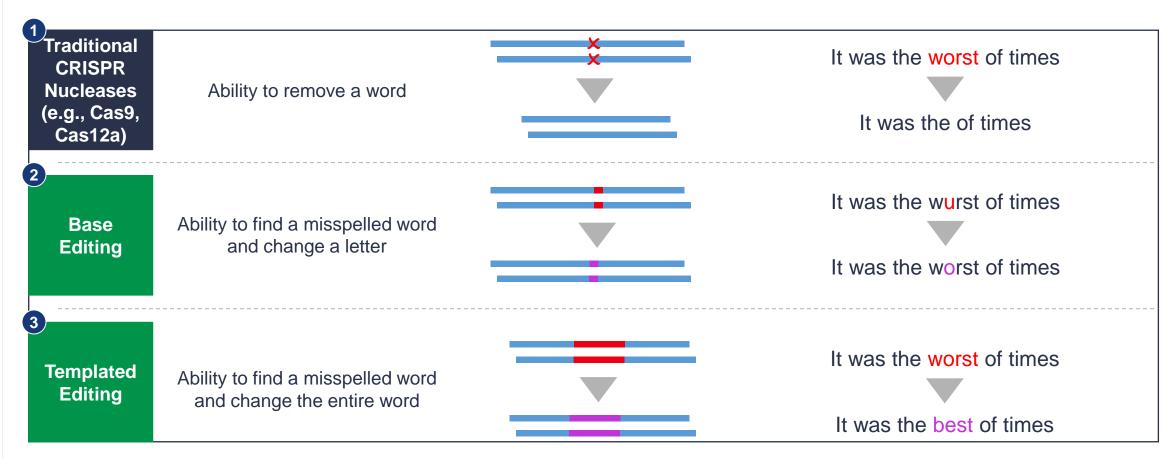




### **CRISPR** and Gene Editing Tool Overview

In the gene editing landscape, three main types of tools exist, each of which can make different types of changes to the genome

Sentence examples are intended to illustrate adjustments that can be made in DNA using each tool





## Editing opens up diverse opportunities where genetics have previously driven market growth and share capture

#### Produce and large acre row crops both present tremendous financial opportunities



is spent annually on produce in the Retail channel in the US<sup>(1)</sup>, and the Food Service market is roughly equivalent



is the US market size of corn alone<sup>(2)</sup>; other big acre row crops (soy, wheat, cotton, etc.) and global footprint also represent meaningful markets

#### and Pairwise has selected particularly large and/or fast-growing categories as areas of focus

While additional products are being explored, the majority of our current pipeline is in these four crops



\$1.5bn, growing at 8+% yoy<sup>(4)</sup>



\$1.5bn → ~\$7bn value at retail<sup>(5)</sup>



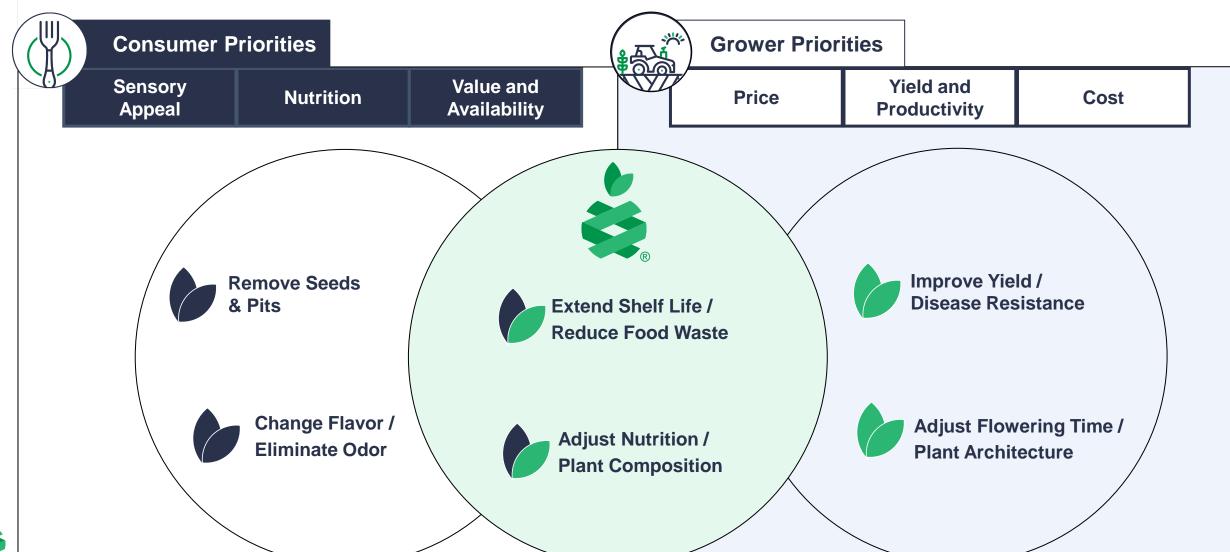
160+mm acre market<sup>(3)</sup>



235+mm acre market<sup>(3)</sup>

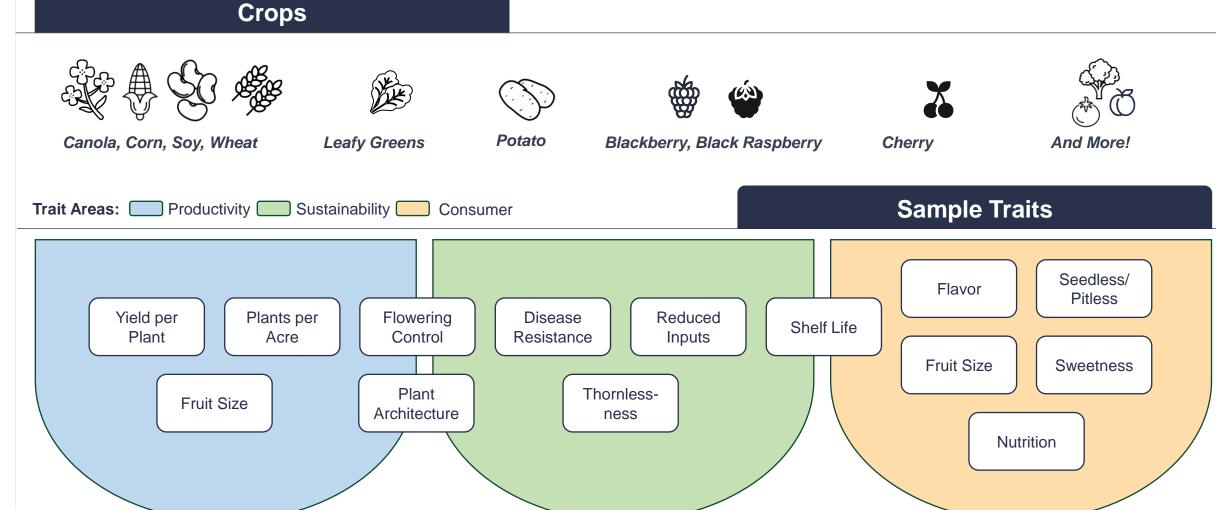


## Our technology and expertise address issues for growers and consumers alike





### Creating value across crop families with conserved traits

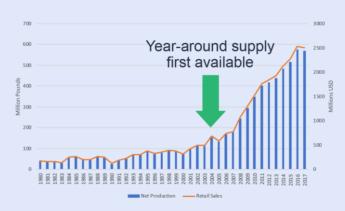




## Historically, adaptations that makes fruits and vegetables more convenient and available have driven consumption

#### **BLUEBERRY**

available year-round



Blueberries grew the market by 4x



#### **BABY CARROT**

snack size, convenient

- Today: 80% of retail carrot sales are baby carrots
- Increased U.S. fresh carrot consumption by:
  - 30% after 1 year
  - 100% within 10 years



#### **HALOS MANDARIN**

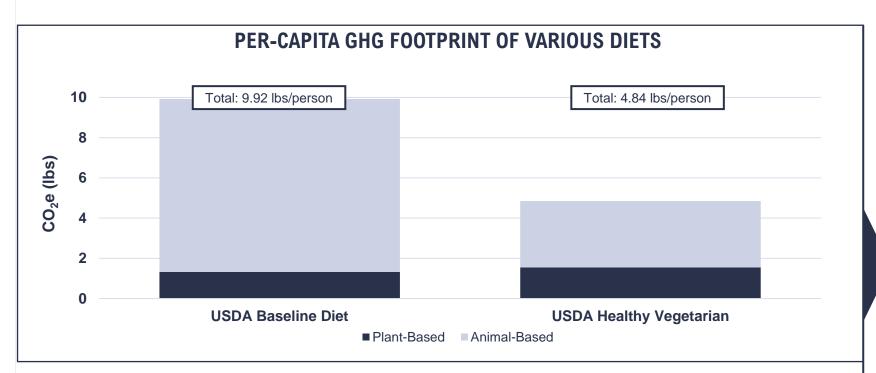
seedless, easy peel

- Captured 50%+ of U.S. mandarin market in 5 years
- Increased total citrus consumption by 30%
- Ranked #1 healthy snack brand by parents and kids





### Where shifting diets are concerned, even incremental moves toward plantbased eating can be meaningful



Americans produce almost 10 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per day to provide for the Baseline Diet, attributable to the significant GHG footprint of animal products, which account for 36% of total food consumed by weight but more than 80% of associated emissions.

By eliminating meat and increasing other dietary inputs, the **Healthy Vegetarian diet more than cuts our per-capita GHG footprint in half** to under 5 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>e per person per day.



By shifting 10% of our diets to vegetarian, we could avoid roughly 30M metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per year by 2030.

That's equivalent to the CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered by about **35M acres** of U.S. forest – more than the total amount of forest in California<sup>1</sup> – in a year.







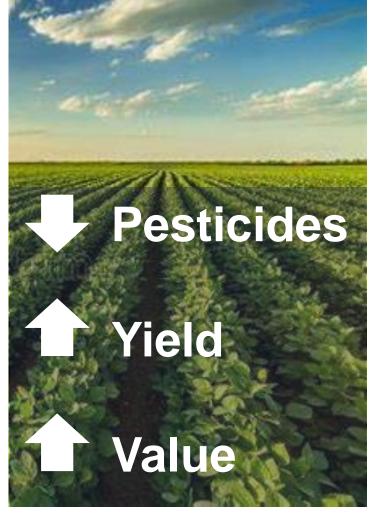
Our technology platform at work

## Asian Soy Rust: Solving for a multi-billion-dollar disease problen











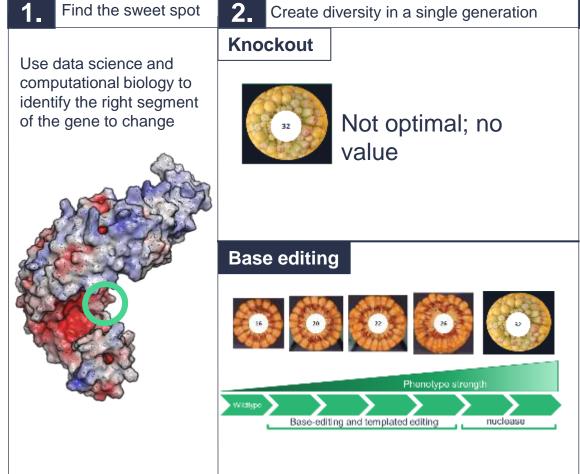


### Using new genomic techniques, we can rapidly achieve improvement

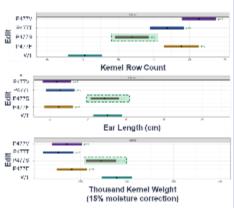
Doing in months what takes breeders decades to do

#### Overview

- High value traits typically have a sweet spot for optimal performance that is between gene expression being fully "on" and "off"
- Fulcrum™ Platform creates targeted diversity to determine identify and execute the best edit
- · Creating a range of phenotypes enables selection of an optimized variety quickly



Pick the winner based on real performance





10%





### Pairwise partners with non-profit to improve staple crop in Africa

- The Partners: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Pairwise
- The Details: Grant of US \$3.8M from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- In Nigeria, yam is an important staple food crop.
- Supports the "Yam Optimized Architecture through Gene Editing (YOAGE)" project, an innovative project aimed at delivering novel genetic variation to yam (*Dioscorea spp*.)
- Focus on improved plant architecture: reduce labor and environmental impact and enable mechanized farming.

### IITA and Pairwise Secure \$3.8M to Boost Yam Production Through Gene Editing





### Introducing a new variety of blackberry

A primocane fruiting variety with excellent taste and proven PSI base genetics

#### A New, Primocane Fruiting Blackberry

**Flexibility:** Very flexible cultivar that can be easily manipulated for year-round production in Mexico/Latin America

Floricane Crop: High yielding and fast time to fruiting

**Production:** 3 years of commercial production in California and Mexico with excellent yield and fruit quality

#### **Specs**

- Appearance: Good for 7-day hold
- Firmness: Good firmness in storage
- **Color:** Good deep color low red drupelet reversion
- Flavor:
  - Great aromatics
  - 10% SS or more
  - 1% acidity
- Size: >7 g
- Storage: Store adequately for 14 days



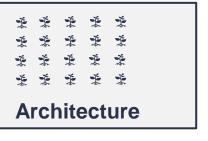


## Blackberries are edited for several traits of value to growers and consumers













#### What is it?

Edited to have **smaller**, **softer seeds** – consumer experience is expected to be similar to a seedless grape or watermelon

#### What is it?

Edited plants are small and earlyfruiting, allowing for **higher yield per acre** and potentially reducing chill hours

#### What is it?

Edited so that the berry plants (canes) do not have thorns

#### How does it add value?

As with other fruit like mandarins, seedless/ pitless is a consumer benefit expected to grow household penetration and drive price premium

**Volume growth + Price premium** 

#### How does it add value?

More plants per acre means more fruit per acre, and changes to fruiting time extend season and may open up new growing geos

**Yield improvement** 

#### How does it add value?

Absence of thorns is safer for harvest labor and makes fruit more accessible on plants, increasing harvest speed and reducing waste

**Labor cost + Fruit waste reduction** 





## Pitless berries create a "seedless" eating experience similar to other fruits like grapes

Unedited

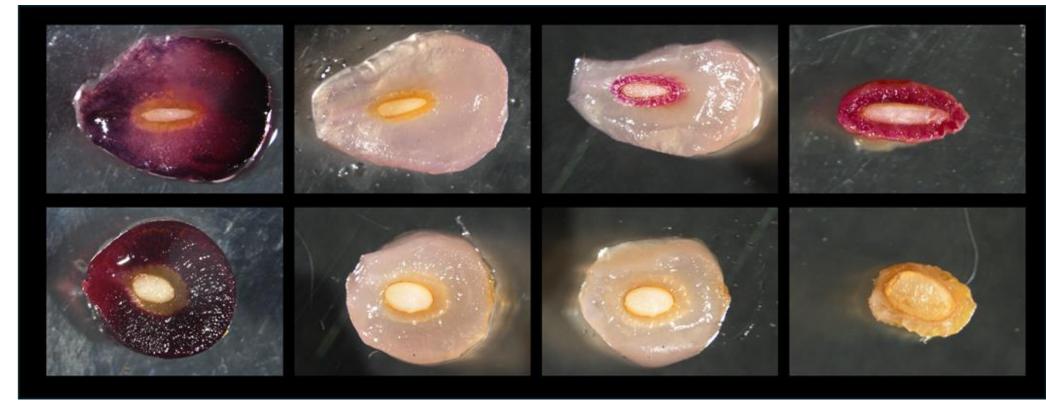
Ripe druplet

**Edited** 

Ripe druplet, anthocyanins removed

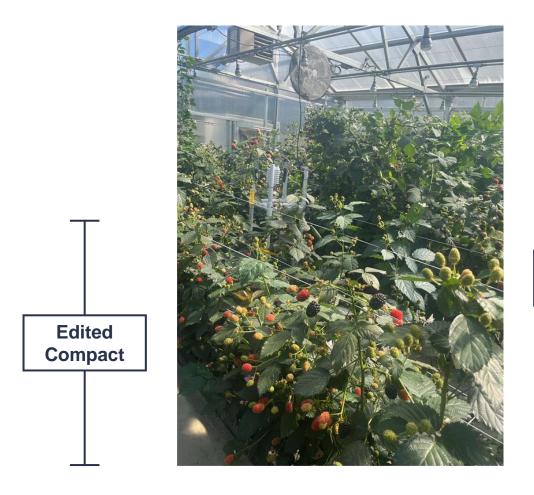
Ripe druplet stained for pit tissue

Zoom on endocarp and seed after stain





## Compact plants in blackberry may improve sustainability and yield in critical growing regions



Unedited Control

### Plant architecture edits can impact

- Increased plant density
- Days to fruiting
- Chill hour requirements
- Water use



## Thornlessness improves worker protection, harvesting efficiency, and food safety





Thornlessness is becoming table stakes because it:

Improves worker safety and decreases risk of bloodborne pathogens in berries

FDA recalls in 2022-2023 for berries or products containing berries related to virus, bacteria, etc.<sup>(1)</sup>

- In one recall in February 2023, frozen strawberries sold nationwide in 13 different products had to be removed/destroyed
- Same recall impacted fresh strawberries

Makes it easier for growers to recruit labor and manage picking costs

- Harvesters prefer working with thornless varieties, and this preference in California (where there are harvest labor shortages) means California growers can face high costs to get fruit picked
- Harvesting thorny varieties is materially slower, which creates worse economics for the harvester and the grower
- California minimum wage increased 48% from \$11 in 2012 to \$16 in 2024, making incremental time and recruiting even more burdensome



- FDA Outbreaks and Foodborne Illness website.
- 2. Outbreak Investigation of Hepatitis A Virus Infection: Frozen Strawberries (February 2023), FDA website.

## Many of these edits are also relevant in stone fruits, where they can drive consumption and create more adaptable production systems

- Currently, cherries are available during a limited season; we can significantly expand the season
- Compact fruit trees are more adaptable to changing or challenging growing conditions and could improve yield, quality, input demands and supply chain reliability.
- The fruit we will produce will be without pits; A
  pitless cherry would take at least a century to
  develop though cross-breeding with naturally
  occurring pitless plum.
- We also see transferability to other stone fruits (nectarines, peaches, plums).





### We have already demonstrated early flowering in cherry

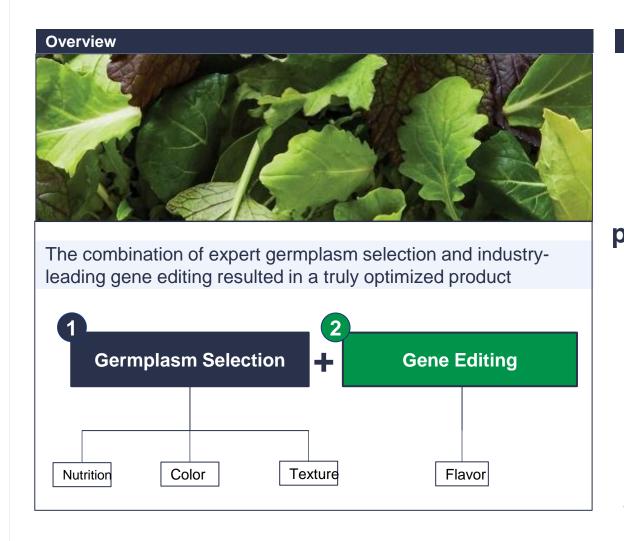


## Early flowering edits have implications for:

- Season extension
- Chill requirements
- Plant architecture
- Climate adaptability
- R&D cycle times to improve further innovations



## The first CRISPR food introduced into consumer end markets in N. America



#### **Mustard Greens Case Study**



- × Pungent and bitter
- × Nutrient-dense, but unpleasant to eat
- ✓ Grown commercially, but only consumed cooked
- √ Lettuce-like texture



- Pairwise's Technical Capabilities
- Edit 17-copy myrosinase genes in highly nutritious but low palatability (pungent) mustard greens
- 2 Myrosinase knockout eliminates pungency

#### Post-Pairwise Intervention

- ✓ Highly nutritious and flavorful mustard greens, unlike anything else on the market with up to double the nutrition of romaine
- ✓ Superfood greens that eat like lettuce

#### Commercial Success

- ✓ First gene-edited product to reach market in the US
- Successfully licensed greens to Bayer's vegetable seeds business for wider reach



### We sampled our leafy greens in three U.S. cities







Seattle, WA

Palo Alto, CA

Austin, TX

### We shared information about our technology in three ways



Wall Signage



Table Tents with QR Codes Linked to Our Website



Brand Ambassadors Shared Verbally with each Guest

#### Voice of the consumer

## Favorable consumer sentiment is created through authenticity and positive consumption experience

What if anything did you <u>dislike</u> about the Greens?



Only 1%

of sampling consumers who completed a survey about our leafy greens cited the technology as a component of their experience



### **Summary**

- Gene editing is **revolutionizing agriculture**.
- The precision and efficacy of the technology allows us to vastly accelerate the benefits of plant breeding, opening up opportunities for investment in specialty crops.
- These benefits can create a widespread positive impact, including climate change adaptation, better grower economics, and improved human nutrition.
- Consumer perceptions to date have been positive, positive sentiment occurs when people experience a product they enjoy.
- Alongside our partners, Pairwise is putting the most sophisticated toolbox in the world to work solving problems and creating value in a range of crops







# THANK YOU

