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Plants have a powerful immunity, so let's tap into it

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The domestication of crops for human use has improved food grain production but has decreased the resistant traits of these crops to fight disease and pests with time. On top of that, humans started using chemicals to control these diseases and pests. The risk that these chemicals have on human health and the environment cannot be overlooked. Plants produce antimicrobial compounds to fight pathogens which enhance plant immunity. Such compounds are called specialized metabolites. My research is focused on exploring the function of genes involved in the production of these specialized metabolites, glyceollins, in soybean. As a result of my findings, soybean plants will be able to produce such compounds more effectively, thus enhancing their resistance to biotic stresses and decreasing the need to apply harmful chemicals to soybean plant.

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