



## **Biopesticides Discovery Platform for Sustainable and Safe Crop Protection**

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### **Abstract**

Innatrix, an agricultural biotechnology company located in Durham, NC, is building a biopesticide platform to generate sustainable biological products to control untreatable crop diseases (<https://www.innatrix.com/>). Innatrix has a strong team full of world class entrepreneurs and scientists. We are funded by 4 capital funds, one NSF SBIR grant, NC Biotech Center and One NC small business program, and found our market fit after interviewing over 160 customers.

In the U.S., some current crop protection chemical products face increasing regulatory pressure due to environmental concerns and others decline in their efficacy due to the development of resistance. Innatrix is dedicated to reducing chemical pesticide usage while increasing crop yield and return on investment for farmers. Innatrix team is developing a novel class of crop protection products – peptides (small proteins) and RNAi, which are anticipated to have the same efficacy as traditional chemical products but with the safety and environmental friendliness of biologics. Innatrix is combining an understanding of the dynamics of pathogen/host interactions with patented protein evolution and RNAi technologies to develop novel biopesticides. We have identified our

first biological product leads in the lab conditions. Following proof of efficacy, we will initiate product development using fermentation, field trials, manufacturing, and regulatory processes.

### **Biography of presenting author**

Jiarui Li received Ph.D in plant molecular biology, and MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology. Dr. Li is an accomplished scientist and manager with over 30 peer-reviewed publications, two patents, and five funded research proposals. His mixture of both scientific and business experience makes him a vital member of the Innatrix team and a key factor in the business development of the company.