



Controlled Environment Agriculture

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A portfolio of related patents, patent applications, and horticultural know-how has been compiled into a unique platform that is designed to re-order the logistics and processes of photosynthetic production. As a proof of principle, commercial lettuce production has been demonstrated in a partial-scale facility in Ithaca, New York, since 1999. Several other commercial agricultural crops such as spinach and tomatoes are undergoing development for deployment in similar facilities. (The program's website at <http://www.cornellcea.com> provides more detailed coverage of the project.)

The platform of technologies has been licensed to a Cornell Research Foundation joint venture with CEA Systems. Partners Michael S. Hall and Debra A. Scullary have structured the company to apply the photosynthetic production capabilities to full-scale agricultural production. They plan to apply these techniques to industrial product production in markets as diverse as pharmaceuticals, seed production, and polymers. The joint venture expects to continue its investment in research programs at Cornell University in order to further extend its range of production species and products.

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Lettuce grown in a partial-scale CEA facility on Dryden Road in Ithaca, New York



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