

Seven Sisters painting by Christine Jugarnu Collard and the Pleiades star cluster. Christine Collard, Yamaji Art



PLANTS FOR SPACE

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



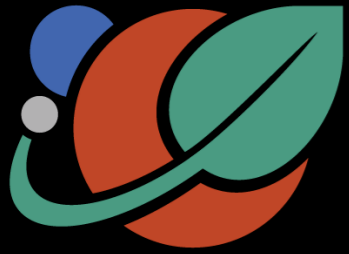
[@plants4space](https://twitter.com/plants4space)

MATTHEW GILLIHAM
MELiSSA Conference
Toulouse – November 2022

MISISON

To enable
human deep Space exploration
&
improve on-Earth sustainability
through
plant & food redesign





Plants for space

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



IMPACT: **NOW**

2030

2040



3 year round trip



P4S: MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS FOR COMPLEX SOLUTIONS

Food scientists
Plant scientists
Process engineers
Systems engineers
Psychologists
Nutritionists
Educators
Lawyers



PLANTS



ZERO-WASTE PLANT
growth & processing



PRODUCTS



PLANT-BASED SOLUTIONS
for health & well-being



PROCESSES



Future-ready
people & products



PEOPLE



GLOBAL CO-ORDINATION
& connectivity





RECYCLE



PLANTS



LAW



MEDICINE



FOODS



FLAVOUR



TEAMS



MATERIAL



05
SPINACH
DAYS TO YIELD: 6

06
SPINACH
DAYS TO YIELD: 6

07
TOMATO
DAYS TO YIELD: 2

08
TOMATO
DAYS TO YIELD: 2

09
CARROT
DAYS TO YIELD: 3

10
CARROT
DAYS TO YIELD: 3

PANTRY

**P4S will deliver
fundamental learnings
& innovations
for Space
and Earth**



PLANTS



MEDICINE



MATERIAL



LAW



FOODS



FLAVOUR



RECYCLE



TEAMS

INNOVATION FOR SPACE & EARTH



LEGAL, ETHICAL, REGULATORY & BIOSECURITY

- ✓ Protection for astronauts and planets
- ✓ Legal reforms to support ethical growth of biomanufacturing

P4S Cultural Charter



INNOVATION FOR SPACE & EARTH



PLANT SCIENCE

- ✓ Fast growth, zero-waste plants
- ✓ Plants as sensors



INNOVATION FOR SPACE & EARTH



PLANT-BASED NUTRITION

- ✓ A suite of complete nutrition plants



FOODS WITH VARIED TEXTURE & FLAVOUR

- ✓ New plant-based health and food products



INNOVATION FOR SPACE & EARTH



BIOMANUFACTURING

SUSTAINABILITY

- ✓ On-demand plant production
- ✓ Low-input biomanufacturing



INNOVATION FOR SPACE & EARTH



TEAMWORK & CONNECTIVITY

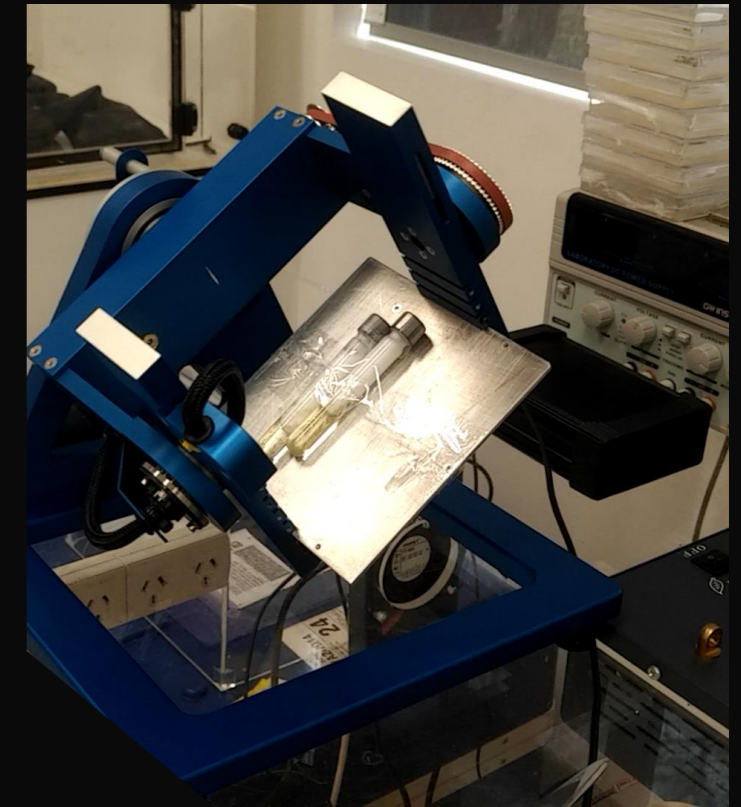
- ☑ Foods and plants to support psychological well-being in isolation
- ☑ A global hub for international space plant research



P4S PILOT PROGRAMS HAVE BEGUN

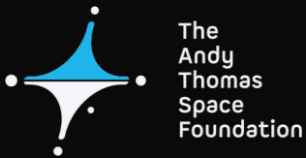


First Australian-led mission to ISS — pharmaceutical stability



DUCKWEED

Leaves expressing pigment marker



Space Lab μ G-LilyPond & harvester



MOLECULAR PLANT SCIENCE



PLANT PHYSIOLOGY



PLANT PHARMA



PLANTS AS BIORESOURCES



CONTROLLED ENV. AG.



SYSTEMS ENGINEERING



FOOD STRUCTURING



FOOD PROCESSING



DIGESTION



SINGLE CELL 'OMICS



GENE EDITING



LAW & POLICY



EDUCATION



OUTREACH



PSYCHOLOGY



SENSORY SCIENCE



OUR INVESTIGATOR TEAM



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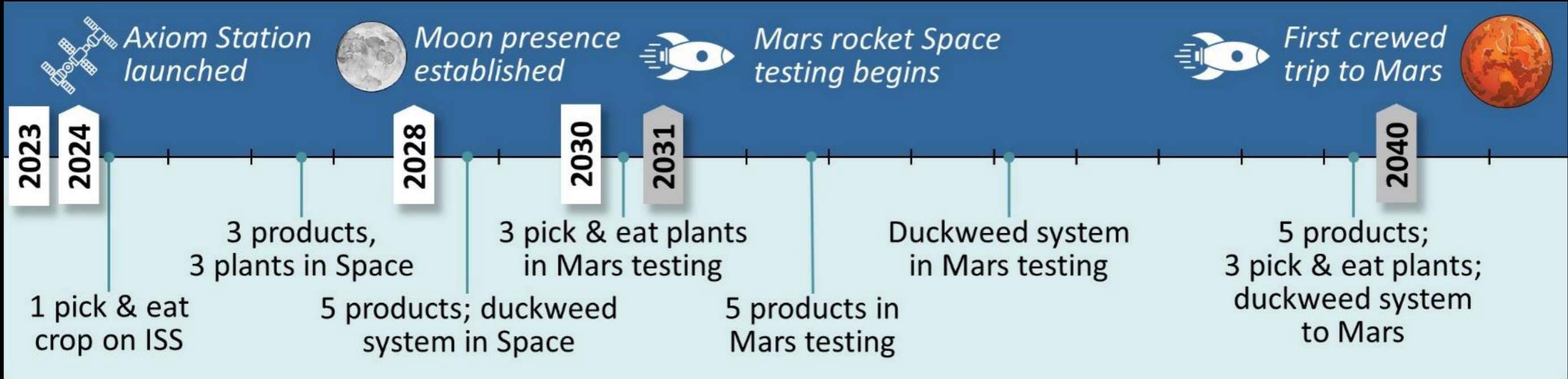
PI



OUR EXPANDED TEAM



 **PLANTS**



Water spinach



Vitamins

Tomatoes



Flavour, lycopene

Strawberries



Texture, Flavour

Carrots



Texture, vitamin A

Duckweeds

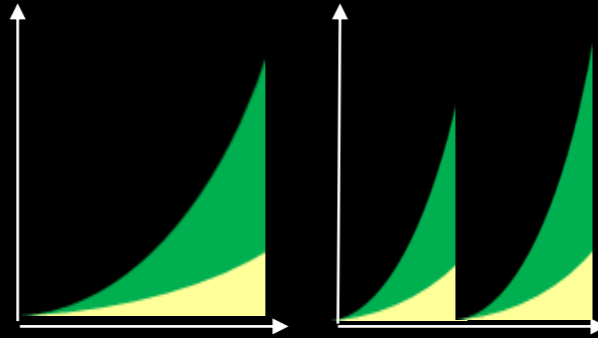


Nutrients & Vitamins

CHALLENGES

DOUBLE RELATIVE
GROWTH RATE PER
DAY

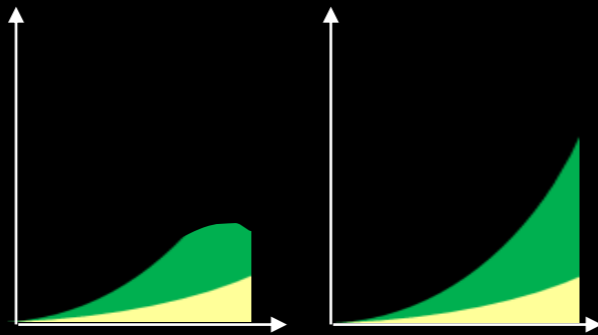
~0.3 TO >0.6



- Photorespiration
- Review stress responses (biotic & abiotic)

INCREASE NUTRIENT
AND WATER USE-
EFFICIENCY, AND SALT
AND HYPOXIA
TOLERANCE

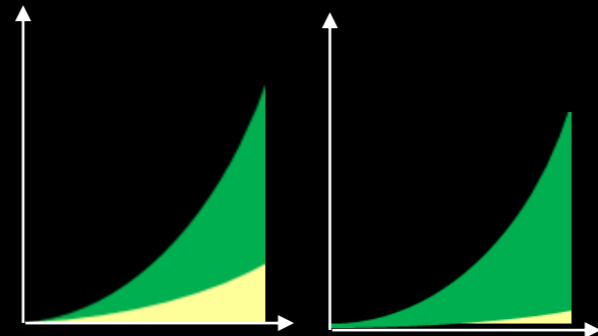
by 50%



- Transporters & metabolites – salt, nutrients
- Transpiration
- Hypoxia tolerance

RAISE HARVEST
INDEX FROM 0.4–0.75

TO APPROACH 1.0

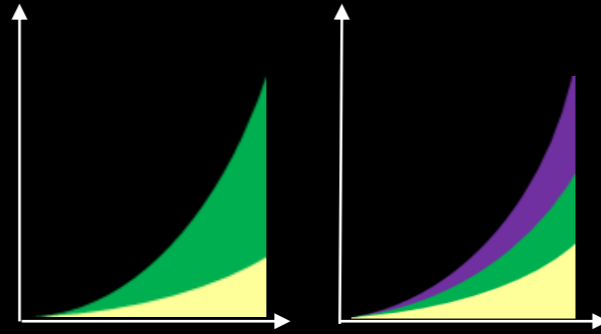


- Successive harvesting
- Redesign and reduce root systems
- Tissue composition

CHALLENGES

REFINE PROTEIN
COMPOSITION

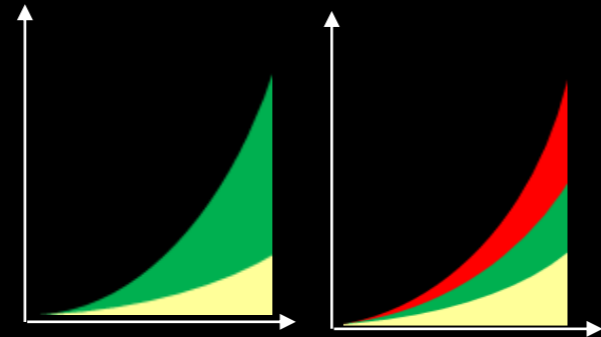
BETTER BALANCE OF ALL
ESSENTIAL AMINO ACIDS
FOR NUTRITION



- Amino acid profiles
- Protein turnover
- Storage proteins

MAXIMISE LEAF FAT
CONTENT

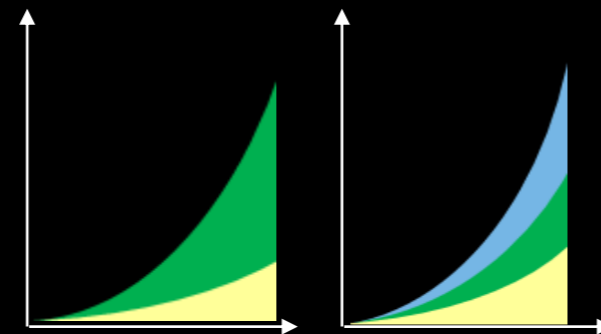
CALORIC, NUTRITIONAL,
AND TASTE IMPACT



- Oleic acid formation.
- Increase fat sinks
- Decrease sugar export from leaves, inc. TAG

CHANGE LEAF
CARBOHYDRATES

OPTIMISE STARCH &
FIBRE CONTENT FOR
HEALTH



- Pectin (cardiovascular, cancer, bone)
- Soluble fibre
- Alter starch

HELPING TO PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



Outreach



Equity &
diversity



Training &
professional
development



Entrepreneurship



Industry
experience

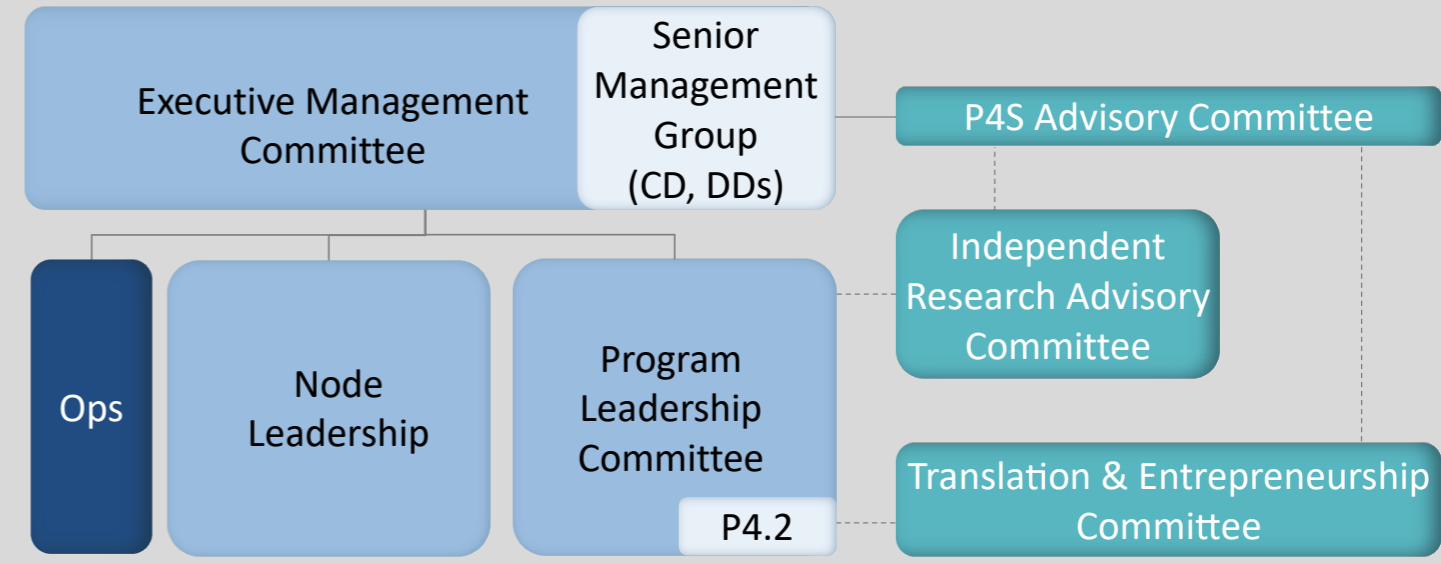
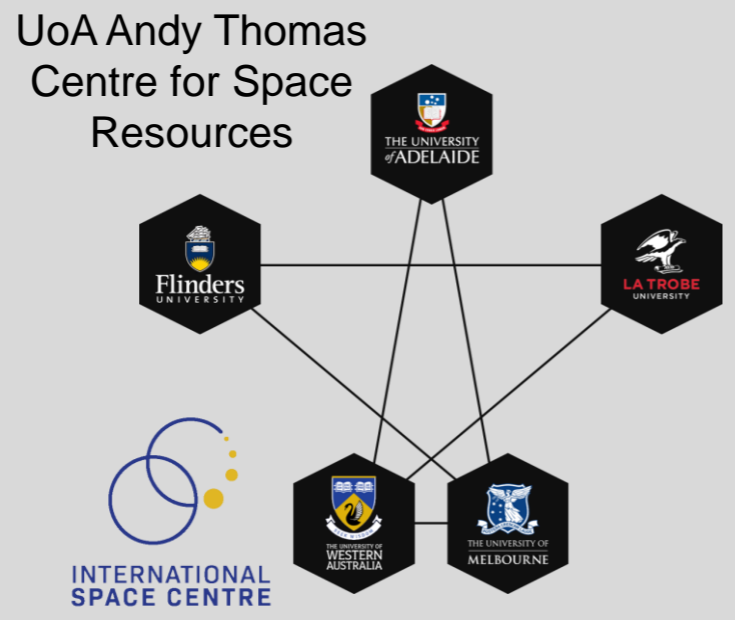


Mentorship



P4S NETWORKS & CO-ORDINATION BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Molecular plant science
- Plant physiology
- Plant pharma
- Plants as bioresources
- Controlled Env. Ag.
- Systems engineering
- Food structuring
- Food processing
- Single cell 'omics
- Gene editing
- Law & policy
- Education
- Outreach
- Psychology
- Digestion
- Sensory science



Humans on the Moon & Mars

High-efficiency agriculture & biomanufacturing

Innovative public & student engagement



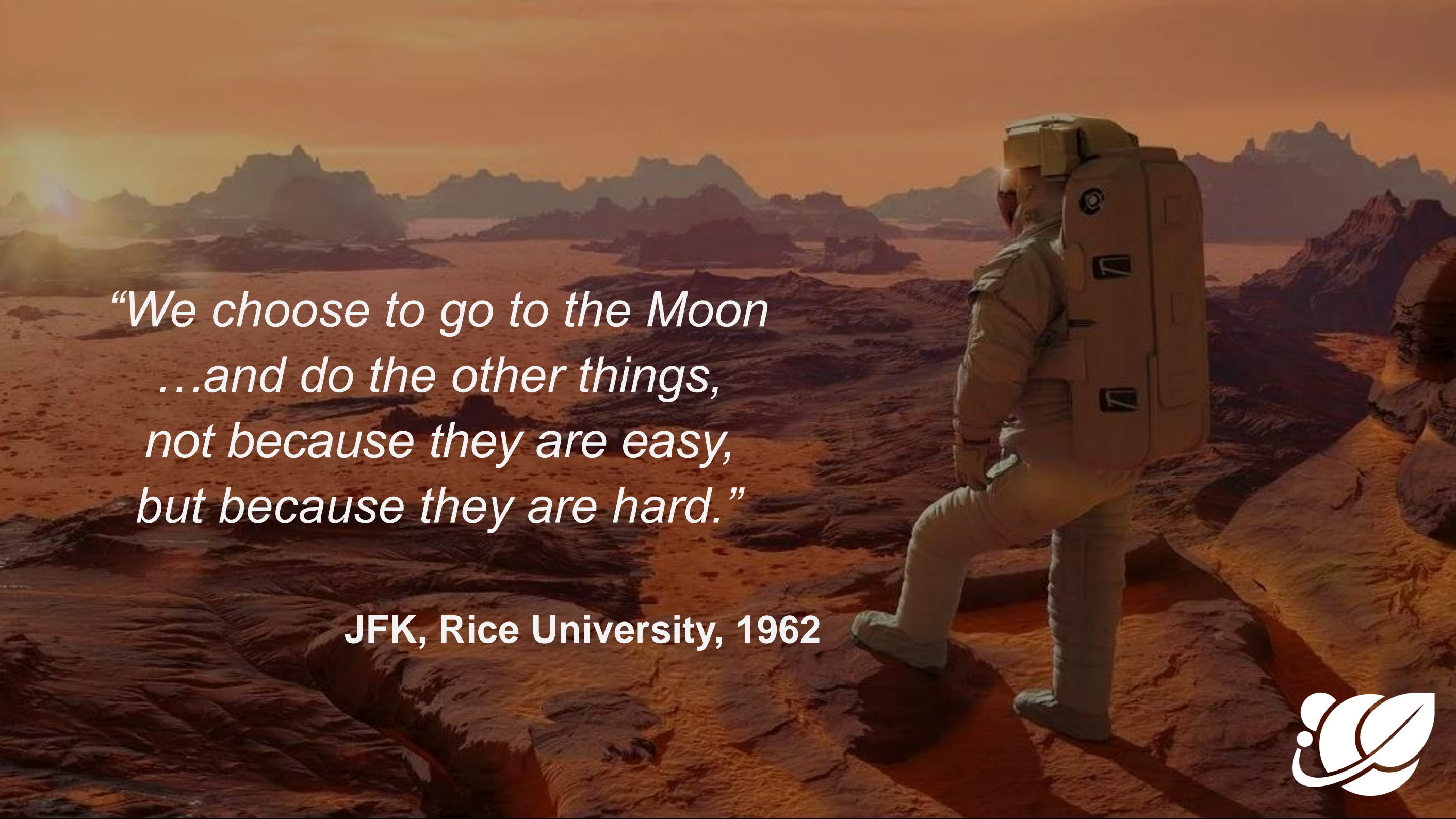
Plants for space

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Biological solutions for Space

Plant-based food & health solutions

New STEM research & industry capacity

An astronaut in a white spacesuit with a large life-support backpack is walking across a rocky, reddish-brown landscape under a hazy, orange sky. The terrain is rugged with various rock formations and a low horizon line. The lighting suggests a sunrise or sunset, creating long shadows and a warm, golden glow.

*“We choose to go to the Moon
...and do the other things,
not because they are easy,
but because they are hard.”*

JFK, Rice University, 1962



MULTIDISCIPLINARY P4S TEAMS FOR COMPLEX SOLUTIONS

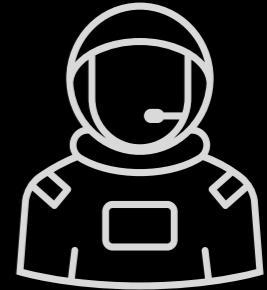
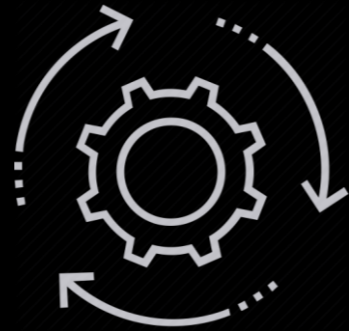
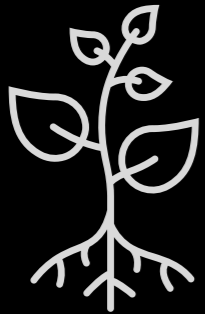


 **PLANTS**

 **PROCESSES**

 **PRODUCTS**

 **PEOPLE**



✓ Plant attributes

✓ Processing,
structure & texture

✓ Nutrition, flavour
& storage

✓ Psychological impact

✓ Sensory attributes

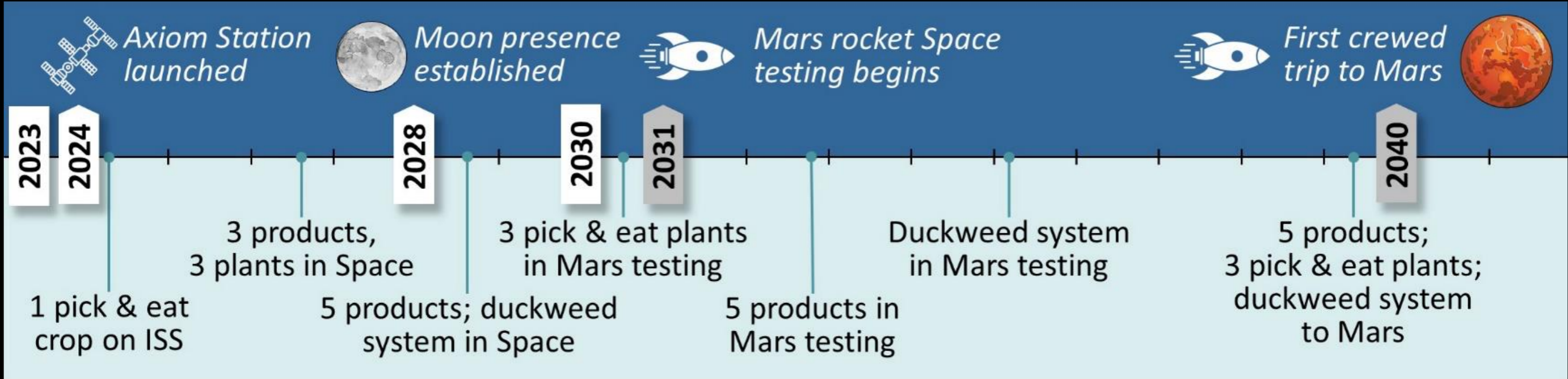
✓ Market acceptance

✓ Digestibility

✓ Legal frameworks



 **PLANTS**



Water spinach



Vitamins

Tomatoes



Flavour, lycopene

Strawberries



Texture, Flavour

Carrots



Texture, vitamin A

Duckweeds



Nutrients & Vitamins

STATE OF PLAY

RADISH



LETTUCE



CHILLIES



NASA astronaut Kate Rubins with Plant Habitat-02 (PH-02) experiment aboard the International Space Station with radish seedlings.



NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson shows off some leafy greens grown on the International Space Station.



Crew poses with the chillies they harvested before eating them. This plant experiment was the longest in the history of the space station at 137 days.

CHALLENGES

DOUBLE RELATIVE
GROWTH RATE PER
DAY

~0.3 TO >0.6

INCREASE NUTRIENT
AND WATER USE-
EFFICIENCY, AND SALT
AND HYPOXIA
TOLERANCE

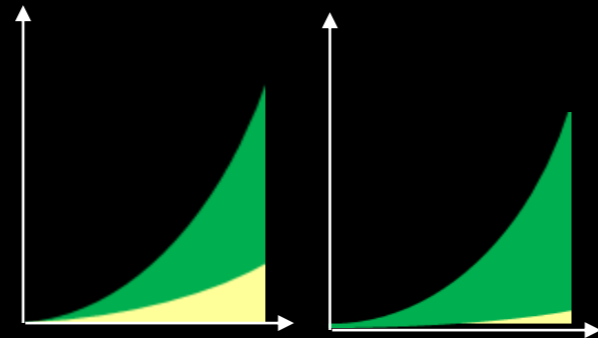
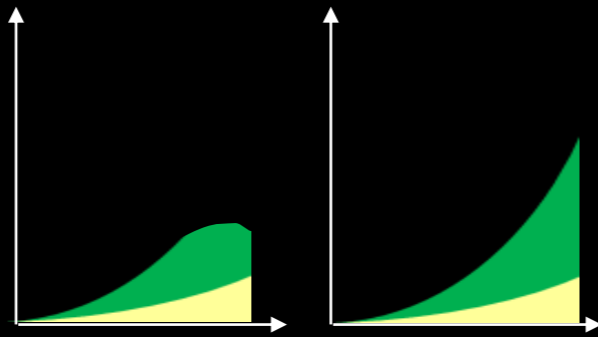
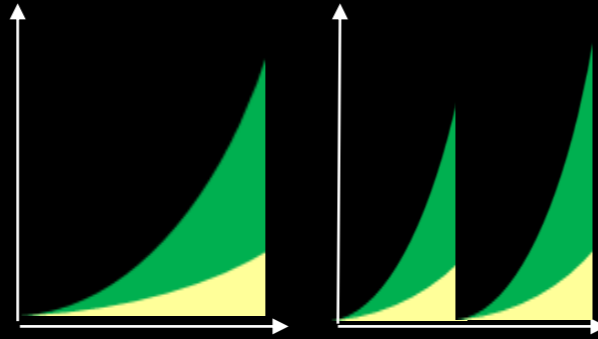
by 50%

RAISE HARVEST
INDEX FROM 0.4–0.75

TO APPROACH 1.0



P4S TARGETS



- Photorespiration
- Reactive Oxygen Species quenching
- Stress responses

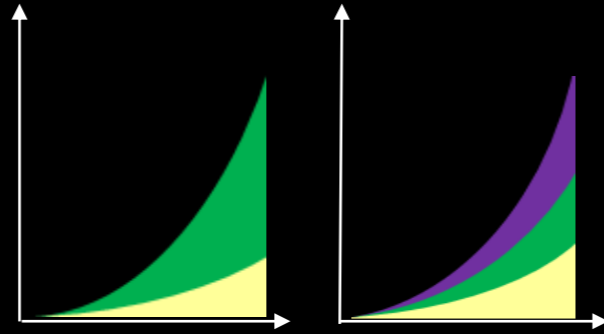
- Transporters & metabolites - salt
- Hypoxia tolerance

- Successive harvesting
- Redesign and reduce root systems

CHALLENGES

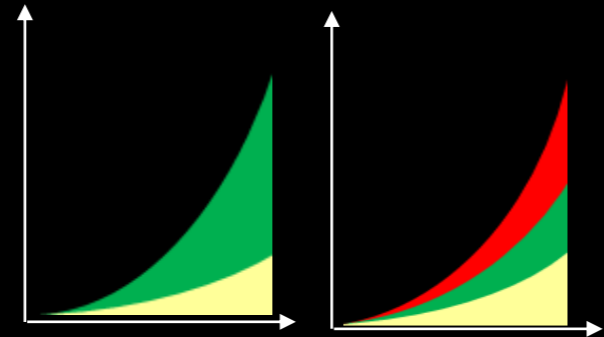
REFINE PROTEIN
COMPOSITION

BETTER BALANCE OF ALL
ESSENTIAL AMINO ACIDS
FOR NUTRITION



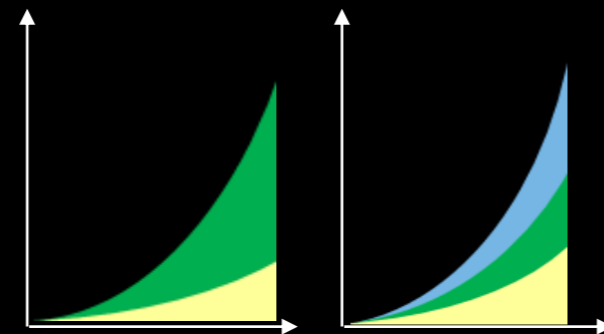
MAXIMISE LEAF FAT
CONTENT

CALORIC, NUTRITIONAL,
AND TASTE IMPACT



CHANGE LEAF
CARBOHYDRATES

OPTIMISE STARCH &
FIBRE CONTENT FOR
HEALTH



P4S TARGETS

- Amino acid profiles
- Protein turnover
- Storage proteins

- Oleic acid formation.
- Increase fat sinks
- Decrease sugar export from leaves, inc. TAG

- Pectin (cardiovascular, cancer, bone)
- Soluble fibre
- Alter starch

Our team is READY

Matt Gilliam (UoA)	Melissa de Zwart (Flinders)	Sally Gras (UM)	Harvey Millar (UWA)	Volker Hessel (UoA)	Ryan Lister (UWA)	Michelle Watt (UM)	Jim Whelan (LTU)	Kim Johnson (LTU)	Ian Small (UWA)	Eva Kempes (Flinders)	Mat Lewsey (LTU)	Jenny Mortimer (UoA)	Matt Tucker (UoA)	Sigfredo Fuentes Jara (UM)	Christine Feinle-Bisset (UoA)
CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI	CI
Gioia Massa (NASA)	Jens Hauslage (DLR)	Jana Stoudemire (Axiom)	Sumen Rai (SASIC)	Christine Escibar (SpaceLab)	Jen Bromley (VF)	Jake Eisenberg (OPO)	Nadun Hennayaka (GAIA)	Jennifer Doudna (UCB)	Jay Keasling (UCB)	Adam Arkin (UCB)	Karen McDonald (UCD)	Simon Gilroy (UWM)	Eduardo Salas (Rice)	Murat Kacira (UAz)	Alex Webb (UCam)
PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI
Ian Fisk (UoN)	Ulrich Schurr (Julich)	Didier Dupont (INRAE)	Raffaele Mezzenga (ETH)	Joanne McMillan (DrJo)	Sarah Baker (Hamilton)	Luca Bertolacci (VSSEC)	Jackie Carpenter (One Giant Leap)	Natalie Curach (BPA)	John Culton (UoA)	Ole Mouritsen (SfL)	Erik Murchie (UoN)	Sue Bastian (UoA)	Corinne Scown (UCB)	Bo Xu (UoA)	L Ong (UM)
PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	PI	AI	AI	AI	AI	AI	Researcher	Researcher
Ni Yang (UoN)	Louise Hewson (UoN)	Jim Stevens (VF)	Katie Wilkins (VF)	John Stephen (AGRF)	Nick Beagley (DSTG)	Daniel Kaschubek (yuri)	Megan Hochenstraesse (IGI)	Olivia Menard (INRAE)	Sasi Nayar (SARDI)	Maria Saarela (SARDI)	Paul Petrie (SARDI)	Michelle Waycott (BGSH)	Siyuan Chen (Twist)	Bernd Willems (Twist)	Emily Hilder (DSTG)
Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Researcher	Staff
Christian Maender (Axiom)	Simon Jenner (Axiom)	Kirsten Whittingham (Axiom)	Daniela Bezdán (yuri)	Brad Ringeisen (IGI)	Zenka Mathys (DSTG)	Nicola Sasanelli (ATSF)	Michael Pakakis (VSSEC)	Mak Djukic (BGSH)	Holger Plange (MineARC)	Daragh Quinn (MineARC)	Mark Dupal (Twist)	Jeremy Dumsday (Twist)	Ryan Edwards	Melinda Nguyen	Jon Diab
Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff	HDR	HDR	HDR
Matt Morgan	Quy Don Tran	Svenja Schmidt	Changping Zhuang	Shu Liang	Manuel Alejandro Varon Hoyos	Sushant Bajpai	Thitima Sombuttan	George Warne	Robert Rintoul	Nigel Vermond	Laura Beckett	Alex Thomas			
HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR	HDR			





Water spinach
Ipomoea aquatica

Key advantages

- strong visual and texture appeal
- fully edible shoot and regenerating rhizome
- grows in unstirred water based media and hydroponics
- high protein content in leaves (2.5-3g per 100g)

- genetic transformation available since 2005
DOI:10.5511/plantbiotechnology.20.335

- fully sequenced genome in 2021 (550.03 Mb)
includes 30,693 predicted protein-coding genes.
DOI:10.1016/j.scienta.2021.110501



Astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor harvests red Russian kale and dragon lettuce from Veggie on Nov. 28, 2018



NASA's Matt Romeyn works in the Crop Food Production Research Area of the Space Station Processing Facility, Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Credits: NASA/Cory Huston



Tomatoes *Solanum lycopersicum*

Key advantages

- high, energy-rich yield
- strong appeal for flavour, texture
- extensive research community and bioengineering
- high in key vitamins

- high efficiency agrobacterium-mediated transformation
doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-8778-8_16.

- fully sequenced genome in 2012

doi:10.1038/nature11119



Red Robin tomato variety bred for dwarf growth with NASA



Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield with fresh tomatoes transported to ISS



CARROTS

Daucus carota

Key advantages

- strong appeal for flavour and crunch
- high in key vitamin A precursors
- edible leaves and a large tuber for nutrient manufacture and storage
- Genetic transformation of *Daucus* and other apiaceae species. Transgenic Plant J. 2008;2:18–38.
- High-quality genome assembly in 2016
doi.org/10.1038/ng.3565



Hydroponic carrot trials for future deployment



Astronaut Steve Kelly with mini carrots transported to ISS on ISS



Strawberries *Fragaria* spp.



Jeff Richards displays plants successfully growing in a specially developed solution of nutrients under spacecraft-like conditions. Image credit: NASA

Key advantages

- Extremely strong visual, flavour, texture appeal
- high in key vitamin precursors
- edible leaves and fruit
- Genetic transformation with low efficiency (5%) by agrobacterium 2014
- Challenging octoploid genome, assembly and gene prediction in 2019 for *Fragaria* × *ananassa*

doi.org/10.4161/gmcr.27229

[doi: 10.1038/s41588-019-0356-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-019-0356-4)



https://www.nasa.gov/missions/science/f_strawberries.html



Duckweed
Lemna, Wolffia spp.

Key advantages

- Fastest growing plant on earth, doubles in a day
- Grows in stagnant water & scavenges nutrients
- Salt tolerant, radiation resistant
- Nutrient profile close to human requirements
- Highly adaptable metabolism
- Genome sequences and transformable

