

# The *Brassica* Cross-Institute Programme

Ian Bancroft 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006

# Background

The Review of BBSRC-funded Research Relevant to Crop Science highlighted the need for more coherence between the research activities of relevance to the major UK crops.

The response of BBSRC included the initiation of a “Cross-Institute Programme” (CIP) on cereal research, the initial focus of which is genomics and bioinformatics.

The value of a corresponding collaboration on research of relevance to *Brassica* crops was clear, so an informal *Brassica* CIP was initiated in 2005

Extensive discussions involving a wide range of stakeholders and international partners enabled the initial priorities to be determined

# Initial priorities

Establishment of publicly available resources and bioinformatics tools:

- Brassica BAC libraries
- A and C genome draft physical maps
- Mapping populations
- Integrated linkage maps
- *B. rapa* genome sequence
- Genome annotation tools
- Communal datasets, integrative databases and displays
- *B. rapa* and *B. napus* TILLING and deletion populations

# Establishment of the platform

Some of the resources are already in place, having been funded largely by BBSRC via specific grants to a wide range of institutions, and by CSG (particularly JIC and HRI)

Initial planning of CIP activities and commitment of resources by JIC and RRes (the BBSRC-funded Institutes deploying CSG resources to develop *Brassica* genomic platforms)

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Joint grant proposal, JIC, RRes, WHRI, U. Nottingham and 2 international partners - submitted to BBSRC to sequence *B. rapa* chromosomes R1 and R8

# Further development

Expanding concept to include core programmes at IFR and WHRI – meeting to be held at WHRI shortly

Will continue to involve all UK *Brassica* research groups in the development of the programme:

Stakeholder consultation (UK-BRC, OREGIN)

Collaboration in scientific as well as technological projects