

Technology Transfer Partnerships in Agricultural Biosciences

Meeting the Changing Needs of an Industry:

The Case of the California Table Grape Commission

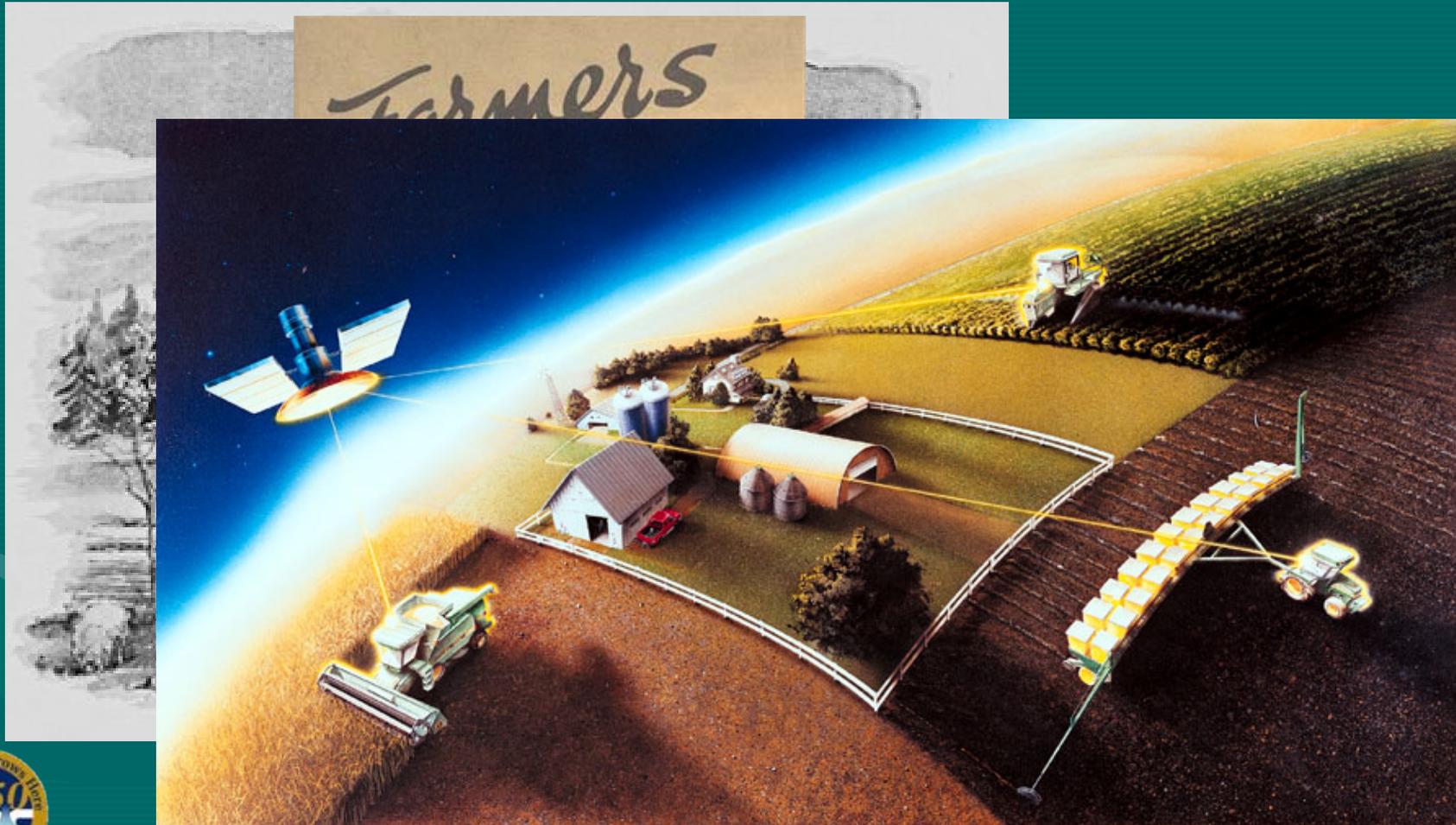


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Technology Transfer: *the adoption of research outcomes for public benefit*



The Changing Landscape of Technology ..and Technology Transfer



Impact of Landmark Legislation

Stevenson-Wydler (1980) / FTTA (1986)

Before

After

Discouraged; “academic independence”

Cooperative Research with Industry Partners

Encouraged (CRADA); mission priorities, relevance, impact

No incentive for USG or scientist

Patenting

Part of career promotion recognition; revenue sharing

Non-exclusive, royalty free (little or no advantage for industry or USG inventor)

Licensing

Full flexibility & right of enforcement (strong advantage for industry in competitive global economy)



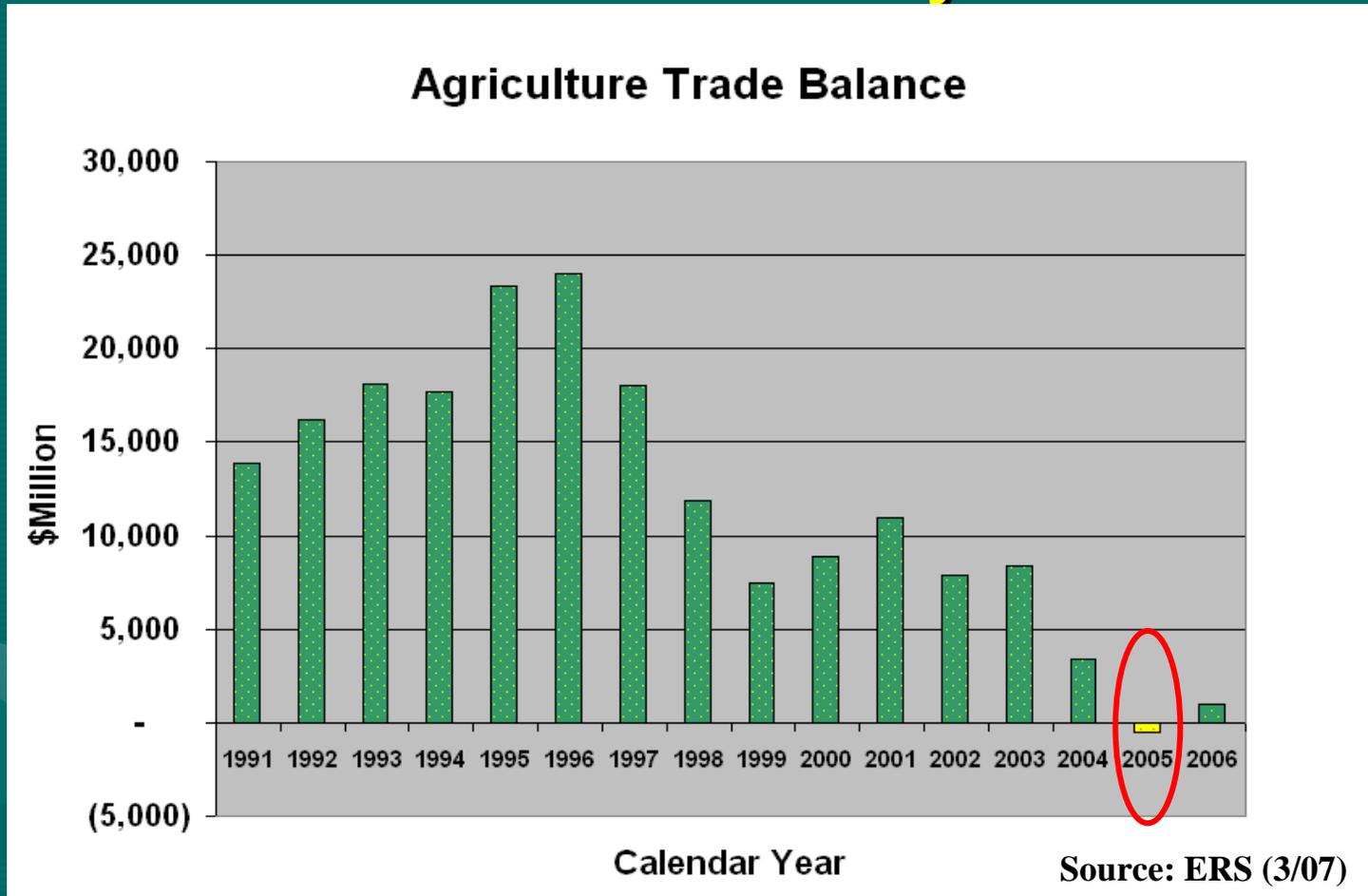
Culture of ARS: “*The People’s Department*”

- Integration of T2 with research mission and priorities
- ARS protects intellectual property *only when necessary* to transfer technology
 - Prefer public release of plant varieties for broad availability
 - Do not patent animals, nor research tools
- Goal of licensing is to facilitate technology transfer
- Permit license-free research with any ARS technology to promote further research



The present ... intense global competition

Can ARS Policy Be Adaptable to Assist Industry?



Policy ... adjustment to reflect global competition?

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A public release is a release to the WORLD ...

➤ Goal of licensing is to facilitate technology transfer

How does this benefit U.S. industries in a global economy?

➤ Permit license-free research with any ARS technology to produce further research



Goals of Technology Transfer

- Facilitate *research partnerships & adoption of federal research outcomes for broad U.S. public benefit.*
- Use *patent system* to facilitate technology transfer by *providing incentives for scientists and protection for U.S. industry.*
 - Support licensee in enforcing patents
- Enhance U.S. economic development, *global competition*, and *sustainable economic security.*



So How Do We Modify a Culture of “Open Access and Public Release”

Targeted training of scientists and support personnel of plant breeding programs

- To demonstrate *impact* of your research, customers and stakeholders must adopt your outcomes
- Therefore, your outcomes must benefit the industries your research supports
- Protect USG interests in intellectual property (IP)
 - Restrict access to field sites
 - Use Confidentiality Agreements to avoid public disclosure of research findings
 - Use Material Transfer Agreements for all distributions of plant materials that precedes protection of IP



Current Technologies on the Road to Success ...

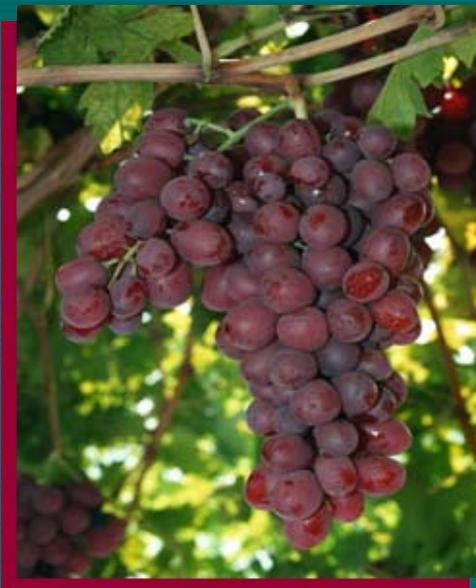


Table grape varieties -- (David Ramming, ARS); California Table Grape Commission)





Photo: Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD
(Joann Perkins)



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