

# SILICON: A NONTRADITIONAL PRODUCT AND THE PROCESS OF TAKING IT MAINSTREAM



**CrossOver**  
FROM SOIL TO PLANT

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**HARSCO**



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FROM SOIL TO PLANT

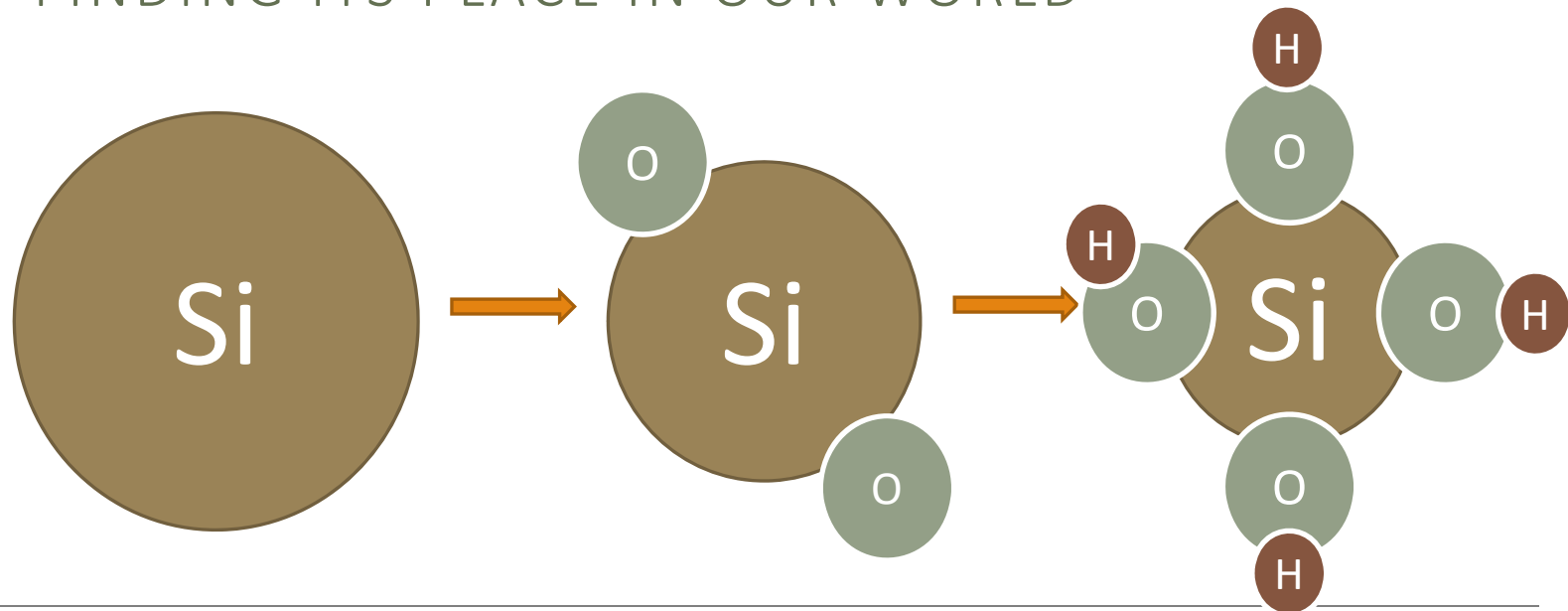
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This presentation contains forward-looking statements based on management's current expectations, estimates and projections. The nature of the Company's business and the many countries in which it operates subject it to changing economic, competitive, regulatory and technological conditions, risks and uncertainties. In accordance with the "safe harbor" provisions of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company provides the following cautionary remarks regarding important factors that, among others, could cause future results to differ materially from the results contemplated by forward-looking statements, including the expectations and assumptions expressed or implied herein. Forward-looking statements contained herein could include, among other things, statements about management's confidence in and strategies for performance; expectations for new and existing products, technologies and opportunities; and expectations regarding growth, sales, cash flows, and earnings. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of such terms as "may," "could," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "believe," "likely," "estimate," "plan" or other comparable terms.

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# Silicon

FINDING ITS PLACE IN OUR WORLD



A NON-TRADITIONAL PRODUCT AND  
THE PROCESS OF BECOMING  
ESSENTIAL



Discovery

# Taking Si Mainstream

Gate 1

Stage 1  
Scoping

Generic Phase-Gate Model

Gate 2

Stage 2  
Build Business Case

Stage 5  
Launch

Gate 3

Stage 3  
Development

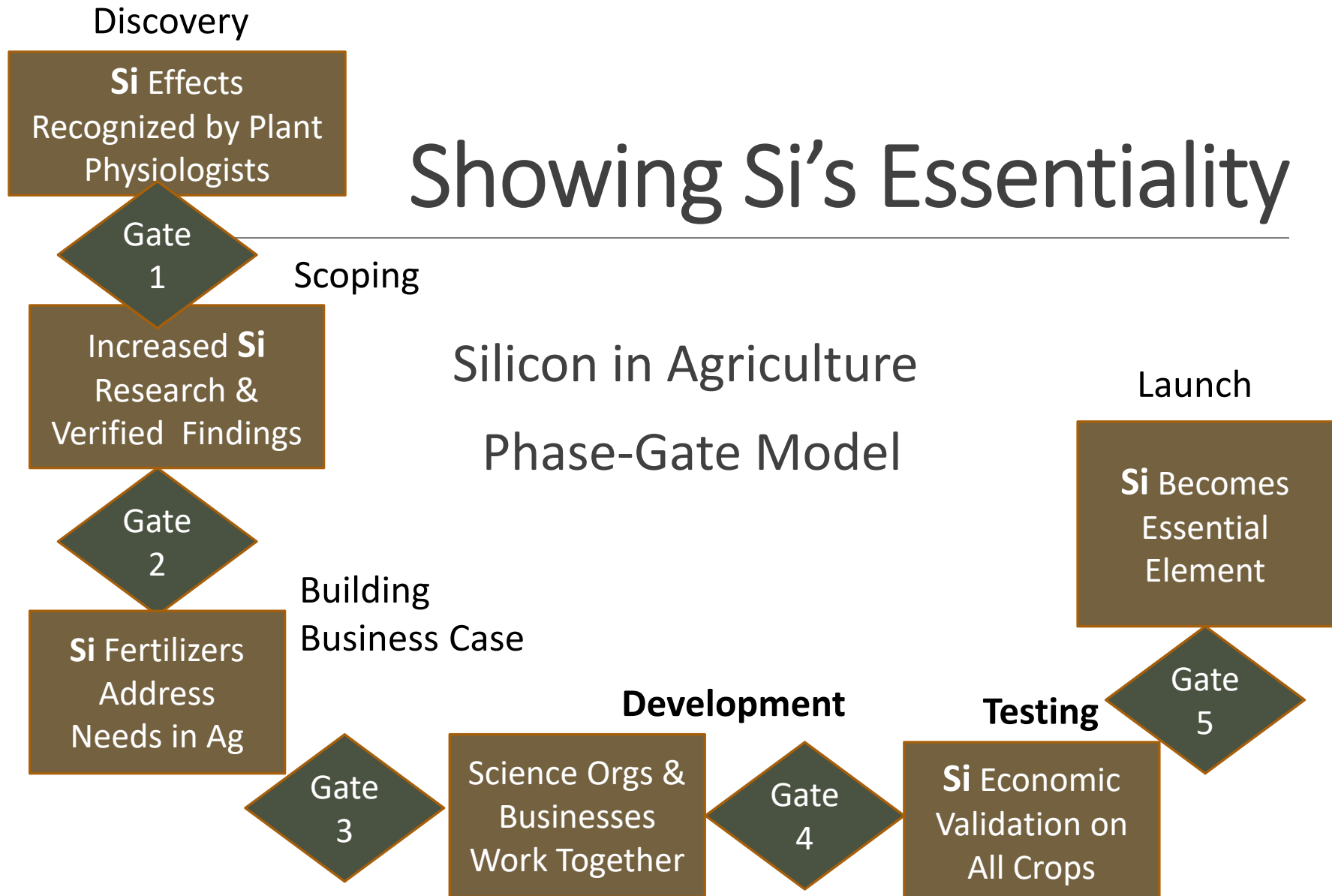
Gate 4

Stage 4  
Testing & Validation

Gate 5

DRIVING NEW PRODUCTS TO MARKET

# Showing Si's Essentiality



Recognizing **Si** as Essential

# Discovering Silicon

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Discovery

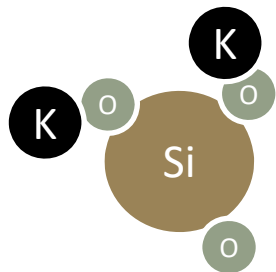
Effects of Si as Discovered by  
Plant Physiologists

# Discovering Silicon: Relevant Terminology

## Not Plant-Available Silicon



- **Silicon:** (silikən, 'silə,kän) The chemical element, a nonmetal with semiconducting properties, used in making electronic circuits



Silicate

- **Silicate:** (sĭl'ĭ-kāt') Any of a large class of chemical compounds composed of silicon, oxygen, and at least one metal. *Most rocks and minerals are silicates*



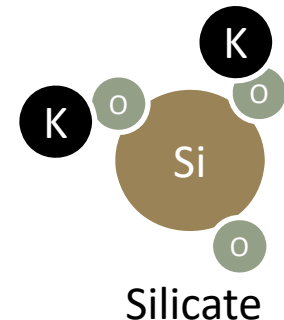
Silica

- **Silica:** (silikə) a hard, unreactive, colorless compound *that occurs as the mineral quartz and as a principal constituent of sandstone and other rocks*
- **Silicone** – not relevant here

# Discovering Silicon

## Laying the Groundwork

- The second most abundant element in the soil after oxygen.
- Approximately 28% of earth's crust
- Most widely distributed as silica or aluminosilicates (i.e. rocks and sand)
- Ubiquitous... It's everywhere
- Silicas and silicates are not plant available



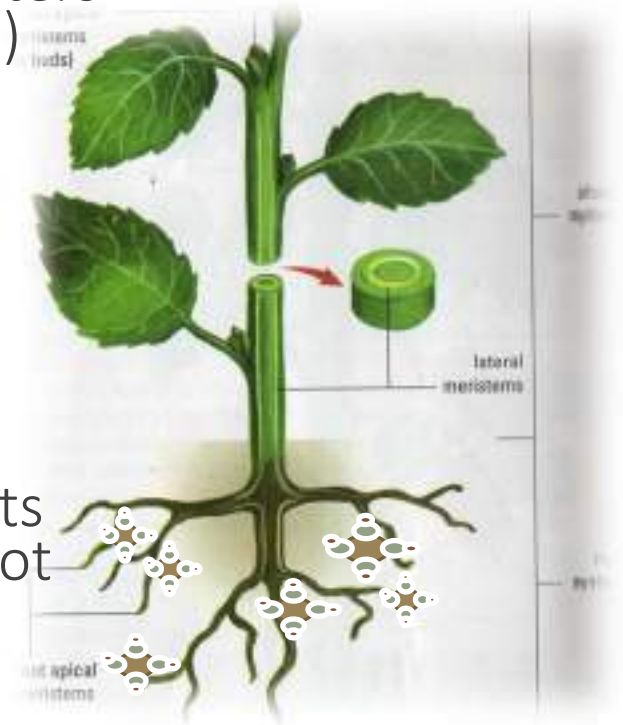
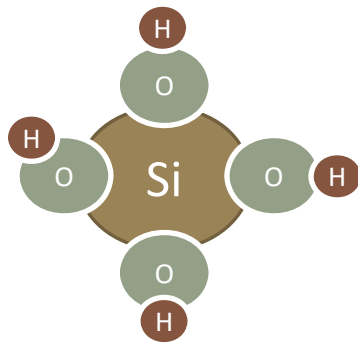
PHASE 0: DISCOVERY



# Discovering Silicon

## Plant-Available Silicon: Roots to Shoots

- Plants can only absorb silicon as monosilicic acid ( $\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$ )
  - $\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_4$  uses specific Si transporters only found in roots (not in leaves)
  - Si-Accumulators & Si-Nonaccumulators: misleading terminology
  - Si is found in ALL terrestrial plants ranging from 0.1% to 10% of shoot dry weight



PHASE 0: DISCOVERY

# Discovering Silicon

## Plant Accumulation of Essential Elements

- Si is found in ALL terrestrial plants ranging from 0.1% to 10% of shoot dry weight
- Silicon uptake occurs by
  - Active (faster uptake than H<sub>2</sub>O)
  - Passive (similar to H<sub>2</sub>O)
  - Rejective (slower than H<sub>2</sub>O)

*Typical concentrations sufficient for plant growth. After E. Epstein. 1965. "Mineral metabolism" pp. 438-466. in: Plant Biochemistry (J. Bonner and J.E. Varner, eds.) Academic Press, London.*

Element	Symbol	mg/kg	percent	Relative number of atoms
Nitrogen	N	15,000	1.5	1,000,000
Potassium	K	10,000	1.0	250,000
Calcium	Ca	5,000	0.5	125,000
Magnesium	Mg	2,000	0.2	80,000
Phosphorus	P	2,000	0.2	60,000
Sulfur	S	1,000	0.1	30,000
Chlorine	Cl	100	--	3,000
Iron	Fe	100	--	2,000
Boron	B	20	--	2,000
Manganese	Mn	50	--	1,000
Zinc	Zn	20	--	300
Copper	Cu	6	--	100
Molybdenum	Mo	0.1	--	1
Nickel	Ni	0.1	--	1

PHASE 0: DISCOVERY

# Recognizing Si as Essential

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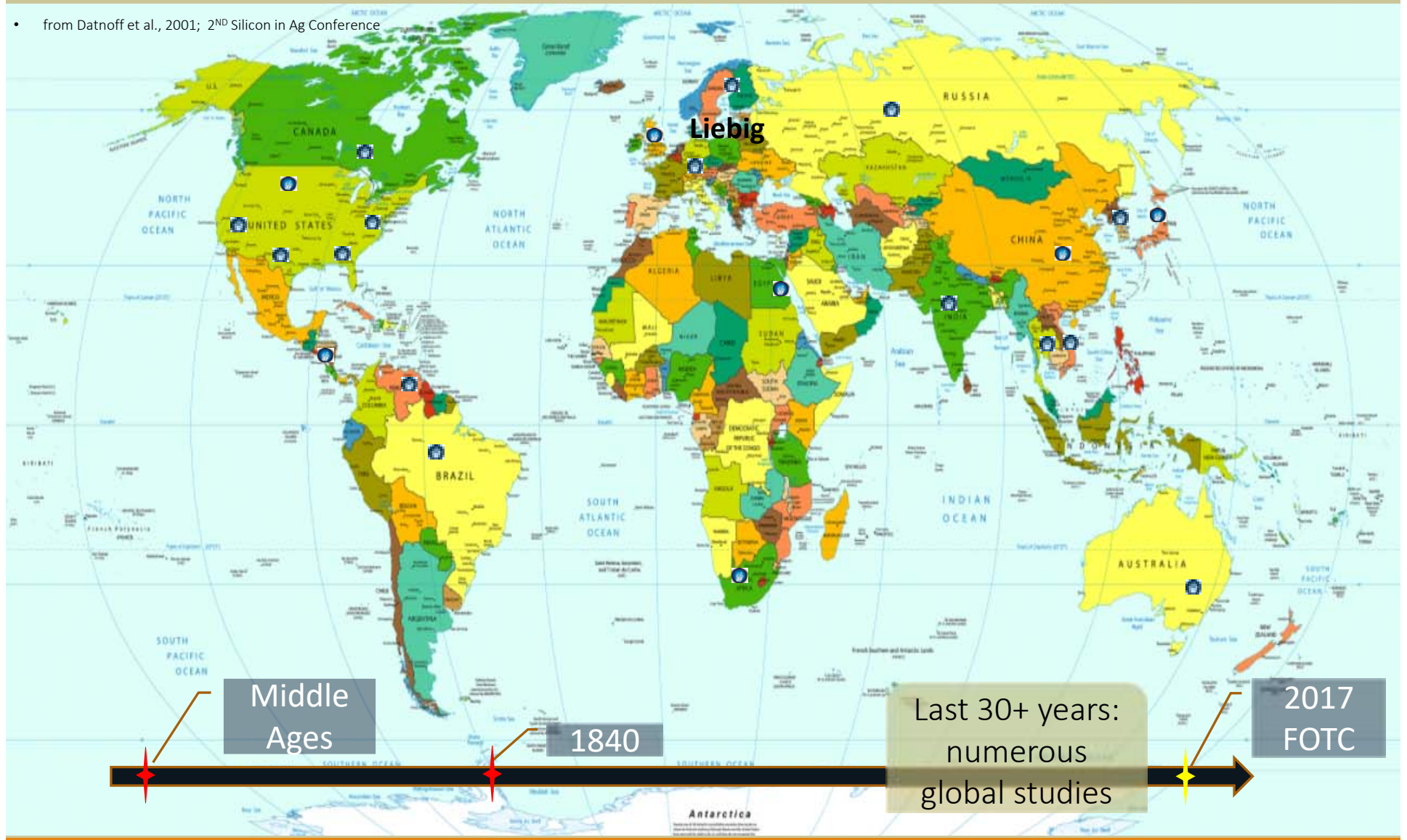
Gate  
1

Scoping

Global Research on Si in  
Agriculture Show Consistent  
Beneficial Effects

# Silicon Researched on Global Scale

- from Datnoff et al., 2001; 2<sup>ND</sup> Silicon in Ag Conference



**PHASE 1: SCOPING**

# Compilation of Si Research

## *IN THE PLANT*

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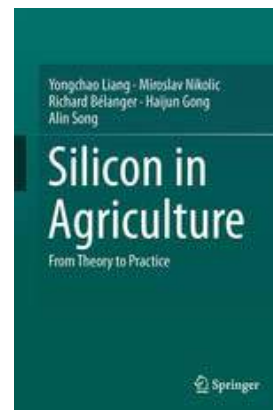
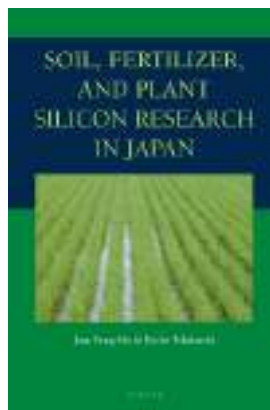
- Enhancement of growth, yield, and quality
- Promotion of mechanical strength
- Promotion of photosynthesis
- Resistance to insufficient sunshine or shading
- Resistance to drought stress and therefore efficient water use
- Resistance to biotic stress (disease, pest)
- Promote nutrient use efficiency
- Alleviation of stress from mineral toxicity

**PHASE 1: SCOPING**

# Compilation of Si Research *IN THE SOIL*

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- Enhance soil stability
- Improve soil structure
- Improve phosphorous availability
- Resistance to metal toxicity



PHASE 1: SCOPING

# Recognizing Si as Essential

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Gate  
2

Building the Business Case

**Si Fertilization Addresses  
Needs in Agriculture**

# Si FERTILIZATION ADDRESSES AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

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## What are the Basic Needs in Agriculture?

- Restore soil tilth and fertility
- Improve crop yield
- Protect crops once planted

## Under Less than Ideal Growing Conditions:

- Certain silicon products **can** restore soil tilth and fertility
- Silicon products **can** Improve crop yield
- Silicon products **can** protect crops once planted

PHASE 2: BUILDING THE BUSINESS CASE



# Si FERTILIZATION ADDRESSES AGRICULTURAL NEEDS

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## **Lastly, But Most Importantly: What do Growers Want?**

- Minimize environmental risks
- Improve crop economics
- Generally, make life easier for them

# Si PRODUCTS COMMERCIALIZED

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## Various Si Sources used in the Market

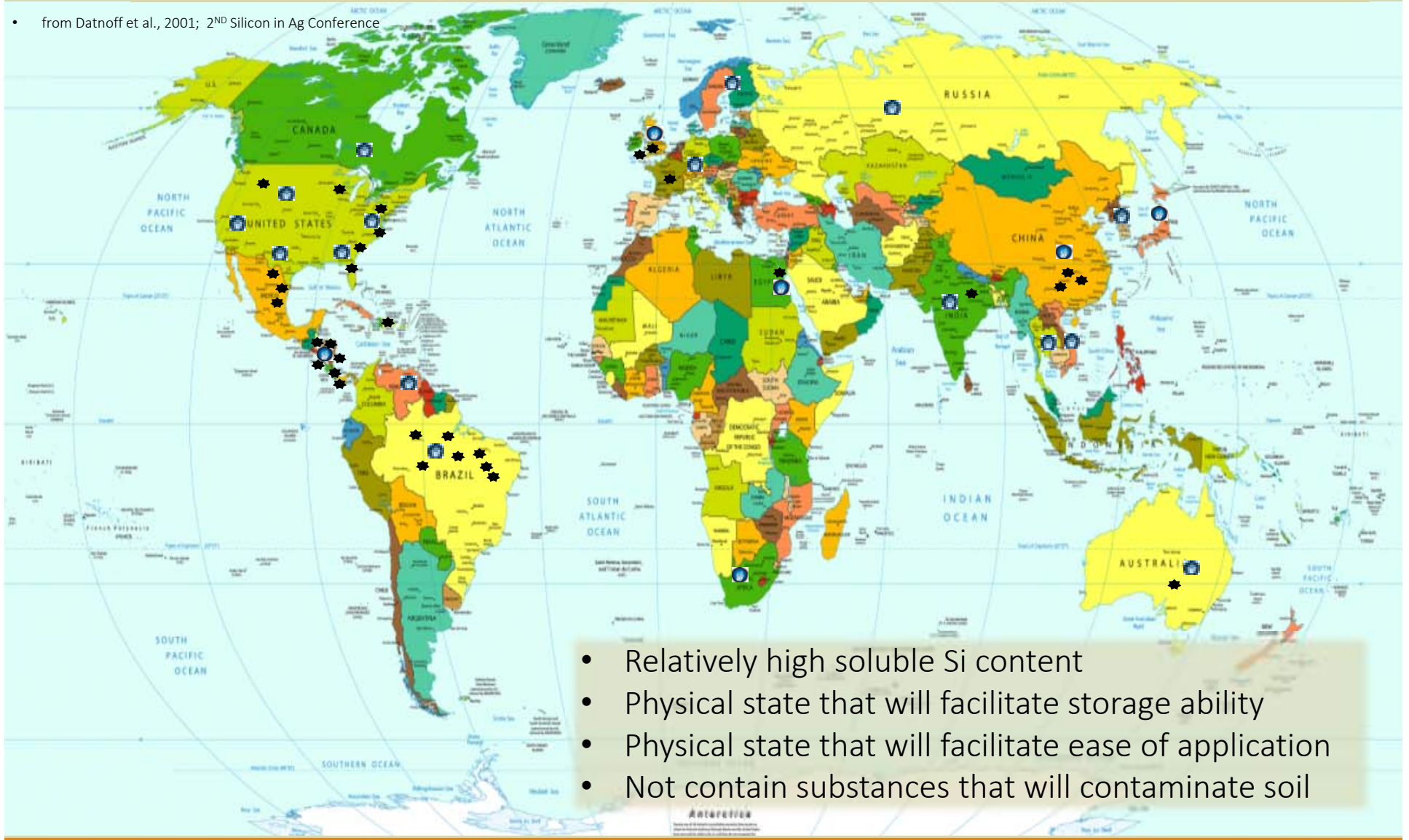
- Calcium silicate
- Calcium magnesium silicate
- Crop residues – rice hull ash
- Diatomaceous earth
- Orthosilicic acid
- Potassium silicate
- Sodium silicate



PHASE 2: BUILDING THE BUSINESS CASE

# Silicon-Based Products Sold Globally

- from Datnoff et al., 2001; 2<sup>ND</sup> Silicon in Ag Conference



- Relatively high soluble Si content
- Physical state that will facilitate storage ability
- Physical state that will facilitate ease of application
- Not contain substances that will contaminate soil

**PHASE 2: BUILDING THE BUSINESS CASE**

# Recognizing Si as Essential

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Gate  
3

Development

Science Orgs & Businesses  
Work Together

# Silicon: Validating its Value

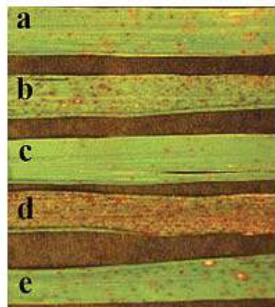
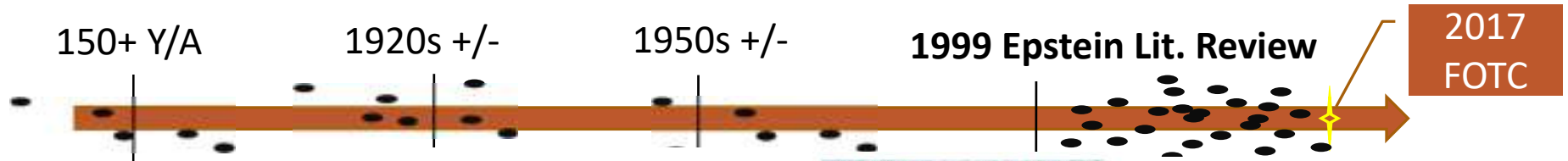


Fig. 12. Symptoms of brown spot as influenced by applications of silicon (a and e), propiconazole (b), the combination of silicon + propiconazole (c), and the nontreated control (d). Reprinted from Crop Protection, Vol. 16, Datnoff, L. E., Deren, C. W., and Snyder, G. H., Silicon fertilization for disease management of rice in Florida, p. 529, 1997, with permission from Elsevier.

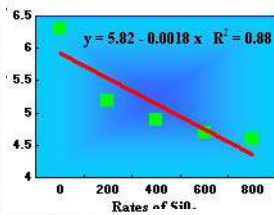


Fig. 9. Effect of wollastone on the severity of grain discoloration in rice grown under different silicon conditions. Each data point represents mean grain discoloration for a specific silicon rate. Source: Prat et al.

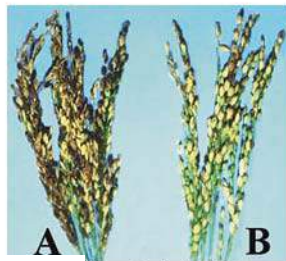


Fig. 13. Symptoms of grain discoloration on panicles of the rice cultivar BG 367-4 from non-amended control plants (A) and plants grown at the highest silicon rate (800 kg/ha) (B). Photo from Dr. Anne

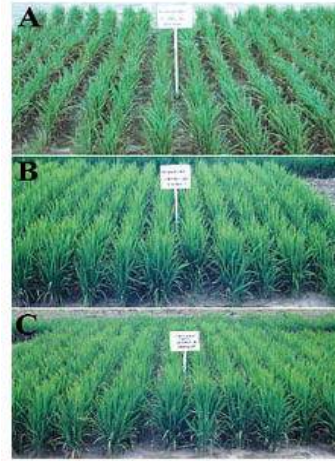
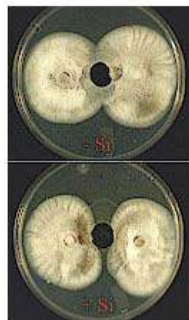
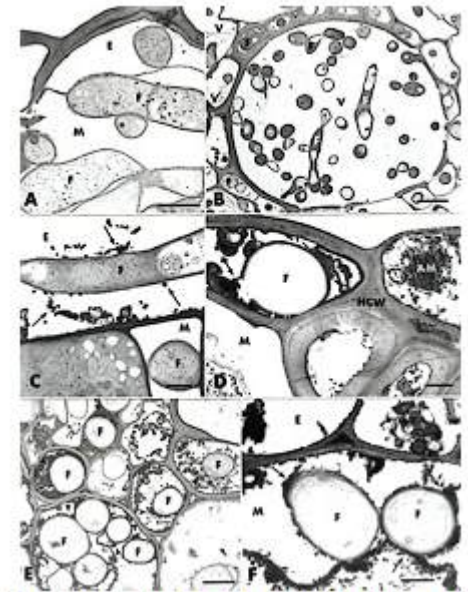


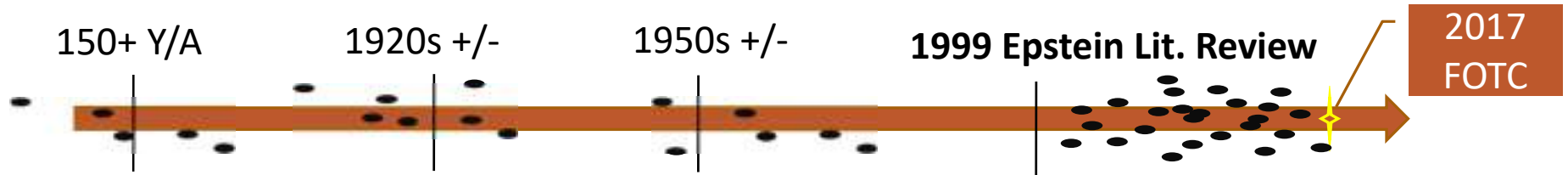
Fig. 14. Overall symptoms of blast on the lower leaves of the rice cultivar Oryza 1 for the non-amended control (A) in comparison to plants amended with Si (B) or treated with fungicides (C). Note the clear difference in plant vigor between the non-amended control and the treatments receiving either Si or fungicides.



2017  
FOTC

PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT

# Silicon: Marketing its Value



Harsco Metals & Minerals uploaded a video



The Benefits of Soluble Silicon for plant health and growth - Professor

Harsco Metals & Minerals • 4.5K views • 3 years ago

Professor Lawrence Datnoff, Dpt Head for Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology at Louisiana State



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write Benefits of Silicon - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzYnmfy4Yb8>

May 26, 2016 - Uploaded by Plant Tuff Inc.

Dr. Brenda Tubana and Agronomist Rob Schaefer go in depth on the benefits of Silicon. Plant Tuff 3 in 1 ...

Silicon Wendy Zellner - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

Sep 30, 2015 - Uploaded by Plant Tuff Inc.

Dr. Wendy Zellner of the USDA presents on the benefits of Silicon at Center For Excellence. Dr. Zellner's ...

PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT

# DEVELOPING A PLACE FOR Si FERTILIZERS IN AGRICULTURE



**2020**  
8<sup>th</sup> International  
Conference on  
Silicon in Agriculture  
**USA**

**PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT**

# Recognizing Si as Essential

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Gate  
4

TESTING

- Continued Economic Validation of Si on More Crops
- Continued Progress with Test-Method Development
- Consistent Regulatory Oversight

**PHASE 4: TESTING THE MARKET**



# PANEL DISCUSSION: Future Scenario of Silicon in Agriculture

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“Why is silicon still not used routinely for managing plant health and enhancing plant growth under greenhouse and field conditions?”

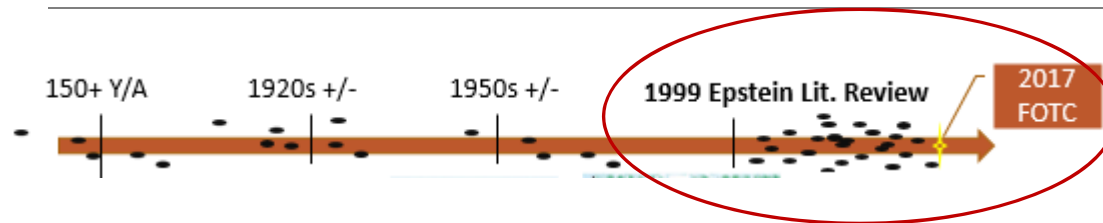
- *Dr. Datnoff Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, ldatnoff@agcenter.lsu.edu*



**PHASE 4: TESTING THE MARKET**

# What is holding producers and growers back from using silicon?

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**Since 1999 when the first silicon in agriculture conference was held:**

- At least five books,
- Over 60 book chapters,
- Numerous reviews and 100s of refereed articles published

**Clearly, the science for silicon is well-documented and comprehensive**

**PHASE 4: TESTING THE MARKET**

# What is holding producers and growers back from using silicon?

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No current soil tests for gauging the amounts of PAS have been calibrated for many agronomic or horticultural crops

Lack of analytical laboratories to test plant tissue for Silicon

- Current procedures used would render silicon insoluble

Many scientist still state that plants are either silicon accumulators OR non-accumulators

- reality all plants accumulate Silicon is not recognized as being necessary for plant development,

Lack of economic studies to show the benefits of applying silicon

**PHASE 4: TESTING THE MARKET**

# Continued Progress with Test-Method Development

Table 1. Methods used to determine soluble and extractable soil Si

Extractant	Soil : Solution Ratio (or recommended weights and volumes)	Method	Suggested critical level	Reference
H <sub>2</sub> O	pre-wet air-dry soil at a matric suction of 0.1 bar	incubate at 25°C for 1 day and centrifuge at 900g (RCF) for 1 hr.		Gillman and Bell, 1978; Menzies and Bell, 1988
H <sub>2</sub> O	saturated paste		2 mg/kg	Fox and Silva, 1978
H <sub>2</sub> O	1g : 1 mL	allow to stand 2 weeks with repeated shaking, filter and centrifuge		Clements <i>et al.</i> , 1967
H <sub>2</sub> O	10 g : 100 ml	continuous shaking for 4 hrs. and centrifuge at 24,000g (RCF)	< 0.9 mg/kg (deficient) < 2.0 mg/kg (marginal) 8.0 mg/kg	Fox <i>et al.</i> , 1967; Elawad <i>et al.</i> , 1982
H <sub>2</sub> O	10 g : 100 ml	"incubation method" - shake, degase, seal bottles, incubate at 40°C for 1 week, centrifuge at 4000g		Takahashi and Shimada, 1978
0.01 M NaCl	1:200	shaker at 250 C	< 100 mg/kg (deficient-marginal)	Hurney, 1973
0.005 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1 : 200	continuous shaking for 16 hrs and centrifuged	< 15 mg/kg (deficient)	Snyder, 1991; Kornadorer, G. (per. comm.)
0.5 M Acetic acid	1:10	1 hr shake, rest 15 minutes, decant and filter, rest 12 hrs before analysis		Acoyaze and Tinsley, 1964
0.1 M Citric acid	1:50	2 hr shake, rest O/N, 1 hr shake, centrifuge		

“It is possible that there is not a universal extractant that is suitable for determining available Si that will cover all types of materials, and for all soils and soil conditions (Gascho, 2001).

PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT

# Continued Progress with Test-Method Development

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[J AOAC Int. 2013 Mar-Apr;96\(2\):251-9.](#)

**A 5-day method for determination of soluble silicon concentrations in nonliquid fertilizer materials using a sodium carbonate-ammonium nitrate extractant followed by visible spectroscopy with heteropoly blue analysis: single-laboratory validation.**

[Sebastian D<sup>1</sup>](#), [Rodrigues H.](#), [Kinsey C.](#), [Korndörfer G.](#), [Pereira H.](#), [Buck G.](#), [Datnoff L.](#), [Miranda S.](#), [Provance-Bowley M.](#)

Standards catalogue

**ISO/TC 134** 

Fertilizers and soil conditioners

 [ISO/CD 19747](#) [Under development]

Determination of Soluble Silicon Concentrations in Nonliquid Fertilizer Materials

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**PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT**

# Si ECONOMIC VALIDATION ON ALL CROPS (India Speech)

**Table 6.** Assumptions and resulting economic benefits from yield increases due to silicon applications in the base case and two alternate cases.

Assumptions	Base case	Alternate case 1	Alternate case 2
Average yield w/o silicon (kg/h)			
Application rate (ton/ha)			

*Other benefits and costs combined: the base case.* This section duplicates what was done with yield increases but combining all other potential benefits from Si applications. In addition to the base case, alternative cases 1 and 2 are also discussed (Table 7).

**Table 2.** Influence of calcium silicate and mercuric fungicide alone and in combination at two different nitrogen levels on % neck blast incidence and grain yield<sup>1</sup>.

Treatments	% Neck blast		Grain weight (g/2.9 m <sup>2</sup> )	
	50 kg/ha	75 kg/ha	50 kg/ha	75 kg/ha
Silicon (Si)*	12	11.2	1398.7	1415.7
Fungicide (Fu)**	10.1	7.4	1302.0	1357.3
Si + Fu	1.7	2.5	1425.0	1504.7
Control	26.5	42.5	1018.0	1012.7

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Hitar et al. (1982).

\* Calcium silicate applied at 2.25 ton/ha.

\*\* Mercuric fungicide = phenyl mercuric acetate-calcium carbonate mixture (1:1) applied at 40 kg/ha.

Potential benefits (\$/ha/year), other than yield increases, due to silicon in the base case and two alternate cases.

Potential benefits	Base case	Alternate case 1	Alternate case 2
Reducing blast and other diseases	74.69	37.34	0.00
Reducing discoloration	61.60	30.80	30.80
Reducing management	21.00	10.50	10.50
Reducing phosphorus applications	12.75	6.37	8.92
Eliminating lime applications	101.81	50.90	0.00
Extra net revenue (\$/ha/year)	271.85	135.91	50.22

**STAGE 4: TESTING**

# Effect of Silicon on Plant Yield and Quality

Agronomic / Vegetable Crop	Yield increase (%)		Hort Crop	Improved quality
Cucumber	9-26		Apple	Soluble solids/ Vitamin C
Maize	6-10		Cucumber	Sugar/Vitamin C
Rice	4-28		Grape	Soluble solids, sugars, acids
Soybean	8-14		Gerbera	Flower traits
Sugarcane	5-50		Rose	Flower traits
Tomato	8-16		Tomato	> Sugar content
Wheat	5-12		Zinnia	Flower traits

Chapter 11. Effect of silicon on crop growth, yield and quality, Silicon in Agriculture: Theory to Practice

# REGULATORY CONSISTENCY ON NUTRIENT LABELING

## Examples

### Contains Beneficial Substances

**Soluble Silicon** ..... % Si

Derived from: (i.e. Calcium Silicate, Calcium Magnesium Silicate)

Purpose: Soluble Silicon from Monosilicic

acid has been shown to increase plant tolerance to abiotic stressors such as heat, drought, and salinity. Soluble silicon also improves plant structural integrity.



### Contains Beneficial Components

**Available Silicon** .....

Derived from: (i.e. Calcium Silicate, Calcium Magnesium Silicate)



**AgSil 16 H**

*Potassium silicate*

Benefits include stronger cell walls, increased stem strength, increased heat, drought, and cold tolerance, and longer lasting leaves and blooms!

1.6 weight ratio hydrous potassium silicate powder with 82% K<sub>2</sub>O and 59.6% SiO<sub>2</sub> and 14.8% H<sub>2</sub>O

one gallon will give you 7.6% silicon (SiO<sub>2</sub>), which is equivalent to 0.7 grams in one gallon of water yields 98ppm available silicon and 10ppm K

Use in silica solutions with other concentrated fertilizers. It is recommended to add water prior to mixing the powder with other fertilizers.

### Granulated Premium Greens Fertilizer plus Soil Conditioner

#### GUARANTEED ANALYSIS:

Calcium ( Ca ) .....	21.00
Total Magnesium as ( Mg ) .....	2.50
2.00 % Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	
Derived From: Calcium Silicate and Magnesium Sulfate	

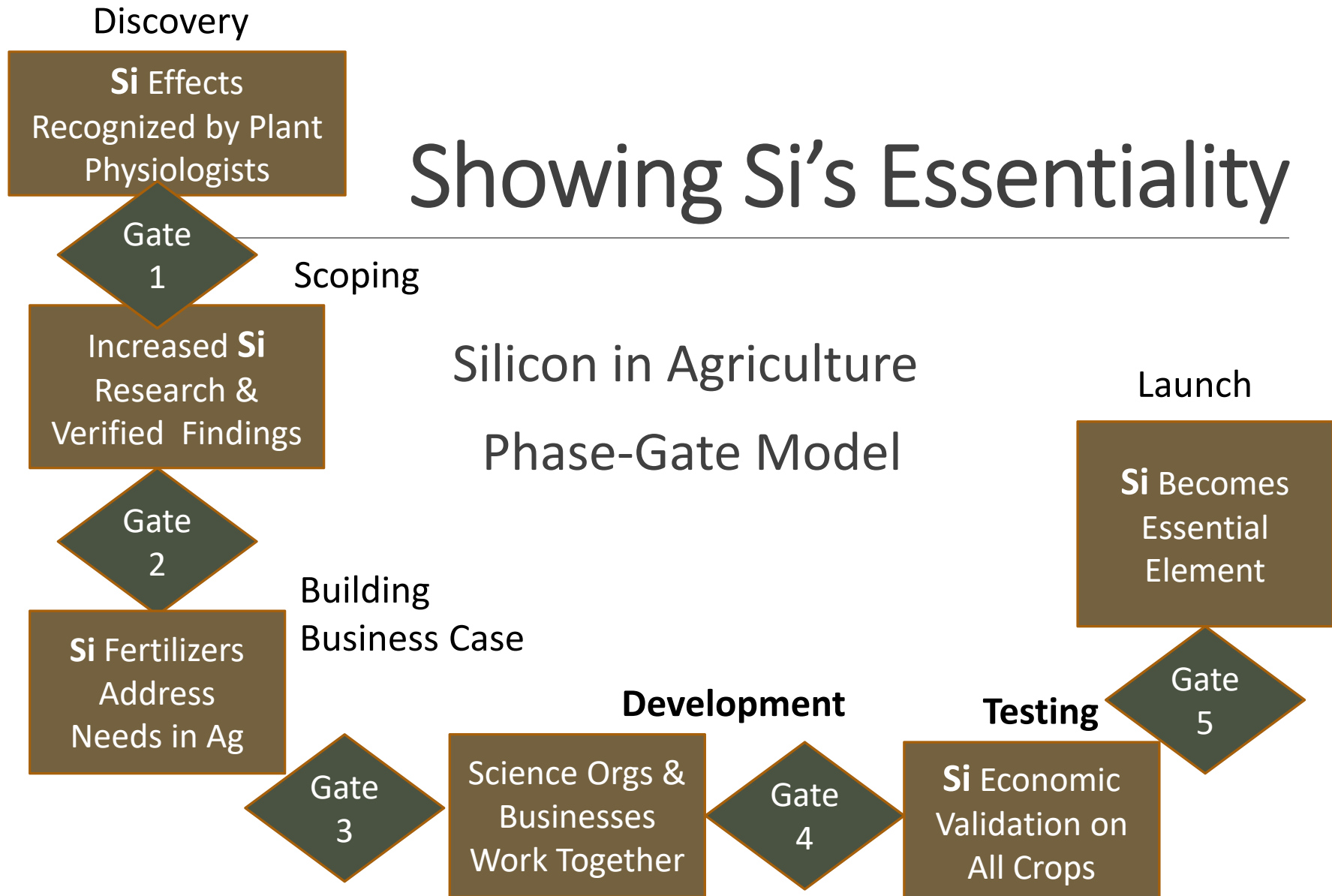
#### SOIL CONDITIONER

Guaranteed Analysis Silicone Dioxide (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ...	29.00
Total Other Ingredients: .....	71.00
Derived From: Calcium Silicate	

STAGE 4: TESTING



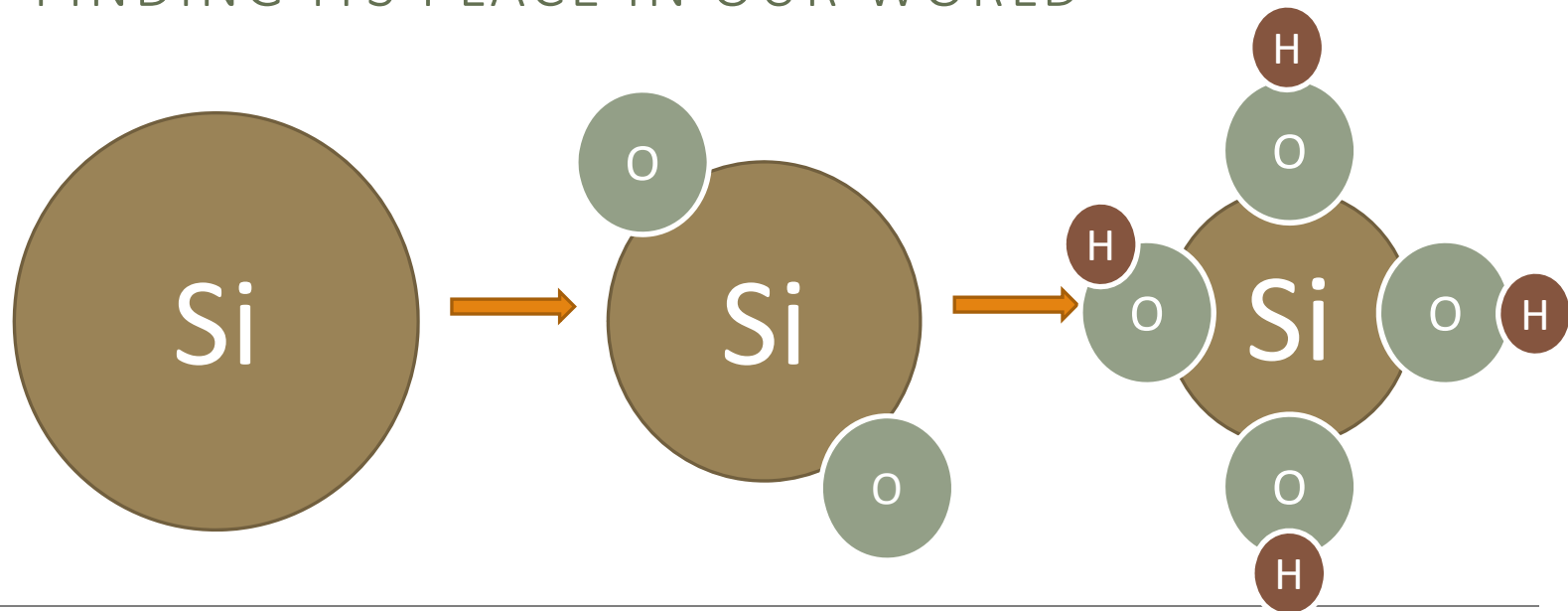
# Showing Si's Essentiality



Recognizing **Si** as Essential

# Silicon

FINDING ITS PLACE IN OUR WORLD



A NON-TRADITIONAL PRODUCT AND  
THE PROCESS OF BECOMING  
ESSENTIAL





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WHAT THEY CRAVE*



**ELEVATES STRESS TOLERANCE**

**EXPLORE THE BENEFITS**