

PANELLA, L.<sup>1</sup> and C. R. SMITH<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>USDA, Agricultural Research Service, 1701 Center Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526 and <sup>2</sup>Summit Plant Laboratories, Inc., 2301 Research Blvd., Suite 106, Ft. Collins, CO 80526. An example of government-industry partnering in which both sides benefit.

The USDA Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) provides a framework for cooperation that protects the interests of the Agricultural Research Service researcher and industry collaborator. The Sugarbeet Research Unit in Fort Collins has a CRADA with Summit Plant Laboratories, Inc. (SPL) to optimize production of clonally propagated sugarbeets. There are many research and breeding uses for sugarbeet clones, including: 1) production of hybrid seed for combining ability tests, 2) minimization of space needed to maintain genotypes undergoing progeny (or clonal) testing, 3) identical genotypes for research experiments, and 4) to archive unique genotypes over time. However, the production of tissue culture-derived clones requires expensive facilities and trained personnel, and even labs that do tissue culture research often are not designed to produce, economically, sufficient clones for field testing. SPL provides plant propagation services and products via laboratory and greenhouse technologies, and specializes in large scale production of elite, disease-indexed planting stocks. The development of new or improved techniques and new plant products is essential to remain competitive and profitable as a small business. Collaboration with USDA-ARS provides access to expertise and research capabilities that exceed R & D resources available within the company. For SPL, this CRADA has resulted in: 1) a reliable protocol to clonally propagate sugarbeets that can be offered as a new service/product; 2) a product development model, which estimates costs and times lines when entering new markets; 3) training of technicians in designing and reporting experiments; and 4) exposure in private and public sectors as a vendor of propagation services. For ARS, and other public and private researchers who do not have access to the facilities necessary to produce clonal material on a research or production scale, this CRADA provides access to a commercial source of sugarbeet clones.