

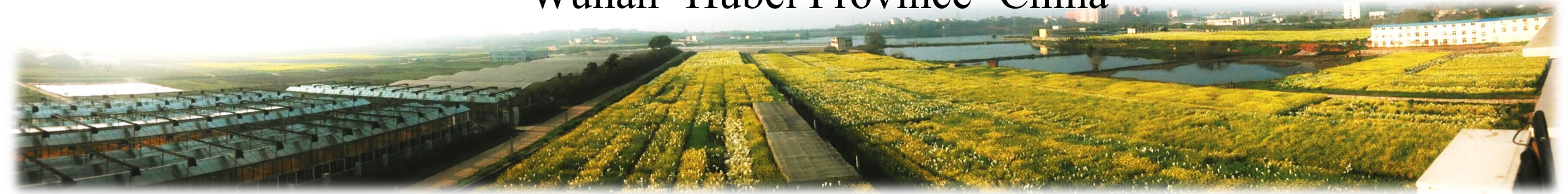


# Comprehensive speed breeding: a high-throughput and rapid generation system for long-day crops

Yixian Song

Huazhong Agricultural University

Wuhan · Hubei Province · China



# outline

- ✿ Accelerated generation advancement is increasingly important for crop improvement
- ✿ Comprehensive Speeding Breeding (CSB) : a high throughput system for rapeseed
- ✿ CSB is powerful for QTL pyramiding
- ✿ CSB shows great potential for rapeseed functional genomics research

## **Part I**

**Accelerated generation advancement is  
increasingly important for crop improvement**

# Higher genetic gain is expected for modern breeding



<https://www.theworldcounts.com/populations/world/people>

**Table 5.1** Increase in agricultural production required to match projected demand, 2005–2050 (percent)

	2005/07	2050	2005/07 2012	2013-2050
<b>World</b>				
As projected in AT2050	100	159.6	14.8	44.8
With updated population projections (UN, 2015)	100	163.4	14.8	48.6
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia</b>				
As projected in AT2050	100	224.9	20.0	104.9
With updated population projections (UN, 2015)	100	232.4	20.0	112.4
<b>Rest of the world</b>				
As projected in AT2050	100	144.9	13.8	31.2
With updated population projections (UN, 2015)	100	147.9	13.8	34.2

Source: FAO Global Perspectives Studies, based on UN, 2015, and Alexandratos and Bruinsma, 2012.

FAO 2022

## Human population VS Genetic gain

How to balance the human population and food supply?

# Breeder's Equation

**Selection intensity**

**Selection accuracy**

**Genetic variance**

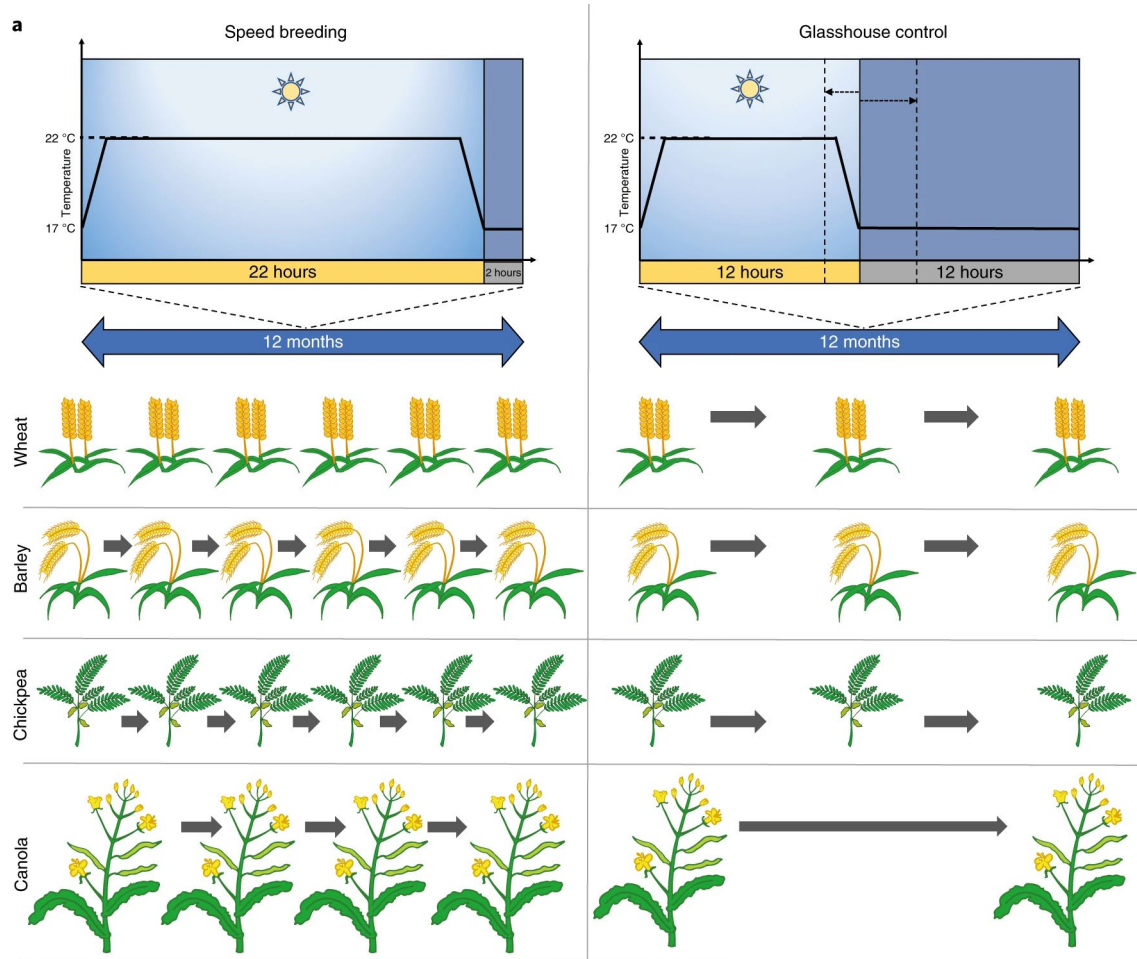
**Genetic gain**

$$\Delta G = \frac{ir\sigma_g}{L}$$

**Cycle time**

A key limiting factor for plant breeding: **the long generation times.**

# Speed breeding: a breakthrough for rapid generation



- 22/17 °C day/night temperature
- 65/85% day/night relative humidity
- 22 h / 2 h photoperiod
- $\sim 500 \mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}$  PPFD



**spring type rapeseed:  
~4 generations/year**

**Speed breeding of major crop plants**

# An ideal speed breeding system should be

- ✦ Compatible for different ecotype
- ✦ Simple and efficient
- ✦ High-throughput
- ✦ Suitable for phenotypic investigation

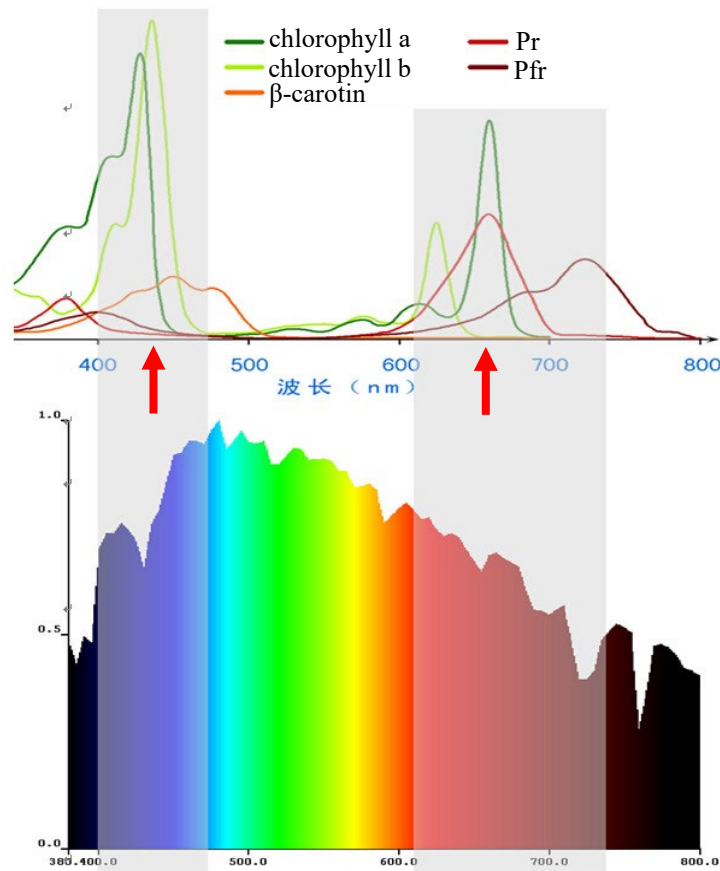


- An optimum environment conditions (light)
- A fast vernalization method (for winter and semi-winter type)

## **Part II**

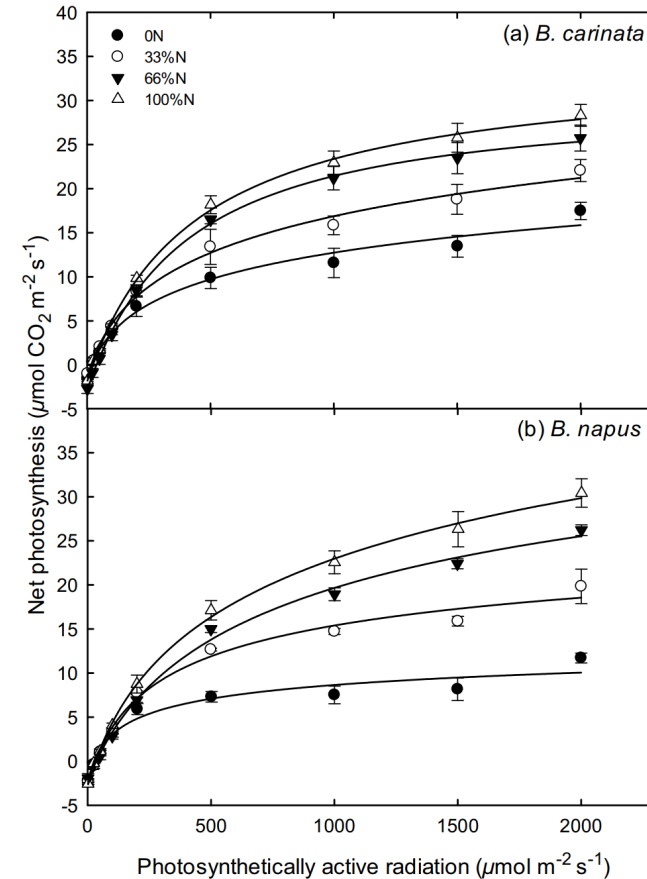
**Comprehensive Speeding Breeding (CSB):  
a high throughput system for rapeseed**

# The photosynthesis characteristic of plants



Light absorption of plants and the spectrum of sun light

(Bantis et al. 2018)



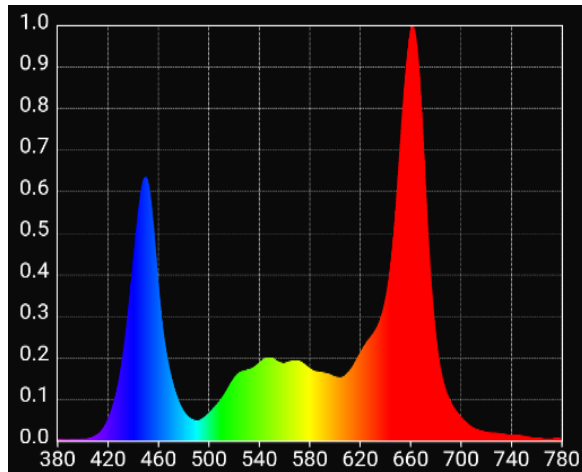
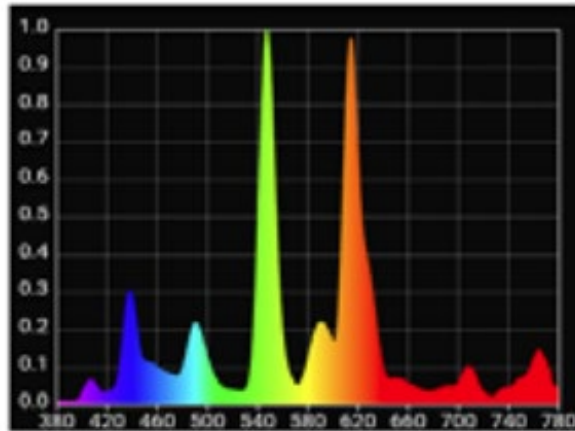
Net photosynthesis of *Brassica* as a function of photosynthetically active radiation

(Seepaul et al. 2016)

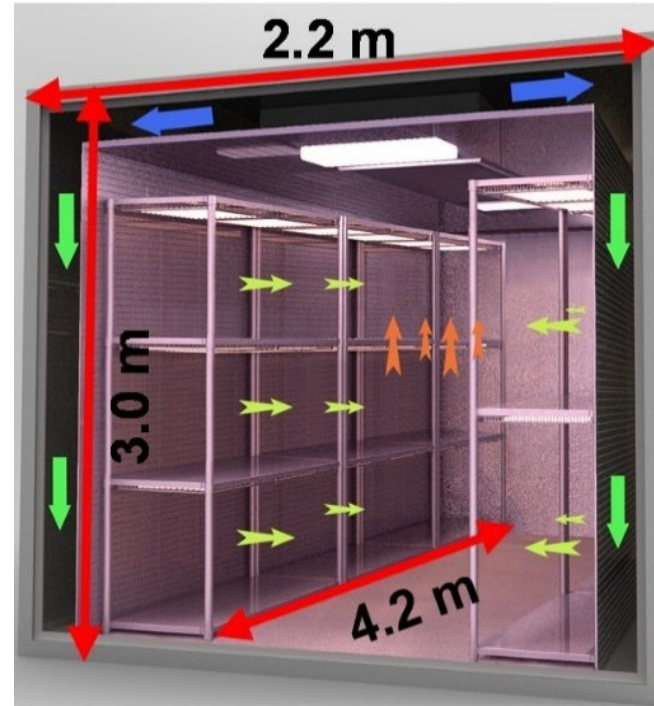
Rational design of the light spectrum and intensity is important in speed breeding system.

# Optimized the SB system

Fluorescent lamp



Customized LED



10.8 m<sup>2</sup> growth area

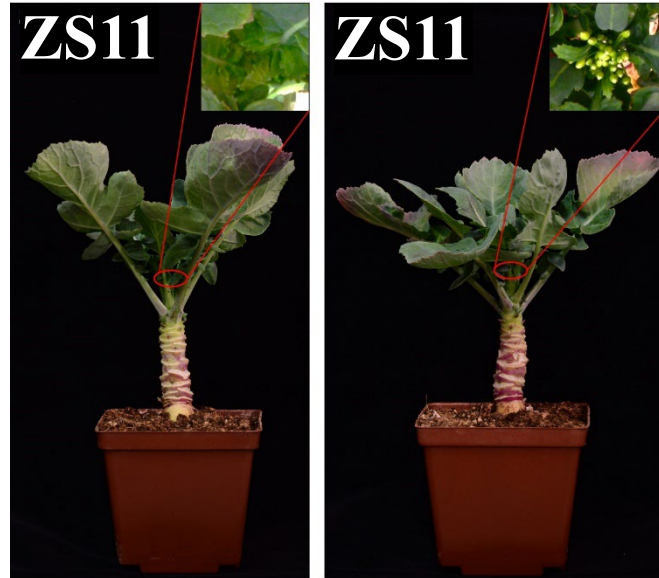
- ✿ 22 °C all day
- ✿ 22 h light +2 h dark photoperiod
- ✿ ~ 950  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{s}$  (10 cm below the LED)
- ✿ **R:G:B=6:2:2**

# Rapeseed reactions to the new SB system

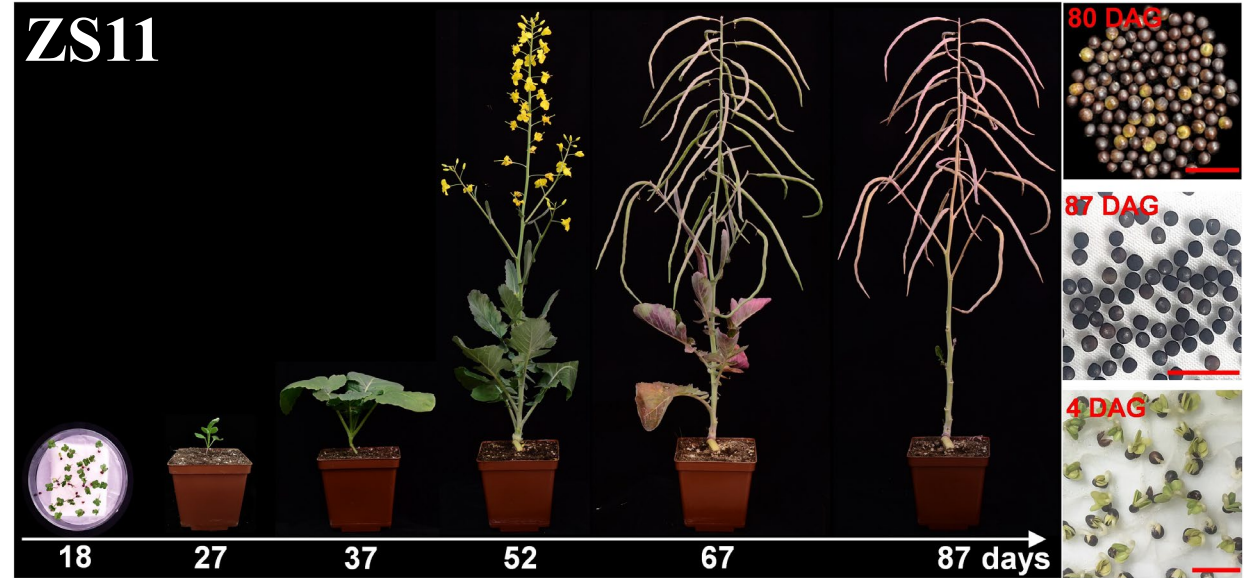


**5.5 generations** per year Westar (no vernalization )  
**40%** in advance (113 to 67 days)

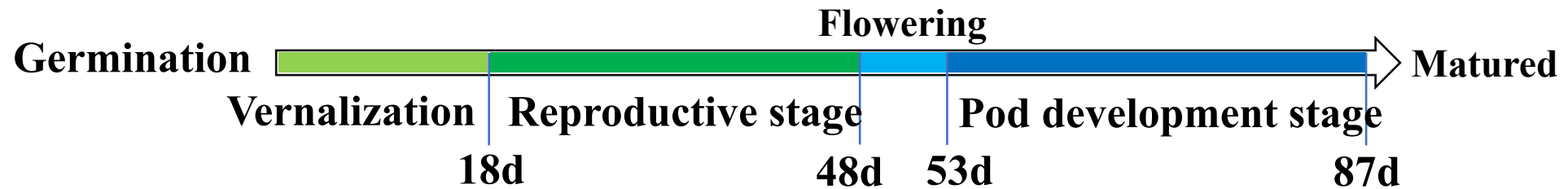
# Rapeseed reactions to the new SB system



**145 DAG without vernalization for semi-winter Zhongshuang11**



**4.5 generations per year with 17-d germinated seeds vernalization**



# Rapeseed reactions to the new SB system

---

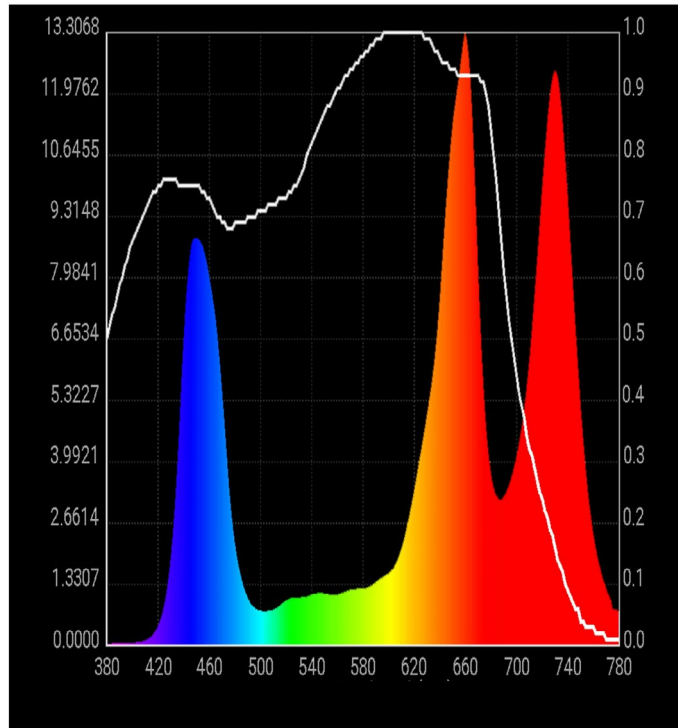


Despite **60 days of VGS**, Darmor-*bzh* plants remained in the vegetative stage at 148 DAG

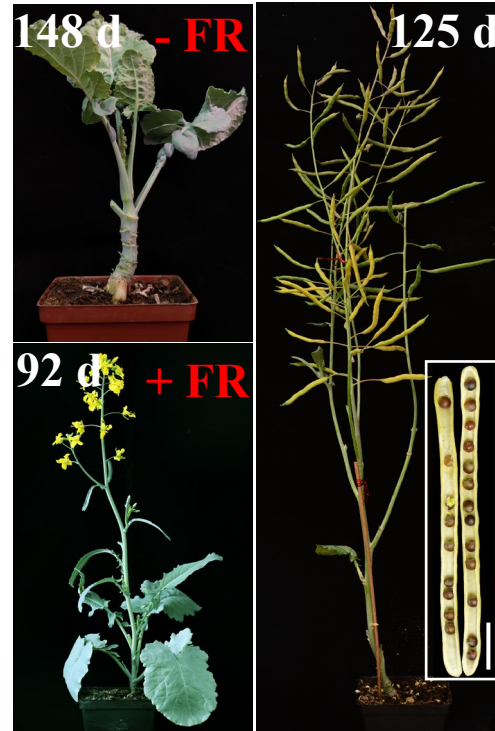


**New SB system failed to work in winter rapeseed**

# Application of far-red light in speed breeding



Optimized spectrum



Darmor-*bzh*  
(55 d vernalization)



Westar



ZS11

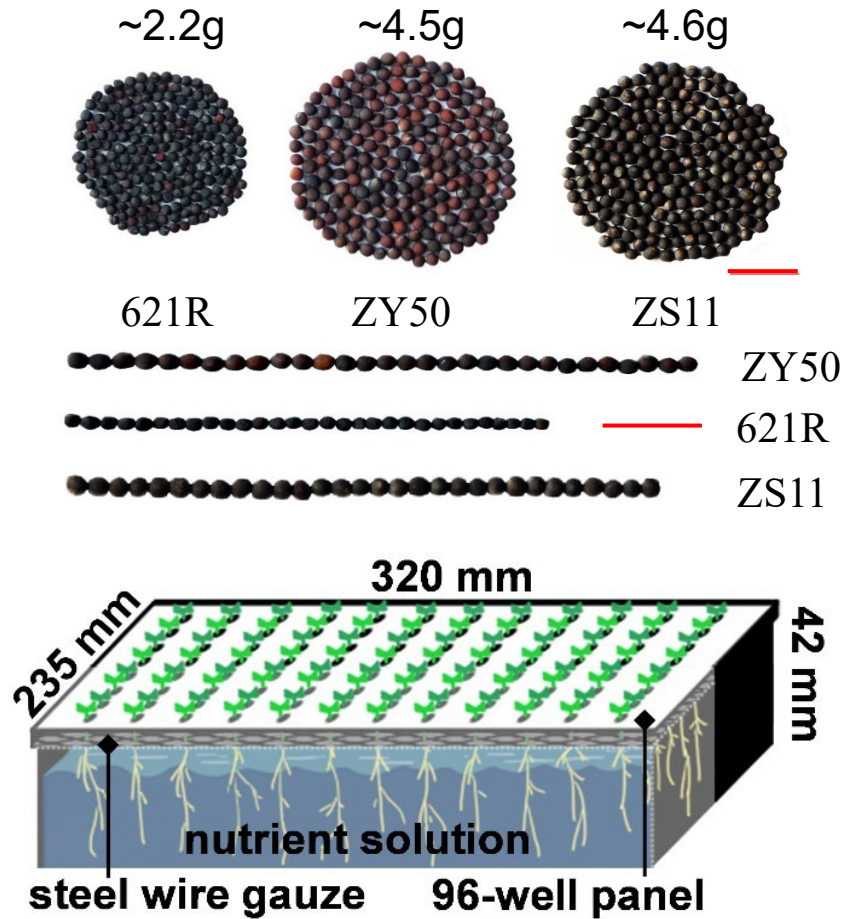
The life cycle of rapeseed could be further decreased with extra add of FR light

**3-6.5** generations per year; for all types of rapeseed

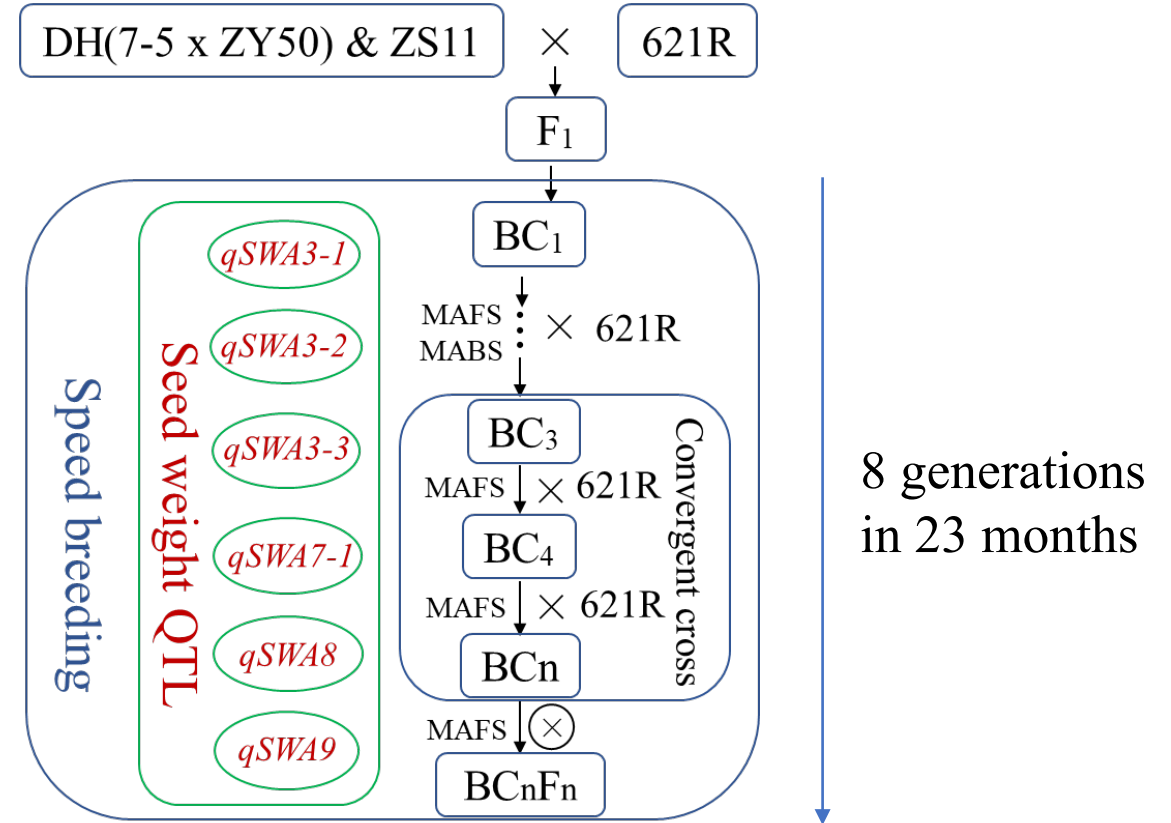
## **Part III**

**CSB is powerful for QTL pyramiding**

# QTL pyramiding to enhance TSW of an elite polima CMS restorer 621R

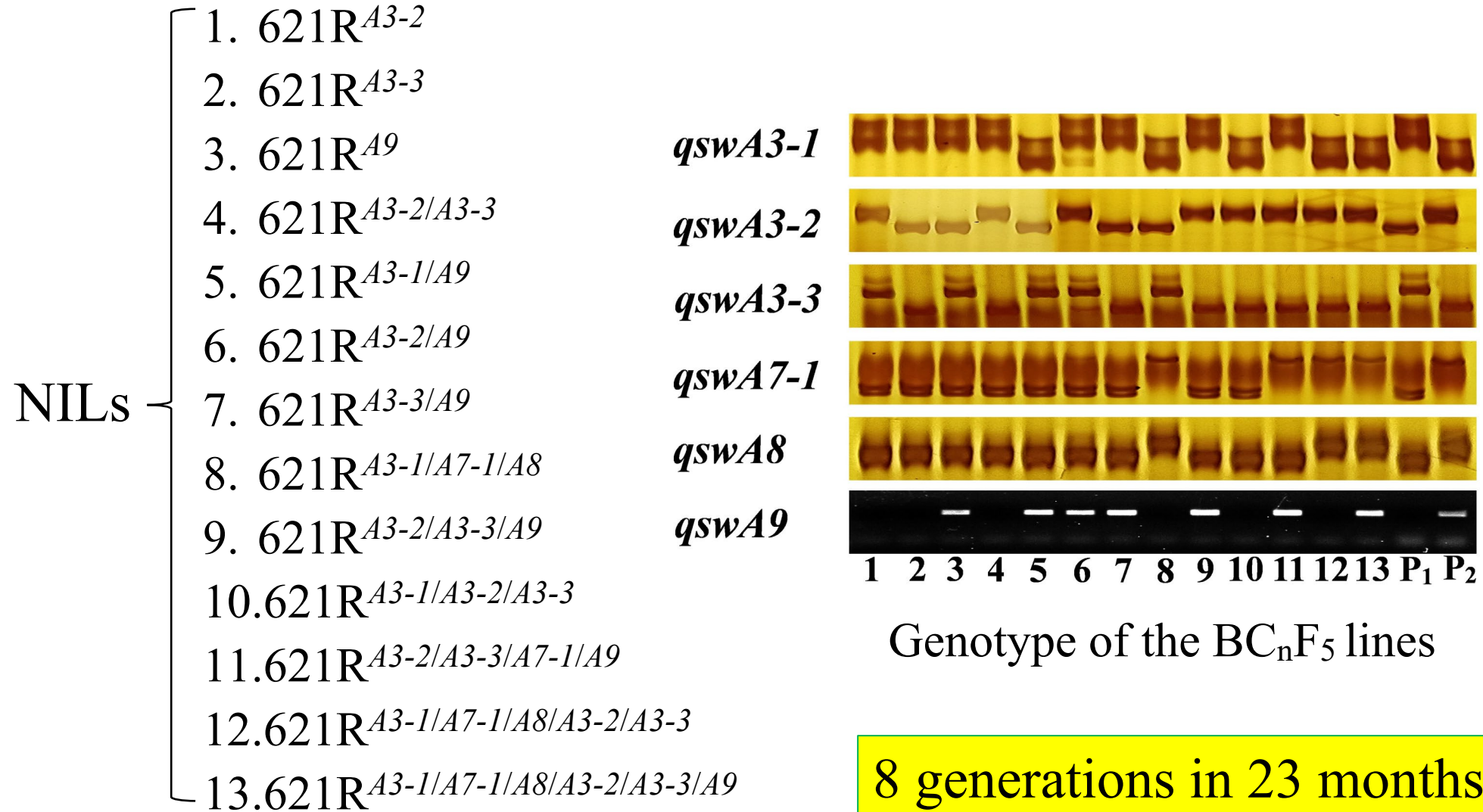


96-well seedling culture tray  
(1000 plants/m<sup>2</sup>)



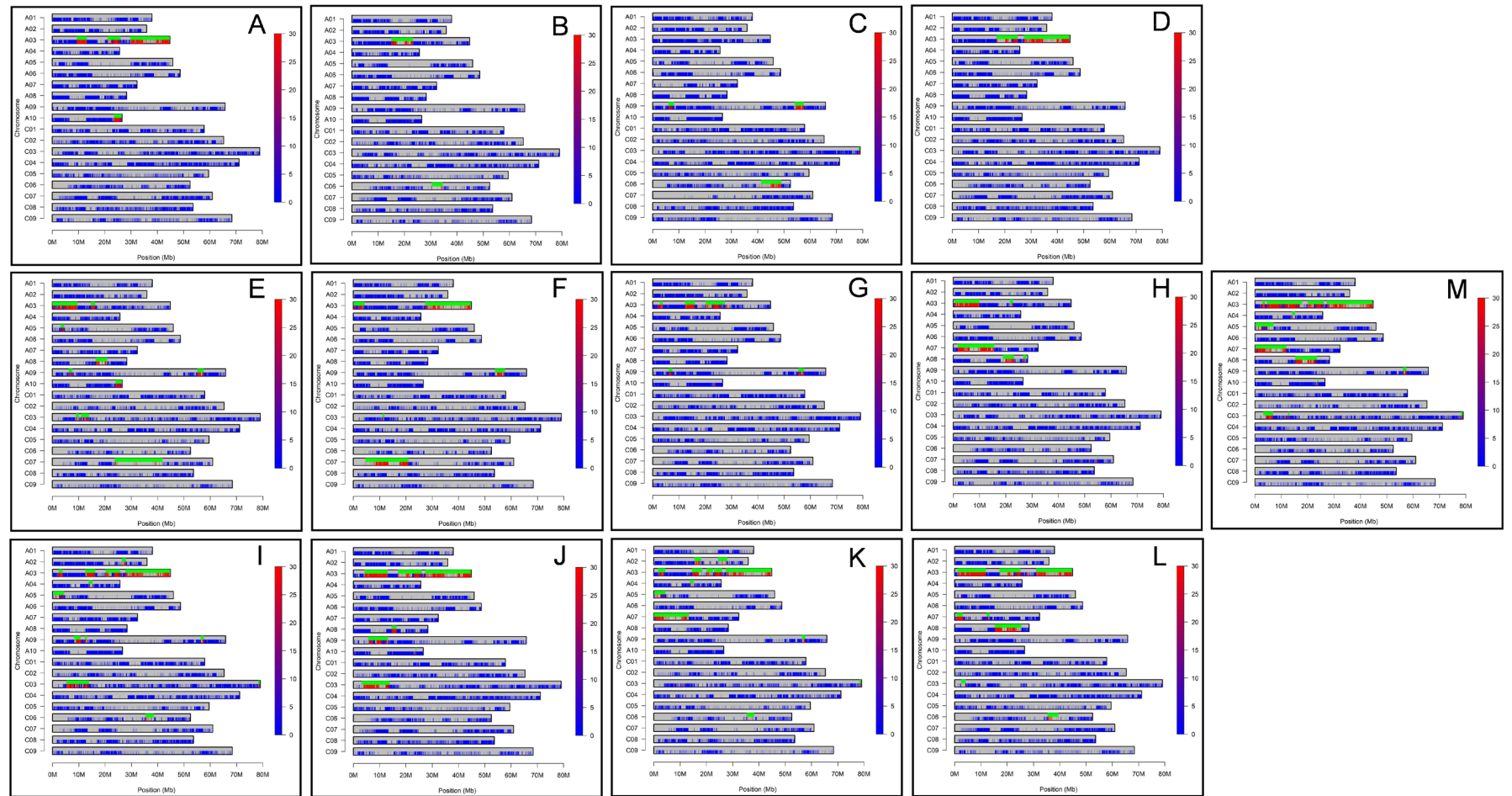
Agronomic trait evaluation; F<sub>1</sub> hybrids

# 13 NILs with different QTL combinations were harvested



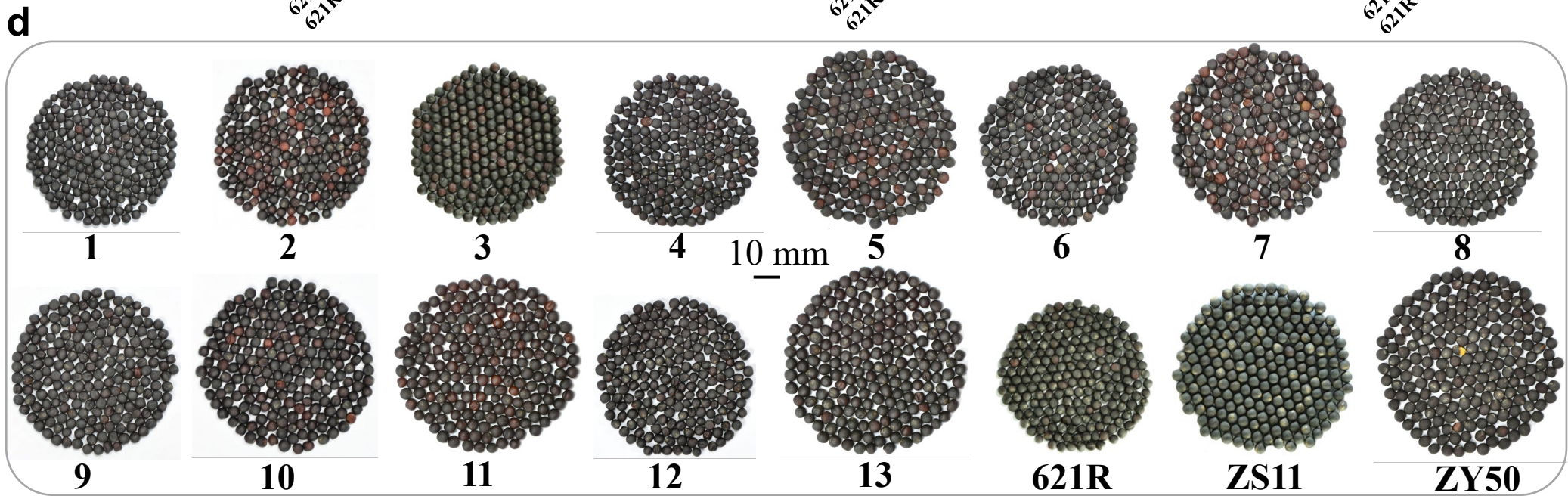
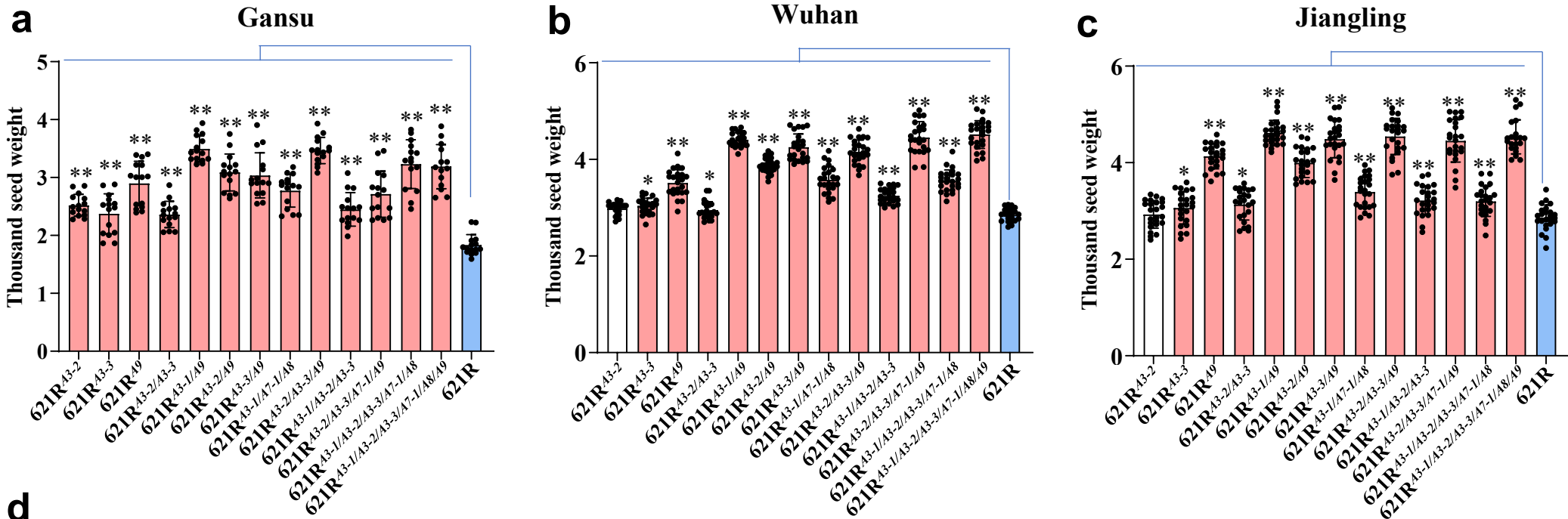
# Improved lines quickly recovered the genetic backgrounds to 621R

- A.  $621R^{A3-2}$
- B.  $621R^{A3-3}$
- C.  $621R^{A9}$
- D.  $621R^{A3-2/A3-3}$
- E.  $621R^{A3-1/A9}$
- F.  $621R^{A3-2/A9}$
- G.  $621R^{A3-3/A9}$
- H.  $621R^{A3-1/A7-1/A8}$
- I.  $621R^{A3-2/A3-3/A9}$
- J.  $621R^{A3-1/A3-2/A3-3}$
- K.  $621R^{A3-2/A3-3/A7-1/A9}$
- L.  $621R^{A3-1/A7-1/A8/A3-2/A3-3}$
- M.  $621R^{A3-1/A7-1/A8/A3-2/A3-3/A9}$



The genome similarity are 97.17%, 98.27%, 98.56%, 97.34%, 95.02%, 95.57%, 97.72%, 96.69%, 93.69%, 94.07%, 93.79%, 93.88%, 91.79%, respectively.

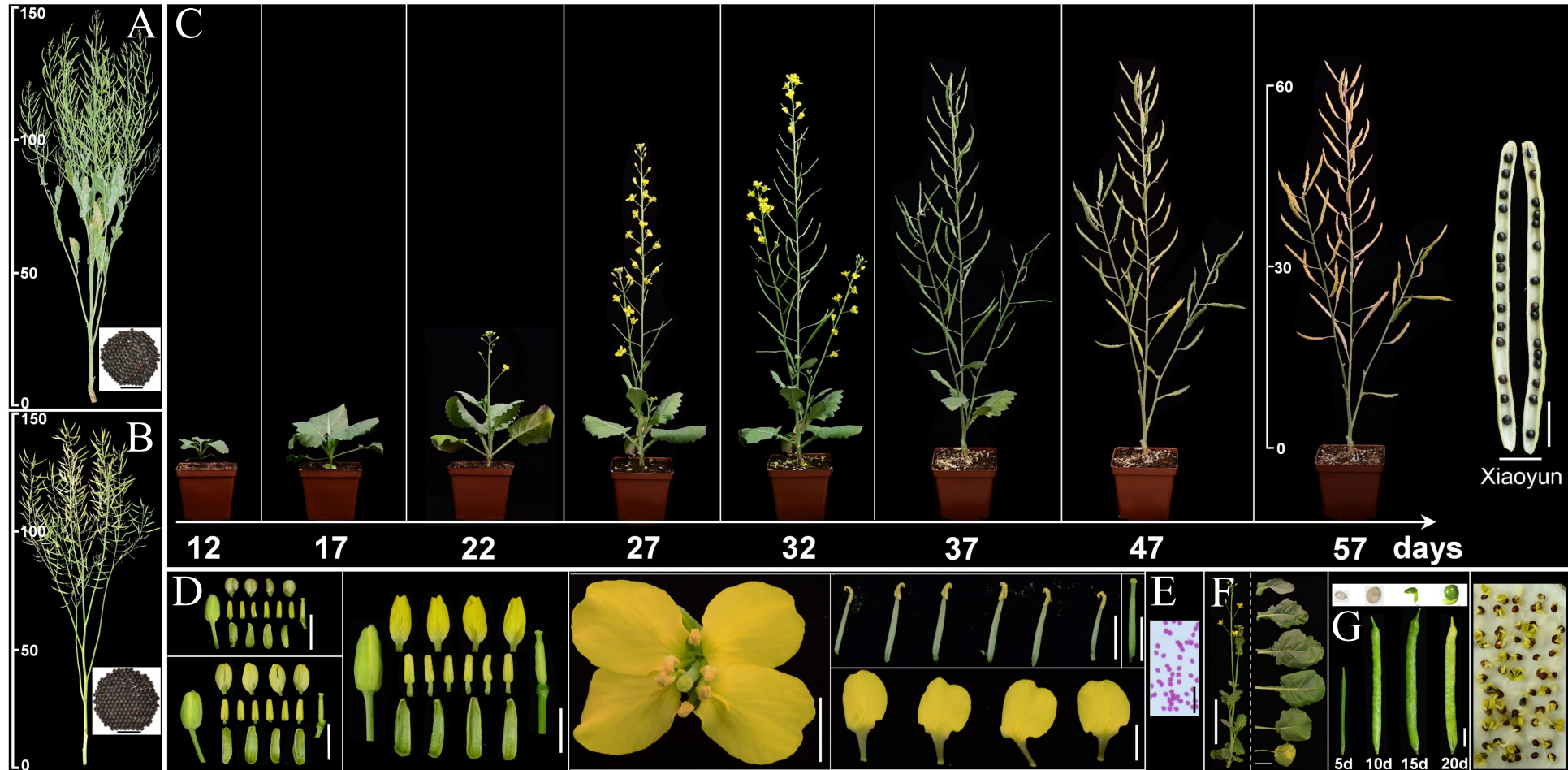
# TSW of the 13 NILs was significantly increased



## **Part IV**

**CSB shows great potential for rapeseed  
functional genomics research**

# Screening of ideal genotype for rapeseed genomics research



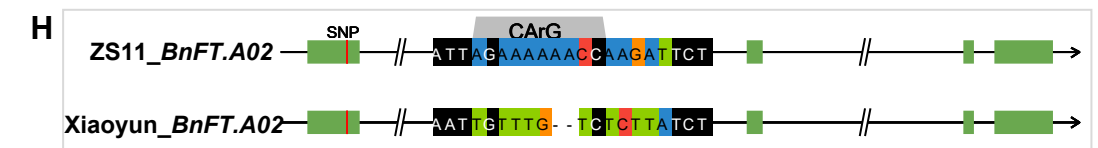
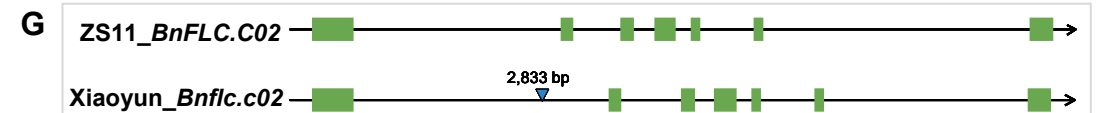
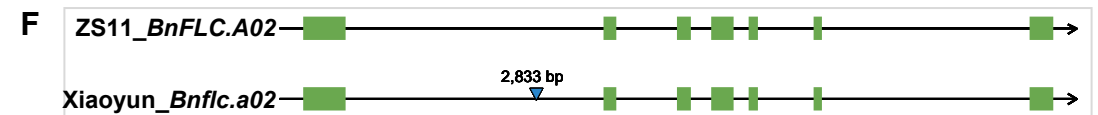
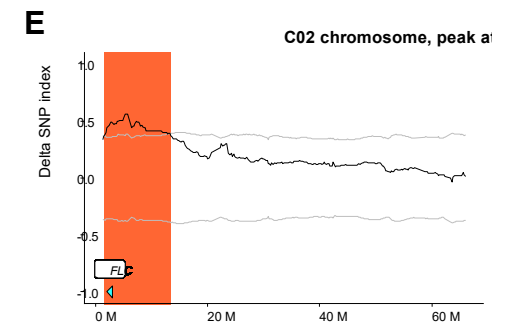
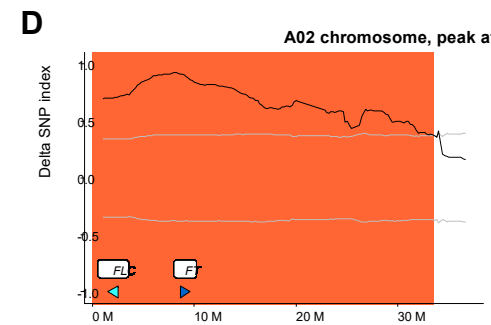
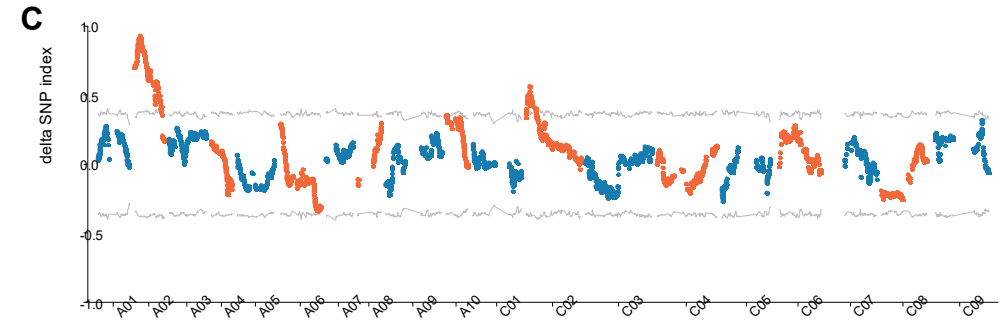
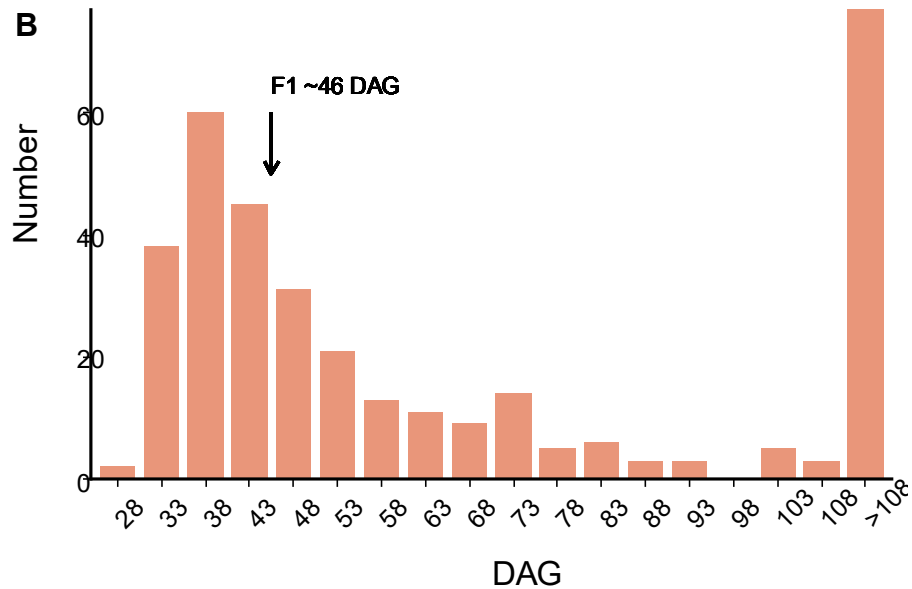
The phenotype of 'Xiaoyun' plants under modified speed breeding environment condition and field environment

**‘小芸 (Xiaoyun)’ shows extremely short life cycle (6.5 generations per year) without morphologic defect in SB conditions.**

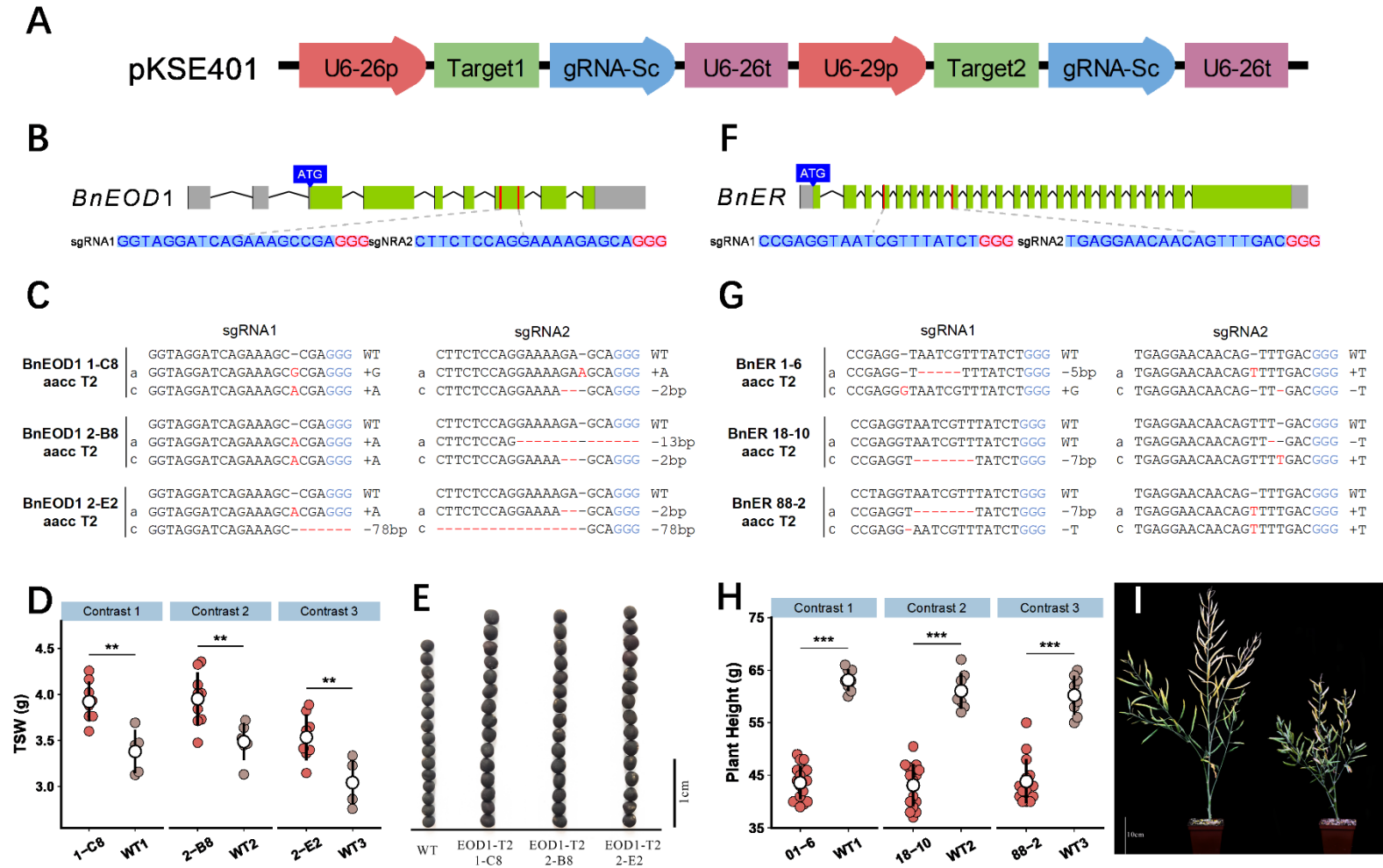
# QTL-seq base on the phenotype from SB conditions



**F<sub>2</sub> (Xiaoyun × ZS11)**



# Quantitative trait analysis under SB

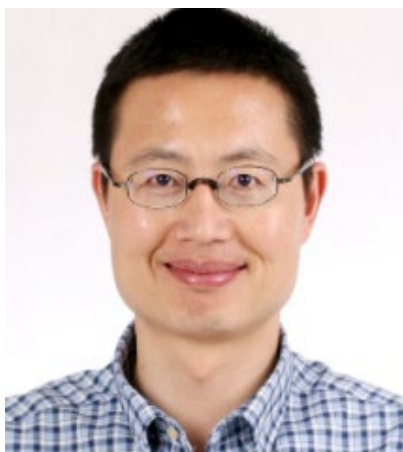


Xiaoyun's utility in quantitative trait research confirmed by CRISPR/Cas9 induced mutant of *BnEOD1* and *BnER*.

# Acknowledgements



Prof. GS Yang



Prof. DF Hong



Yang Lab

HUAZHONG AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
National Key Laboratory of Crop Genetic Improvement

