

DuPont to build Beijing seed bank

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A farmer sorts out his produce at a vegetable market in Beijing. US chemical and agribusiness giant DuPont announced Tuesday it will build a "state-of-the-art" seed bank in Beijing to boost its molecular breeding business in China's rapidly growing agriculture market.

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DuPont said the facility at the state-owned Beijing International Flower Port would employ about 50 researchers and would focus on producing "high-yielding maize hybrids."

The announcement came as China's leader-in-waiting Xi Jinping visited the White House for a meeting with President [Barack Obama](#).

The company -- worth \$50 billion -- said the research will help "improve

the sustainability of farming in China, while enhancing food security."

"This is a further extension of how DuPont is investing in global science to identify solutions locally," [DuPont](#) executive William Niebur said in a statement.

"We will bring superior products to market for Chinese farmers supporting the policy direction provided in China's newly released No. 1 Document."

The document, from the top echelon of the Communist Party of China, laid out strategy for rural development and water management.

Molecular breeding blends seed varieties to produce desired results, instead of splicing in foreign genes.

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