

Sweet science: IBM teams with chocolatier to grow better beans

Candy bar maker Mars is working with IBM and the United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) to apply their scientific experience and computing resources to sequence and analyse the entire cocoa genome.

By [Chris Maxcer](#) 27 Jun 2008

This scientific inquiry is more than a simple effort to produce richer chocolate for candy lovers. The team is hoping to address issues within the cocoa industry, which has been hit with a trio of devastating fungal diseases that have cost growers an estimated US\$700 million in losses annually.

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