

## Controlling Mother Nature

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
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### **Monsanto rain-out shelter will have world-class automation.**

Rising above a sea of corn stalks south of Gothenburg is a one-of-a-kind structure.

Chan Mazour, manager of the Gothenburg Water Utilization Learning Center, likened the rain-out shelter under construction to a greenhouse without the glass.

Once completed next spring, sensors in the 80 x 160-foot shelter can detect rain and move the structure over plots to create a controlled environment.

“It’s designed so we can monitor the exact amount of moisture the plants receive so we can design drought-tolerant products and systems to help farmers manage drought,” Mazour said.

Constructed on rails that move the shelter on and off corn, Mazour said the high level of automation is a first for Monsanto.

“It’s also a higher level of automation than anything else out there today,” he explained.

The shelter was designed within Monsanto, based on similar structures in use around the world.

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~~When the California High-Speed Rail Authority announced its plan to build a 700-mile rail line from San Francisco to Los Angeles, it was met with a chorus of critics. Some argued that the project was too expensive, while others claimed it was unnecessary. The rail line would connect major cities and provide a faster, more reliable mode of transportation. However, the project has faced significant challenges, including funding issues and environmental concerns. The rail line is still in the planning stages, and it remains to be seen if it will ever be built.~~