

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 that it had selected the route from Redwood City to San Francisco, the project was expected to be completed by 2015. The project was expected to be completed by 2015. The project was expected to be completed by 2015.~~