

The first Government program aimed at supporting the biotechnology R&D program was conducted from 1987 to 1990 with a total funding of CAD 90 Million; this has resulted in a considerable strengthening of Denmark's potential in this important area. On the basis of a review of this program, the Government has appropriated additional CAD 85 Million for the period 1991 to 1995 towards additional efforts in the biotechnology research program.

The main purpose of the program is to support 12 centres of research which are not new institutions but rather a formalized association of research teams in existing institutes and the private enterprise sector. This construction is a new concept in Denmark which is meant to encourage collaboration among university institutes, service network institutes, and the private enterprise sector. These centres have been called "research centres without walls". Common financial control within the respective centres has allowed flexibility in resource utilization and considerable savings in administration.

To strengthen the position of the Danish food industry on international markets, the Government has set aside CAD 100 Million for a research and development program that runs from 1990 to 1994. The private enterprise sector within the food industry is expected to contribute a similar amount, bringing the entire funding of the program to CAD 200 Million.

The program is aimed primarily at the private enterprise sector in the food industry and at R&D environments at universities and other centres of expertise. As with the biotechnology research program, the overall policy is to intensify university/industry R&D cooperation. Three university research centres will be established under this program, where emphasis is placed on quality, international competitiveness and participation in international cooperation.

As a member of the European Community, Denmark participates in the EEC research programs, including the biotechnology programs (BRIDGE), the preventive medicine program, the agricultural research program, and the ECLAIR (agro-biotechnology) and FLAIR (food biotechnology) programs. Denmark participates in Nordic research collaboration as well, a collaboration which also includes a biotechnology program. Denmark is a member of EMBL, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg. Denmark is actively taking part in EUREKA, the European cooperation program for industrial R&D, under which a number of Danish companies are involved in EUREKA projects in biotechnology.