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Throughout the 20th century NRC researchers have played a key role in Canada's major scientific successes. One example is NRC's role in canola, an edible food crop and now a multi-billion-dollar industry. An important breakthrough in the development of canola came when NRC successfully applied gas-liquid chromatography to the analysis of seed oils. Plant breeders were then able to work on reducing erucic acid in rapeseed to eliminate any health risks. Today, NRC scientists are adding value to canola using new biotechnology techniques that create plant strains resistant to herbicides and diseases.