

(4) The applications of biological materials to the food and agricultural sector should be based on the use of new biological materials: tissue cultures, enzyme production, and the microbiology of fermentation. A reciprocal exploration of possibilities for co-operation is in progress and should be the subject of project proposals very shortly.

As for the future, consideration may henceforth be given to encouraging co-operation in the following fields:

- soil biology (pollution control or improving plant growth, myhorrisa, and the accelerated breakdown of pesticides).
- the seed sector, particularly research into artificial seeding materials.

Generally speaking, it would be desirable to have a more complete picture of the set of projects underway, particularly in priority areas -- and not only those which are recipients of official support. Studies should be set up where they appear necessary. Care must be taken to better define the useful length of projects and to know when to terminate those in which progress appears inadequate.

Considering both nations' wealth in high quality research teams, efforts should be made to bring in other organizations and, in terms of the food and agricultural sector, an invitation should be made to private research (small- and medium-sized companies).

Following plenary discussions, the two delegations agreed to the following:

- In the area of patents and licenses, it was agreed to recognize the need to protect proprietary rights of all the products and processes developed by both public and private partners within the framework of Franco-Canadian scientific co-operation. It was also agreed that a policy should be formulated that will consider the differences of both countries in the areas of patents and licenses.
- The area of the regulation and commercial use of biotechnological products and processes requires increased efforts at scientific co-operation geared to increasing public acceptance and appreciation of such products and processes. These efforts will involve the development of diagnostic and detection tools as well as technologies permitting the precise evaluation of risks associated with their marketing.