

company would make it difficult to undertake alone. Over 13 % of IRAP collaborative research projects have been carried out in partnership with foreign countries including Spain.

Another source of funding within the NRC is the Medical Research Council of Canada. The budget for biotechnology is \$43 million. Projects range from basic molecular biology to gene mapping and molecular diagnosis applied to patients⁴³.

NSERC biotechnology effort is the largest in Canada. Its industrial support comes from four major institutes namely, the Biotechnology Research Institute in Montreal, the Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon, the Institute for Marine Biosciences in Halifax, and the Institute for Biological Sciences in Ottawa. There is in addition, a network of research stations across the country which depend of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

A number of publications describe in detail the available technical and financial assistance offered by the government of Canada to industrial firms⁴⁴.

2. THE BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MONTREAL)

The BRI, opened in 1987, has become an international centre for excellence in the research, technology development and commercialization of biotechnology product. Although associated to the National Research Council, it is strongly oriented toward partnership with the industry. Thus universities, the private sector, and government participate in the management and activities of the BRI. In this regard, the Institute has reserved seven out of thirteen seats on the board of directors for business representatives. BRI has 220 employees including 180 scientists, engineers, and technical personnel, and it is endowed with a 1500 m² pilot plant. Its research has been structured in four principal areas, these are: biochemical engineering, genetic engineering, protein engineering, and cell fusion and molecular immunology.

3. THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE BIOSCIENCES (IMB) (HALIFAX)

The mandate of IMB is to foster economic development and protect public health and safety by doing research into the chemistry and biology of marine organisms. Along with institutes in Japan and USA ranks as one of the largest marine biotechnology enterprises in the world. In some of the research areas, like shellfish toxins identification, marine microbiology, and marine biology including aquaculture and culture development, IMB is a world leader.