

BIOTECHNOLOGY - ISRAEL

1. NATIONAL POLICY

The Government of Israel recognizes the potential of biotechnology for economic growth, and accordingly gives high priority to its support and encouragement. The Minister of Science and Technology and the Minister of Industry and Trade have adopted the recommendations made by two national committees in connection with R & D in general and biotechnology in particular.

The first committee, chaired by prof. S. Yiftach, dealt with national policies of R&D. In its report, submitted in 1984, it was recommended that biotechnology and genetic engineering be regarded as areas having important advantages for Israel, and therefore be accorded high priority in governmental funding plans.

The second committee, chaired by Prof. E. Katzir, dealt with ways of advance biotechnological R&D in Israel. Its recommendations, contained in its report of late 1988 and officially adopted by the Government in 1989, include the following:

1. Recognize biotechnology and its applications in industry and agriculture as essential for economic growth in Israel.
2. Aim to achieve an annual export of US\$ 200 million within the next decade.
3. In order to achieve this goal:
 - a. Increase support for R&D by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to US\$ 8 million