

DANISH BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

1. Introduction

During the last several decades it has been recognized internationally - both within OECD and the European Community - that research and technological development are key factors in the achievement of improved international competitiveness. This has been the case for individual countries as well as for communities of countries, such as the European Community. In this regard biotechnology has already attracted great attention and it can be expected that biotechnology will attain a very central position in future industrial developments.

This introductory article will provide an overview of the biotechnology sector in Denmark, both with regard to public R&D and private enterprise R&D and production. Some of the larger Danish biotechnology companies will be briefly presented but the emphasis will be on the setting in which they operate, emphasizing the advantages created by the unique agricultural and industrial "complex" in Denmark, the excellent research community, and the public sector which supports and regulates the biotechnological enterprise in Denmark.

Attached is a list of some of the leading Danish commercial organizations and research institutes involved in biotechnology research, development or manufacturing. It should be borne in mind that this is not an exhaustive coverage of Danish organizations carrying out biotechnology R&D. However, it is apparent that there is a significant increase in R&D expenditure by the public as well as the private enterprise sectors and that biotechnology is a young and expanding industrial activity in Denmark.

The Danish biotechnology industry encompasses a diverse group of companies that range widely in size, technologies used, and markets served. The common thread that binds them is their primary mission: to use biological processes to develop products for human health care, agriculture productivity, animal health, food safety and nutrition, and environmental improvement. Also included are those companies and research institutes whose primary mission is to supply technology-based research products to other biotechnology companies. Although several companies from the traditional industries in Denmark (pharmaceuticals, chemicals, agriculture, food, energy, etc.) employ biotechnological processes, this is not their primary activity; therefore, these companies are not included in the report.