

A number of Canadian firms have already achieved impressive results. Recent Canadian successes in biotechnology include the following examples.

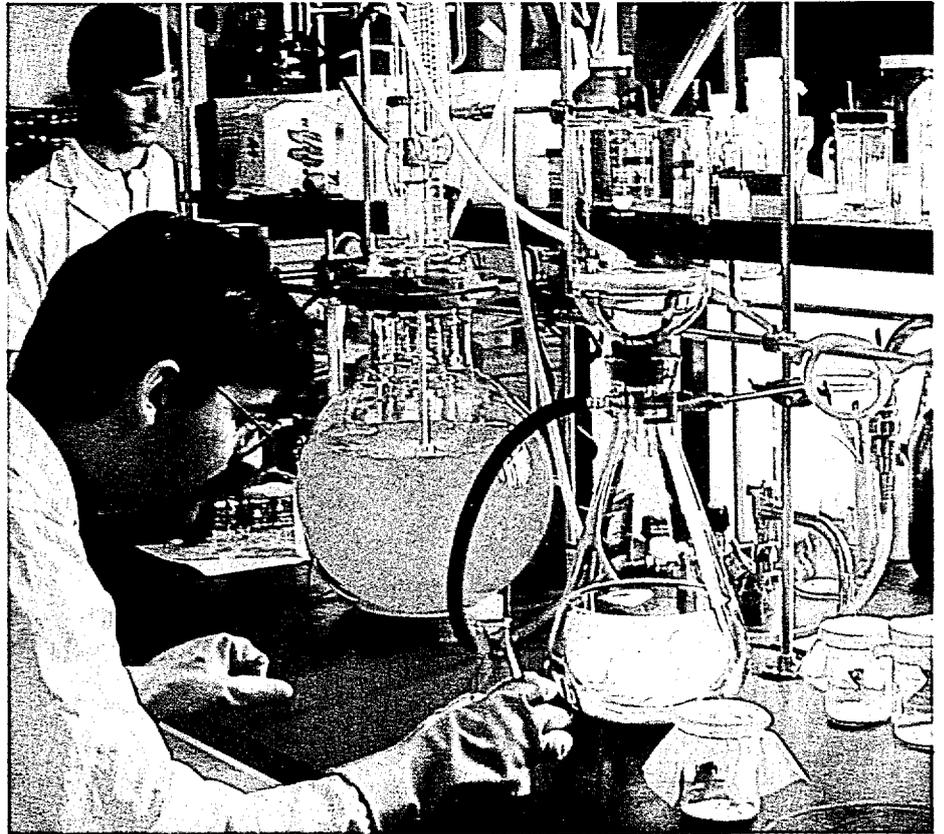
Helix Biotech Ltd., Richmond, British Columbia, in cooperation with the University of British Columbia and Jorden Diagnostics, Toronto, Ontario, has developed a simple, reliable and inexpensive cow heat test for dairy farmers. This on-farm test enables the dairy farmer to maximize milk production through identification of cows that require re-insemination. The product has been field tested and is now in production.

Safer-Agro Chemicals Ltd., Victoria, British Columbia, has developed a safe, biodegradable, fungal pest control agent based on fatty acids and elemental sulphur. The company recently received a substantial investment from Plant Resource Venture Fund of Cambridge, Massachusetts for work in natural product pesticides.

Rhizotec Inc., Québec, Québec, has successfully utilized microbial fertilizer technology developed at Laval University to produce trees which can grow rapidly in poor soils.

Major new investments by a number of Canadian and foreign-based enterprises reflect the growing interest and confidence in Canada as a place to invest in biotechnology-related agricultural projects.

Allelix Inc., a Canadian company owned through a partnership agreement by the Canadian Development Corporation, John Labatt Ltd. and the Province of Ontario, plans to invest \$100 million over the period 1983-1993 to develop and commercialize agricultural and industrial opportunities emerging from its research in biotechnology.



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Vencap Equities of Alberta, with BioTechnical International of the United States, has made an initial investment of approximately \$17 million to establish BioTechnica International of Canada Inc. for the development of herbicide-tolerant canola seed.

Ciba Geigy of Switzerland has provided a world product mandate to the **Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization of Saskatchewan (VIDO)** to test new veterinary products based on interferon for the treatment of animal diseases. In the short period from 1975 to today, VIDO has grown from a handful of people working in a cluster of make-shift laboratories, to a group of over 35

highly skilled scientists and support staff occupying one of the most advanced veterinary research facilities in North America. VIDO's staff is now pursuing the following four major research targets: neonatal diarrhea in cattle; respiratory diseases in cattle; respiratory diseases in swine; diseases in poultry caused by type 2 avian adenoviruses.

In the future, biotechnology will play an increasingly important role in agriculture. It offers the potential for new products and new production processes for established products and will ultimately give rise to a more efficient and more effective agricultural industry in Canada and worldwide.