

International collaborations in biotechnology

<http://saffron.pharmabiz.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=16926§ionid=50>

Thursday, January 23, 2003 08:00 IST

Dr. B. M. Gandhi

Biotechnology has revolutionized the current status of knowledge of a number of pathways and processes applicable to the biological principles for human welfare and better quality of life. Contributions to development are visible through better health care enhanced food productivity through sustainable agricultural practices, improved bio-process technologies, efficient industrial development processes for transforming raw material and detoxification of hazardous materials etc.

The Department of Biotechnology, as the inter-ministerial and interagency nodal point for all specific international bilateral and multilateral research and development of collaborations and agreements in the area of biotechnology, has pursued active programmes of research and development of bilateral and multilateral co-operations with the developed and the developing countries to keep pace with the recent developments in the field of biotechnology.

International linkages in biotechnology have assisted in implementation of national programmes. Interaction in areas have a lead to acquisition of knowledge and share of expertise through joint R&D projects, exchange of scientists, training/ fellowship for scientists, joint workshops/seminars etc. The collaborations lead to capacity building and strengthening of the infrastructure at some of the major institutions. Bio-safety, ethical and proprietary issues have been addressed which lead to development of policy guideline to safeguard legal, social and economic issues relating to biotechnology research, product testing and labelling of GM food etc.

A new thrust has been given to the international cooperation of S&T priority of national interest and programmes are directed towards projects on the issues of national human reproduction, environment, genetic disorders, agriculture, health diseases aspects and programmes of industrial implications. Collaborative opportunities are available for developing biotechnology related industrial products and processes through direct participation or through industrial institutional framework between the participating countries.