

SOY 20/20 PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

Section 1

JUNE 2003

For Additional Information please contact:

Dr. Gregory Penner
Project Director, SOY 20/20 Project
1 Stone Road, West, 4th Floor
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2
Tel: 519-835-8677

Email: gpenner@soy2020.ca

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2. Enhancing Coordination of Public Science Resources (Research Coordination)

In the past year we have visited all the soybean research facilities in Ontario, including the Departments of Plant Agriculture, Molecular Biology, Food Science and Nutrition, and Ridgetown College at the University of Guelph, Lab Services University of Guelph, the Guelph Food Technology Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research centres in Ottawa, Guelph, Harrow and London, The University of Ottawa, The University of Windsor (Bio-diesel chair) and a private research company (Performance Plants) in Kingston. During these meetings we gained an understanding of the research being done in the public sector on soybeans, received input into potential directions for our program, and shared our analyses of potential new market opportunities.

We organized and chaired a meeting of all the soyfood researchers in Canada and collectively reviewed existing research programs, equipment capabilities and expertise, and future research directions. We agreed to lead the development of a Canadian soyfood research vision statement, work towards improving communication within the community, and between the community and industry, and work towards standardizing protocols across labs.

We have worked closely with the Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC) and the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) on their successful application for funding for developing research capability in the area of soy protein as a food ingredient. We see this fund as a potential catalyst for bringing the end use industry together with seed companies in developing a first mover advantage for this opportunity in Canada.

We worked with Dr. Brian Miki (AAFC, Ottawa), Dr. Doug Johnson (University of Ottawa), and Drs. Mark Gijzen and Dan Brown (AAFC, London) to build a Natural Sciences Engineering Research Council (NSERC) strategic proposal aimed at developing the use of soybean hulls as a delivery system for industrial enzymes. We are continuing to work with this group to broaden their funding base, and to integrate their efforts with specific companies.

We have spent some time exploring the possibility of developing a central molecular breeding facility involving publicly developed molecular markers (AAFC, University of Guelph) with molecular marker developers and public and private soybean breeders. These discussions are ongoing.

We have worked with the Departments of Plant Agriculture and Land Resource Management, at the University of Guelph on the development of a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) application focused on building the capability to screen germplasm for useful variation for industrial applications. This has involved organizing tours for University of Guelph professors to bio-based industries such as Commercial Alcohols Inc. in Chatham. This effort will culminate in the delivery of a CFI application in the spring of 2004.

With Dr. Gord Surgeoner (Ontario Agri-Food Technologies) we organized a tour of bio-based companies in Ontario with senior research managers from AAFC and National Research Council (NRC). This tour was aimed at raising awareness that bio-based industry is not something that is projected to happen, it is real and there are companies in Ontario that are developing these opportunities now. It was also an opportunity to build linkages between AAFC and NRC, and between these research drivers and industry.