

ACAAF funding helps Edmonton company taste sweet success

An Edmonton pilot plant that converts Alberta wheat, barley and potato starch into a healthful sweetener officially opened in August with a \$200,000 cash infusion from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program.

"This is an exciting time for our investors, sponsors and directors of BioNeutra," said Master of Ceremonies and company director Bill Smith. "This is the first of its kind in North America."

The BioNeutra plant produces a low-calorie sweetener called VitaSugar, which has an organic structure that improves digestive health. The plant, located in the Edmonton Research Park, produces a syrup that can be converted into a powder to sweeten foods and drinks. VitaSugar is already being sold to a Las Vegas company that makes breakfast bars.

BioNeutra Inc. President and CEO Dr. Jianhua Zhu recognized Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's ACAA program at the launch, along with other government funders and private investors who helped make the pilot plant possible.

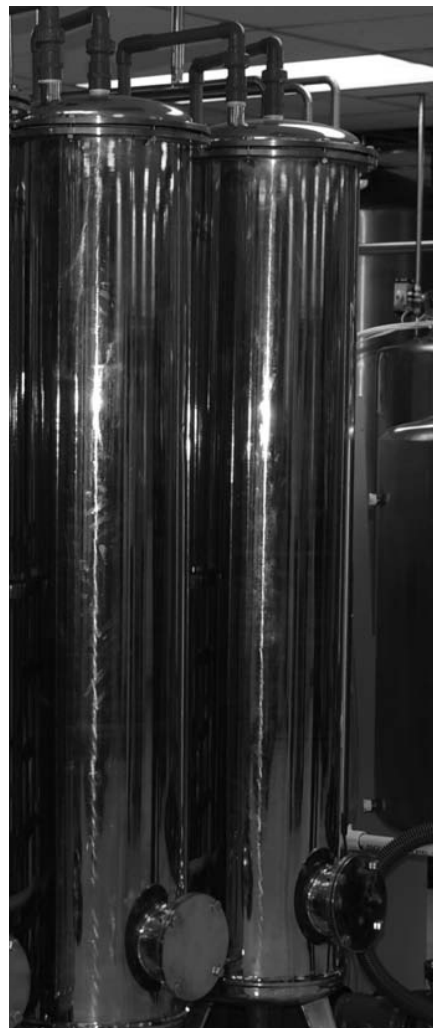
"This is teamwork," he said, looking around at the room filled with stainless steel vessels and pipes where the sugar substitute is made.

"We had good science but not a single dollar when we decided to start the company two years ago."

ACAAF provided \$200,000 in funding to the project under Pillar II – Capturing Market Opportunities by Advancing Research Results.

"This is one of the very first projects I've seen launch under Pillar II of our new ACAA program," said Chair Marilyn Sharp of the Agriculture and Food Council, which administers the ACAA program in Alberta. "We are pleased to be involved with an innovative project like this, and proud of the cooperation and hard work that has taken place to make a dream become reality."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

October 26-28, 2006

Westerner Championship Dairy Showcase, Westerner Park, Red Deer
Contact: Tracey Foster (403) 309-0209

November 9-10, 2006

Alberta and B.C. Regional Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) Conference, Red Deer
Contact: Liz Robertson (877) 474-2871

November 22-23, 2006

AgriVision, Mayfield Hotel and Suites, Edmonton
Contact: Donna Buskas (780) 427-6037

December 6-8, 2006

2006 Western Canadian Grazing Conference, Mayfield Inn, Edmonton
Contact: Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) (780) 416-6046

The CATALYST



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