

Antibodies from maize

In the United States, Epicyte and Dow have reached an agreement with Centocor Inc. to evaluate production of a therapeutic human monoclonal antibody in plants. This agreement marks the first licence of Epicyte's Plantibody technology in the pharmaceutical industry. Based on the evaluation results, Centocor would have the option to enter into an exclusive commercial supply agreement for a variety of clinical indications. Using an antibody developed by Centocor, Dow will produce the antibody using Epicyte's Plantibody technology and provide its proprietary gene expression technologies, crop production expertise and maize processing capabilities.

Epicyte, Dow and Dow Agrosiences formed a research and licensing agreement to develop and produce monoclonal antibodies in plant-based systems. Epicyte has five antibody products under development in its core areas of infectious disease and sexual health, including products to protect against the transmission of Herpes Simplex Virus 1 and HIV, and an anti-sperm antibody to prevent conception. (AgBiotech Reporter, October 2001)