

Department of Agro-Biotechnology IFA-Tulln

Development of the Research Site Tulln

The IFA-Tulln was founded in 1994 as an independent research institute focusing on biotechnology in agriculture, in cooperation with the Austrian federal government, the provincial government of Lower Austria and the city of Tulln, the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Vienna University of Technology and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. With the new Universities Act of 2002, the IFA-Tulln with its 5 institutes became the 13th Department of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna. The IFA-Tulln is an important core element of the Technopol Tulln, which was established as part of the Technopol Programme Lower Austria in 2004.

Research & Development at the five Institutes of the IFA-Tulln

The *Institute of Biotechnology in Plant Production* is devoted to applied research in the field of crop improvement. A major research focus is resistance genetics and breeding of cereals, maize and pumpkin.

The core competences of the *Institute of Technology of Natural Materials* are injection moulding as well as the extraction of natural materials such as starch, proteins and fibrous plant materials. From the analysis and preparation of the raw materials to the processing at pilot plants and the testing of materials, all operational steps are done at the institute.

The three research areas established at the *Center for Analytical Chemistry*, mycotoxin analysis, water analysis and biochemical analysis, involve manifold aims and activities of this institute. They

range from the development and validation of modern analytical methods to the certification of reference materials. Since December 2002, the Center for Analytical Chemistry has integrated a *Christian Doppler Laboratory* (CD-Laboratory) for Mycotoxin Research, which is internationally renowned. The *Analytical Platform* with its unique state-of-the-art equipment was opened in April 2006 and serves as a nerve center for cooperations together with the Technopol Tulln. The *Institute of Environmental Biotechnology* is concerned with the development and practical use of environmental biotechnological processes. Treatment and remediation procedures are developed or optimised for polluted water and soil. Furthermore, there is research on innovative methods to avoid pollution and to recover energy from renewable resources which meet the needs for sustainable development. The associated pilot plant allows a successful scale up of commercial processes.

The central focus of the *Institute of Biotechnology in Animal Production* is on the breeding of healthy and fertile animals. Basic research on issues of molecular and cellular biology is applied directly to breeding practices with modern reproduction techniques.

More than 100 researchers are actively operating in the field of agricultural and environmental biotechnology. Numerous (science) awards have been presented to the IFA-Tulln for its outstanding research work: Dr. Wolfgang Houska Preis 2005, Agrana Forschungspreis 2005, Dr. Brigitte Gedek Wissenschaftspreis 2006, AKNÖ-Wissenschaftspreis 2006. They underline the successful course of the IFA-Tulln.

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