



**To celebrate the 15th year of its incorporation in 2003 (although the same group of people has been active for years prior to that), Agritechnove set up an in-house record for the number of projects (24) and the value of construction under its responsibility (exceeded 50 millions US dollars)! This was indeed a great year !**



The new projects are mostly in the United States and Canada. We started working on a new, large and very exciting project for Ohio State University. It is a large animal and plant BL-3 Ag facility, Agritech being responsible for the BL-3 Ag greenhouse part of the project. First estimate shows approximately 25,000 SF of space equally shared between animal and plant research. Programming phase just started and will be completed in early 2004. Also among the new projects, a vegetable crop production facility in an underground mining operation in Northern Quebec, a semi-industrial BL-2 containment facility to grow genetically modified alfalfa for pharmaceutical purposes, a commissioning contract for a new BL-3 Ag containment facility (greenhouse and laboratory) as well as several smaller new projects for colleges and universities.

Older projects also continued and some of them were concluded in 2003. Among them, the BL-3 Contained Research Facility at the University of California/Davis and a 30,000 SF research facility for Agriculture-Canada in Lethbridge, Alberta.

The construction of a new large research and education greenhouse facility at the University of Minnesota started this year. Right now (end of 2003), about 1/3 of the facility (greenhouses/headhouse 485A) is open and the other 2 large blocks (369B and 369 C) are being built. The whole construction process will be completed in August 2004, right on time for the fall session at the U. At the 485A greenhouses, 12 new "rhyzotrons" stand ready to be used within research programs. These boxes will allow root studies of the highest level. The aluminum and stainless steel boxes are large (1.5 meter cube), have the ability to cool down the mass of soil, have camera ports, water-table depth control, temperature monitoring and are tied to the new greenhouse computer control system for control and monitoring ! Researchers are excited and already looking at ways to extend even more the impressive array of features of these rhyzotrons and we, at Agritech, are definitely going to help them do that. With these new tools, the U will be one of 2 places in the US where root studies of this caliber will be conducted. The rhyzotrons were manufactured by Groupe DHB, a subsidiary of Agritechnove.

Also in 2003, we made much progress on the design of several USDA facilities, including the US National Arboretum in Washington DC and the greenhouse replacement project in Beltsville, MD, where we are close to completing design. Construction is anticipated for next year.

Agritechnove is very proud of its accomplishments during the last year. We are looking forward a very bright future with more designs, specially containment projects and manufacturing capabilities for all sorts of research tools custom designed for special research projects. We have several of these manufacturing projects under design at this moment. Much work but much fun too !!!

**University of California/Davis**



**Agriculture-Canada in Lethbridge, Alberta**



**Rhyzotron**



**University of Minnesota**

