

Canada's First Agri-Value Processing Business Incubator Opens in Alberta

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May 16th, 2007 saw the much anticipated opening of Alberta Agriculture and Food's Agri-Value Processing Business Incubator. Located adjacent to the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc, AB, the \$24.5 million, 74 000 sqft APBI is the first facility of its kind in Canada and will help Alberta agri-food entrepreneurs to commercialize new products and technologies.

The APBI features

- Eight private, secured access, 24/7 CFIA registered processing suites varying in size (1800-5300 sqft) and design
- Power, water, compressed air, steam, and centralized cleaning and sanitation services in each suite
- High capacity (500-3000 kg per hour) Stork oven (another first in Canada) to steam, roast, or grill a range of products
- Spiral freezer with 1000 kg per hour capacity
- On-site FSEP/HACCP and logistics management
- Shipping/receiving bays with storage capability
- Office suites and conferencing amenities with A/V capabilities

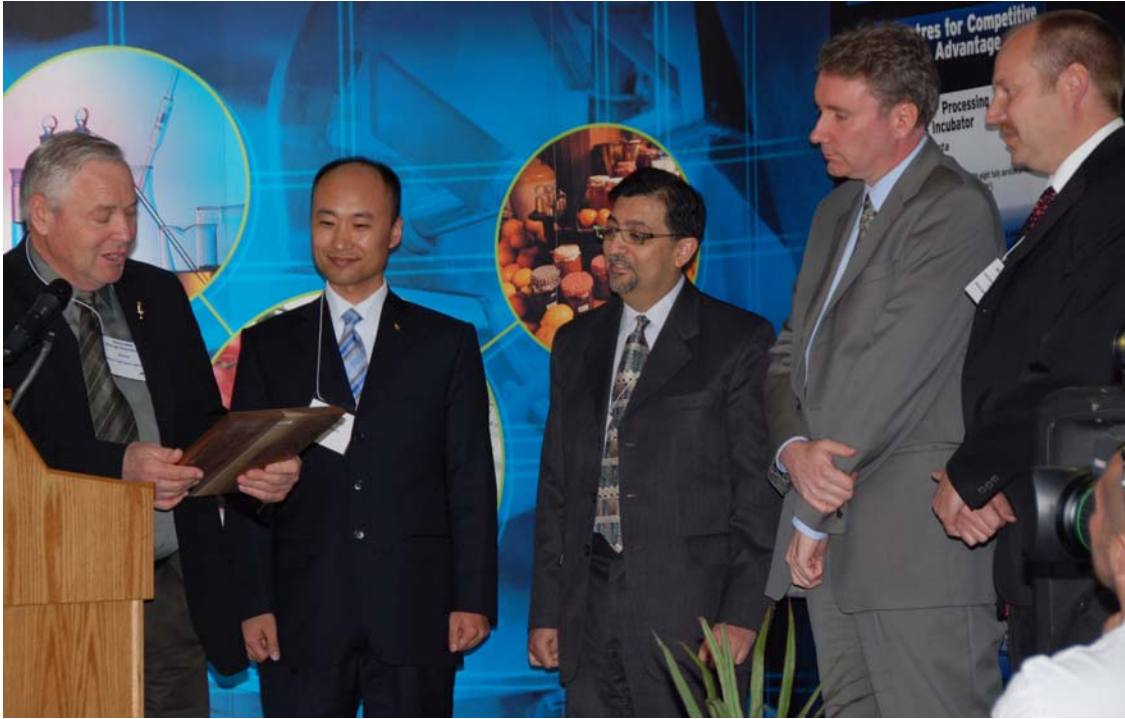
With processing suite lease terms up to 3 years in length, APBI clients have the opportunity to build production capacity, stake out market territory, and tap into technical, operational, and business development mentoring support services before moving into their own facilities.

Three APBI suites are currently occupied with tenants producing a wide range of products.

- Aliya's Foods Limited is an innovator of new East Indian food products for the North American palate. Known continent-wide for their Chef Bombay samosas, Aliya's will continue to develop offerings made primarily of Alberta-grown ingredients.
- Ceapro Inc. specializes in the development and commercialization of bio-active ingredients for incorporation into food and personal care products. Ceapro recently developed a diabetes test meal for use in the quick detection of Type 2 diabetes and impaired glucose tolerance.
- Siwin Foods Ltd., a subsidiary of China's third largest food processing company, is currently producing sausage products for sale in Sobey's and T&T Supermarket. Siwin's long-term goal is the construction of their own plant for the production and export of Asian and Western fusion product made from Alberta meats.

The APBI is funded by Alberta Agriculture and Food, with financial support from AVAC and Western Economic Diversification Canada. For additional information about the incubator, please contact Food Processing Development Division Director Ken Gossen at (780) 980-4793.

Agriculture & Food Minister George Groeneveld and Food Processing Development Division Director Ken Gossen flank representatives from the APBI's first tenant companies, Siwin Foods Ltd, Aliya's Food Limited, and Ceapro Inc.



Food Processing Development Division scientists view the inner workings of the new, high capacity Stork oven

