

GERMINATION

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INSIGHTFUL. ANALYTICAL. PRACTICAL.

SEED TREATMENTS PROTECT

In this issue, discover the science and stewardship efforts that are decreasing the seed industry's environmental footprint.



Create the Right
Forage Seed Mix

CropLife Canada
Implements New Auditable
Seed Treatment Protocols

A Look at the Changing
Intellectual Property
Landscape

Championing Cereals

XiteBio Thrives Through Innovation

XiteBio Technologies is passionate about providing growers with next-generation 'go-green' technology.

FOR MANAS BANERJEE, founder and CEO of the Winnipeg-based XiteBio Technologies Inc., the key to success in the world of seed inoculants is about one thing — innovation. “Everything we do has to be innovative,” he says. “If it’s not, we don’t pursue it.”

XiteBio Technologies has been selling its chemical-free inoculants for peas/lentils and soybeans in the United States for several years, and now has regulatory approval to do so in Canada, where the company is getting noticed from Ontario all the way to Alberta. “It’s not common to grow soybeans in Alberta, but there’s interest there and using our product can help do it,” Banerjee says.

That’s a testament to the innovative and, as the company’s name suggests, exciting products developed by XiteBio Technologies.

Bacterial Synergy

According to Banerjee, traditional inoculants introduce bacteria that must compete against that which are already present in the soil.

The concept behind XiteBio’s products is what Banerjee calls bacterial synergy, the process of working with, rather than against, microbial organisms in the soil to convert nitrogen to a form plants can use.

“With other inoculants on the market, sometimes the inoculant is successful in displacing whatever is in the soil that the grower is trying to combat, and it makes an impact,” says Banerjee, who is also a University of Western Ontario adjunct professor. “Other times, the inhabiting microbes are so powerful, they won’t let the inoculant establish



XiteBio’s Manas Banerjee delivers innovative inoculant solutions to the market.

itself. That’s when the grower doesn’t see results.”

“Our technology takes care of what you have in your soil. It invigorates the natural microflora you have and creates a synergy. The success is much better this way.”

Tried and Tested

XiteBio’s products have proven their effectiveness in research trials at facilities, such as North Dakota State University, Ohio State University, Montana State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, showing an average 17 per cent increase in crop yield for XiteBio’s pea and lentil inoculant, and up to a 21 per cent yield increase for its soybean inoculant.

XiteBio SoyRhizo® and **XiteBio PeasRhizo®** are low-volume, versatile liquid inoculants that can be applied on-seed or in-furrow and are available in ready-to-use packages. They are based on an AGPT®

(Advanced Growth Promoting Technology) platform — a revolutionary concept, which allows them to:

- Encourage greater root nodulation.
- Boost higher nitrogen fixation.
- Enhance overall plant performance.
- Grow healthier plants.

Thriving Through Innovation

The company’s motto is “Thriving Through Innovation.” Through its Innovation, Research and Development Centre, XiteBio constantly strives to do something new.

“You look at any other company, they all have a research and development department, but you don’t see the word ‘innovation’ in there,” he says. “We are research driven and performance-proven.”

Banerjee adds that XiteBio is passionate about research, but more than that it’s passionate about providing next-generation ‘go-green’ technologies to customers while making a difference in agriculture.

In addition to its soybean and pea/lentil inoculant, XiteBio is also working on biologicals for canola, corn, wheat, barley and sugar beets. It’s also developing a biofungicide to tackle fusarium head blight.

“By 2050, our world population will be over nine billion,” Banerjee says. “To feed all those people, our traditional crop breeding will not suffice. We don’t have any more land to grow more crops, so we must increase production per unit acre. And bacterial synergy is part of that.”

“XiteBio’s products offer a fundamental switch from reactive to proactive crop production. There’s a huge future for the next generation of biologicals, and at XiteBio, we are excited to be a part of it.” 