

Wilf KELLER

Plant Biotechnology Institute

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Wilf is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, receiving his doctorate in Crop Science in 1972. Wilf was employed as a Research Scientist with the Research Branch of Agriculture Canada in Ottawa from 1973-89. During this period he pursued research on cell genetics of selected Canadian crops and he contributed to the establishment of a plant biotechnology research program in Agriculture Canada which he chaired from 1980-89. In 1990 he accepted a position with the Plant Biotechnology Institute of the National Research Council of Canada in Saskatoon and served as Group Leader for Canola Biotechnology and Head of the Transgenic Plant Centre until 1999 when he assumed the position of Research Director.

Wilf has been actively involved in the development and application of biotechnologies for the genetic modification of crops, particularly canola. He has collaborated with numerous government, university and industry groups and has provided training for researchers in plant biotechnology. He has given numerous presentations and lectures including public awareness and public education aspects of biotechnology.

Genome Prairie was established in 2000 and is a regional centre of Genome Canada. It funded by the federal government and is responsible for the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Its major mandate is to manage large scale genomics projects and to increase research capacity in genomics sciences, including human health, agriculture, forestry, environment, etc. It has a staff of approx. 15.

Ag-West has existed since 1989. It is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and operates only in Saskatchewan. Ag-West focuses on building the agri-food research network and deriving economic benefits from the application of biotechnology, genomics, etc. Ag-West organizes numerous seminars and conferences. Ag-West staff includes 8 persons.