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[20722001]

Calgene Inc. and Gustafson Inc. said they plan a joint project to develop biological products to control such plant diseases as aflatoxin , a potent cancer-causing agent .

[20722002]

Under the plan , the companies will use Calgene 's patented technology to encapsulate microbes such as Bacillus subtilis , a bacterium , to enhance their biological activity against plant diseases .

[20722003]

Calgene , an agricultural biotechnology concern , said initial work will concentrate on a proprietary strain of Bacillus subtilis which has shown promise for controlling aflatoxin .

[20722004]

The strain was discovered by Moringa & Co. and licensed to Gustafson , a unit of Uniroyal Chemical Co .

[20722005]

Aflatoxin is released by molds during grain and seed storage .

[20722006]

The recent appearance of aflatoxin in such foods as corn and peanut butter has sparked public concern and consumer scrutiny of food handling and storage procedures .