



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Master's thesis
Licentiate's thesis
Doctor's thesis

Subject	International Business	Date	8.5.2012
Author(s)	Jessi Lehtonen	Student number	
		Number of pages	98 pp. + appendices
Title	Clusters' Contribution to the Development of Biotech Field – Special Interest in the Finnish Biotech Field		
Supervisor(s)	D.Sc. Esa Stenberg, D.Sc. Eriikka Paavilainen-Mäntymäki		

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to analyse *clusters' contribution to the development of biotech field*. Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing industries in the developed world. Biotechnology has the power to improve human health, and biotech applications are likely to crucially affect both public health and the costs of public health care. Biotechnology is one of the most spatially clustered industries in the world, and it is well worth studying if clusters make a contribution. This study includes construction of a theoretical frame of reference and an empiric research. The empiric research was conducted as a qualitative study by interviewing representatives of Finnish biocentres and science parks.

The first subpurpose was understanding the characteristics of biotech field. Biotech companies can be characterised research-based, small, and having the need to be international. The second subpurpose was explaining the existence of clusters. Clusters enhance competitiveness, and cluster environment and cluster elements generate benefits. The third subpurpose was determining *if* and *how* clusters make a contribution to biotech field in particular. Clusters were identified to yield two types of advantages: natural agglomeration advantages and specific policy driven services. The advantages include content and business knowledge, employees, resources, funding, permanence, profile and reputation.

Biotech field was studied both globally and in Finland. Special features of the Finnish biotech field could be identified. In Finland there are four strong biotech clusters in Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, and Kuopio. In addition, there are national biotech programmes. The study indicates that in order to improve its biotech field, Finland should especially generate more SMEs in biotech field, consider establishing a national biotech council, and improve the financing of biotech field. In the future, the investments made in biotechnology should be utilised in even more specialised fields.

Key words	Biotechnology, clusters, agglomeration benefits
Further information	