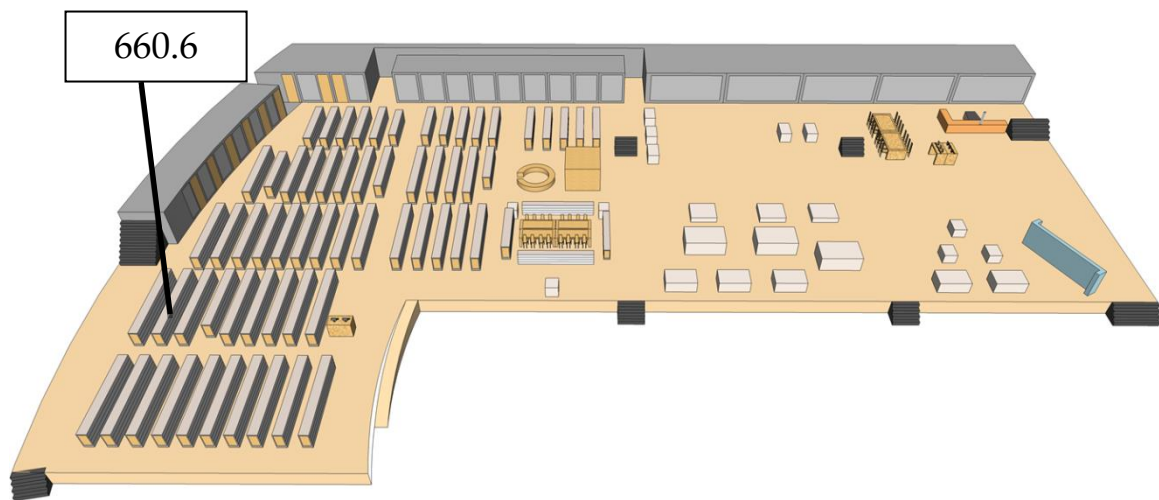


Biotechnology

Biotechnology is the use of biology to solve problems and make useful products. The most prominent area of biotechnology is the production of therapeutic proteins and other drugs through genetic engineering. People have been harnessing biological processes to improve their quality of life for some 10,000 years, beginning with the first agricultural communities. Approximately 6,000 years ago, humans began to tap the biological processes of microorganisms in order to make bread, alcoholic beverages, and cheese preserve dairy products. But such processes are not what is meant today by *biotechnology*, a term first widely applied to the molecular and cellular technologies that began to emerge in the 1960s and '70s.¹

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¹ "Biotechnology", *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*,
www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/66219/biotechnology

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<http://dar.bibalex.org> [accessed 20 March 2016]
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