

SCIENCE NEWS

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PROTEIN FOODS AND FEEDS

Following the recommendations of the first National Symposium on Food Proteins held in March 1979 at Madras, the Faculties of Chemistry and Life Sciences of Loyola College organised a National Symposium on 'Protein foods and feeds' during 14-17 April 1982 covering human and animal nutrition for the welfare of the society.

The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India), Madras Branch and the Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED) an international organisation.

Scientists and research scholars from National Laboratories, Agricultural Universities and Home Science Colleges along with technical experts from Industrial research centres such as Godrej Soaps, Cadburys (India), Britannia Industries, Hindustan Lever and Mysore Feeds participated in large numbers in the Symposium. Unique opportunity was thus provided for bringing together the food and feed scientists to discuss problems of analytical, nutritional, toxicological and technological aspects of protein foods and feeds.

The Symposium was inaugurated by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Mr Sadiq Ali on 14 April 1982. Dr M. Santappa, the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University presided. Mr A. Venkataraman, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University released the souvenirs and also the proceedings of the previous Symposium on Food Proteins held in March 1979. The proceedings entitled "Food proteins—a scientific view" containing the reports of the keynote addresses on the current concepts and controversies regarding protein requirement in humans by Dr C. Gopalan and six invited speakers and over forty original research papers were published by the Protein Research Unit of Loyola College, Madras.

Dr K. T. Achaya delivered the keynote address on the Current status and future prospects of protein foods and feeds'. In his welcome address Rev. Fr. J. Kuriakose, stated that the Symposium was aimed at creating an awareness among students, teachers and the public on the importance of protein foods and feeds for a healthy society. During the three-day symposium, twelve invited lectures, over forty-five research papers and three public lectures were held in addition to the panel discussion on the policies and programmes concerning protein foods and feeds.

The three-day symposium was conducted in six sessions. On 15 April 1982 Dr A. S. Aiyar spoke on nutritional and technological consideration in meeting protein needs, followed by a special lecture by Dr S.G. Srikantia on 'Proteins in Indian Diets'. Mr A. Venkataraman presented a paper on 'Proteins

for Rural People'. Papers on protein foods were then presented involving nutritional aspects.

In the afternoon a panel discussion was arranged to review the policies and programmes concerning protein foods and feeds under the chairmanship of Dr K. T. Achaya. Mr S. Venkitaraman, Dr M. S. Narasinga Rao, Dr S. G. Srikantia, Dr Mrs Rajammal P. Devadas, Mr S. Rajagopalan and Mr N. Subramanian participated in the panel discussion, emphasising the problems on the production and distribution of pulses, cereals, coarse grains and oil seeds. The fish-bowl session was quite interesting and informative. In the evening Dr K. T. Achaya delivered a lecture on "Protein foods—Natural and manufactured".

On 16 April Dr N. C. Ganguli gave a lecture on 'Prodigious protein community of milk' which was followed by a talk on unusual alpha amylase inhibitors from plants by Dr T. N. Pattabhiraman. Later, papers on analytical aspects of protein foods and feeds were presented. In the afternoon a separate session was conducted on protein feeds of livestock and poultry animals. Mr M. K. Dattaraj, initiated the discussion with a paper on "meeting the protein needs of livestock and poultry". It was followed by an interesting paper on the role of poultry in food and nutrition economy of India by Dr V. C. Metta. Dr K. Srinivasan presented a paper on the nutritional evaluation of protected proteins for ruminants. Several papers on toxicological aspects of protein feeds were later presented.

In the evening a public lecture was delivered by Dr P. V. Sukhatme, on the 'Process view of nutrition and its implication for technology.'

On 17 April Dr M. S. Narasinga Rao, reviewed the methods of removing anti-nutritional and toxic constituents of oil seeds. It was followed by a lecture by Dr V. D. Mudgal on 'Single cell protein as a source of protein diet of ruminants'. Later papers on the technological aspects of protein foods were presented. In the afternoon Mr. N. Subramaniam gave a talk on the implication of the processes on the nutritional quality of protein concentrates and isolates from legumes. The third public lecture on 'Proteins in human nutrition' was delivered by Dr Mrs Rajammal P. Devadas., in the evening.

During the concluding session, Dr K. T. Achaya the President, gave an overview of the three-day programme. It was decided to publish the proceedings of the Symposium at an early date and to hold the next symposium in 1985 on 'Nutritious food to combat protein calorie malnutrition'.

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