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ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEAF PROTEIN RESEARCH

The International Conference on Leaf Protein Research organised by the Society for Green Vegetation Research, was held from 5-8 October 1982 at the Botany Department, Marathwada University, Aurangabad. There were about 200 participants. Seventyone papers and reports were presented at the conference. Members from Australia, Bangladesh, Denmark, Egypt, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Nigeria, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela also took part in the conference.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr G. R. Mhaisekar, Vice-Chancellor of Marathwada University, and the keynote addresses were delivered by Prof. N. W. Pirie (Harpenden, U.K.) and Dr Narendra Singh (Mysore). Prof. Mhaisekar identified the theme of the Conference as the integration of leaf protein research with the developmental requirements of current times. In discussing 'some controversial aspects of leaf protein research', Prof. Pirie focussed on the areas needing special research attention for promoting the use of leaf protein in human food, emphasising its great potential as the most abundant source. Dr Narendra Singh called for a comprehensive green vegetation research. He pleaded for practical farm-based programme of production, and for forage and feed use of the products.

There were five technical sessions for presentation of papers and reports. In session I, considerable data on choice of raw materials, potential crops and agronomic studies to maximise the yields of extracted

leaf protein were provided. Session II had papers on new equipment and techniques for separating protein from the juice as well as for improving the quality and getting pigment-free leaf protein. In session III, various papers presented information on widely dispersed aspects such as composition, quality and properties of extracted leaf proteins. Session IV dealt with studies on the use of extracted leaf protein in food and feeds of pressed residue as forage, and of the deproteinised "whey" in fermentation, etc. Session V had mainly reports and view-points. There were country/institution reports on leaf protein research progress in France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan and U.S.A. and also projection for work in South East Asian region. In addition, there were reports and viewpoints on use of leaf protein in human food. One paper on limited scope of food use of leaf protein in overcoming protein and carotene malnutrition, especially among the children, provoked a lively discussion.

It was decided to hold the next meeting as the International Conference on Leaf Protein and Green Vegetation Research in Japan or in New Zealand in 1985.

Narendra Singh,

Organising Secretary,
International Conference on Leaf Protein Research,
General Secretary,
Society for Green Vegetation Research,
Mysore.