

**Drying Technology in Agriculture and Food Sciences.** Arun S. Majumdar. Oxford and IBH Publishing Co Pvt Ltd, 66 Janpath, New Delhi 110 001. 2000. 313 pp. Price: Rs 850.

The book under review has made a very good attempt to address a lot of fundamental issues regarding dehydration and drying of agri materials. Majumdar takes us through more than 11 major chapters which address several generic issues such as equilibrium moisture, diffusibility, quality changes, hydro-thermal properties, special drying protocols and quality retention of horticultural products, enzymes, agricultural materials, alfalfa. All these are backed-up with chapters on innovation in drying technologies and also a detailed treatment of microwave drying and heat pump drying systems.

Majumdar has carefully selected these topics in such a fashion that the basics and fundamentals are addressed by competent people in their respective fields. Thus, the value addition to the book has increased enormously. For example, when one looks at spray and freeze drying of enzymes, one initially

comes across a general introduction which is followed by prediction of enzyme activity and protection during spray-drying, and is very nicely treated through various examples. Similar treatments are given for freeze-dried enzymes and even the storage stability is addressed. These are backed-up with a large number of resources and the authors have taken very keen interest in listing these references, which are the latest, and also many of them are from very important schools where similar work is going on.

When it comes to using some of the modern techniques, I guess, there are others like solar drying, which probably needed a detailed place in such a book. On the one hand, the energy-intensive technologies keep knocking at our door through various developments that takes place. On the other hand, not much effort has been made by too many groups to interface solar drying through our normal driers, such that the initial moisture can ultimately be removed by the modern driers that are already listed. There is scope in this area and this can integrate a large number of drying methods, if it could have been properly focused to get information from a ther-

modynamic point of view in the context of reducing the moisture on the one hand, and increasing the shelf-life of the agri product, on the other hand.

The book consists of a large number of tables, detailed figures, mathematical equations and glossaries. Explanations and not-so-complicated mathematics and statistical treatments also form a part of this book which make it reader-friendly.

This book can be a very valuable edition to food science and food technology graduates, teachers and important libraries in the country who need information on drying and dehydration of many perishables. It is also commendable that an Indian edition has been brought out keeping the cost down. The editor and contributors have to be complimented for bringing out such a book.

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## MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

### Discussion Meeting on Structural Biology and Symposium on Biophysics

Date: 21–23 January 2002  
Place: Chennai

Contributed papers are invited in the following broad areas: Structural Biology and Structural Genomics, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, Biomolecular interactions and assembly, Biophysical techniques and applications, biological membranes, single molecule biophysics and theoretical biophysics. Three best posters will receive the IBS award.

Contact: Convener/Organizing Secretary  
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### AROGYA 2001

Date: 15–18 December 2001  
Place: New Delhi

The objectives are to project India's capabilities and requirements in health care, to project traditional system of medicines and to present the R&D efforts of institutions and agencies and to disseminate the same.

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