

League for International Food Education (L.I.F.E.)

The League for International Food Education (L.I.F.E.) was founded in June 1968. It is a consortium of seven scientific societies (The American Association of Cereal Chemists, the American Chemical Society, the American Institute for Nutrition, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Oil Chemists' Society, the Institute of Food Technologists, and the Volunteers for International Technical Assistance) in the United States that have a common desire to alleviate or eliminate hunger and that represent approximately 160,000 professionals, many of whom are well informed on nutrition and food technology.

Funds for the operation of L.I.F.E. have been provided, for the most part, by the Office of Nutrition of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The League's objective is to provide sound information about good nutrition and food production to developing countries. It serves as a clearinghouse for requests for technical information in these fields and for advice on ways and means of evaluating and correcting nutritional deficiencies that exist. Most of these requests are handled directly by the staff in the League's office in Washington, D.C., using accumulated information already at hand; highly specialized ones are answered by an expert selected from approximately 300 technical specialists who have been recruited from the societies making up the consortium. Complicated involved requests are processed after invoking aid and assistance from governmental agencies, universities, and/or private institutions. Many requests come directly to L.I.F.E. from in-country industries, associations, universities, agencies, organs of the U.N., and USAID missions.

One of the League's important continuing activities is the publication of a monthly newsletter which deals with current food and nutrition problems in developing countries. It is sent free to interested persons or groups in institutions here and abroad. Over 1700 copies go directly to individuals working on some aspect of the world hunger problem in 125 countries. The circulation of the Newsletter now exceeds 3500 and has a readership of 18,000.

On request, L.I.F.E. organizes timely meetings and workshops dealing with important aspects of providing nutritional food to the hungry, and makes surveys of food requirements in local areas. Through such activities it stimulates the formation of problem-solving committees on special food related subjects (*e.g.*, packaging). L.I.F.E. also recommends experts for food technology assignments in developing countries as a service to UNIDO, FAO, WHO, OAS, USAID, and similar organizations. The League is able to supply such service because it marshals a great array of technical skills for solving food and nutrition problems in developing countries.

Persons interested in participating in the work of the League or seeking assistance should address correspondence to:

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