

# Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry

© Copyright 1978 by the American Chemical Society

Volume 26, Number 5 September/October 1978

## SYMPOSIUM ON NUTRIENTS AND FLAVOR QUALITY OF PLANT FOODS

### Introduction

Today we are witnessing a growing interest in nutrition, not only by researchers, but also by consumers. As we all know, food is the basis of nutrition. To use any food properly and efficiently, however, we must understand its indigenous nutritive value and how processing and/or preparation affects this value.

A large number of symposia sponsored by the American Chemical Society and by other societies have concentrated on proteins from animal and plant sources and received considerable attention because of a great need for new, economical protein foods to feed the expanding world population. When we were asked to organize a symposium for the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry for this meeting, we felt that proteins have been covered adequately but not enough attention has been devoted to other components of plant foods, to the economics of plant food products, to effects of new processing methods on quality and flavor, to fortified foods, and to new areas of research on cereal grains. When a food is eaten daily or weekly, the processors and consumers must be concerned with the contribution of this food to the total nutritive value of the diet.

These broader but equally important areas were chosen for this symposium. Some research on proteins was included but emphasis was placed on other aspects of research on plant foods. We invited experienced authorities in these areas to present their research. Unfortunately all subjects possible under a title like "Nutrients and Flavor Quality of Plant Foods" could not be covered. We tried to cover areas that were novel and interesting. We hope that our readers will agree with our selections.

ROBERT L. ORY  
EDITH J. CONKERTON

Southern Regional Research Center  
Agricultural Research Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70179