

Relationship of the N.S.P.A. to the A.O.C.S.

THE Technical Committee of the National Soybean Processors Association has worked very closely during recent years with the various committees of the American Oil Chemists' Society. We have been fortunate indeed in having available the services of specialized committee groups who are qualified to study our problems and guide us in the many technical matters which are constantly arising.

The National Soybean Processors Association held its first meeting in Chicago on April 16, 1930. A technical committee known as the Finished Materials Standards Committee was appointed with Glenn Pickard as chairman. The problems during this early period had to do with the use of soybean oil in the paint and varnish field. Extension of the use of soybean oil into the edible field came some time later, and with this arose numerous problems in the way of additional standards and analytical procedures. M. M. Durkee, to whom the writer is indebted for most of the material covering the early history of the N.S.P.A. and its technical committees, was one of five members of the original Standards Committee. It was largely through his foresight that the cooperative relationship between the N.S.P.A. Committee and the American Oil Chemists' Society was activated.



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The reports of the Standards Committee indicate that the early problems largely involved analytical procedures for use in arriving at specifications covering oil for technical use and included such determinations as Footh Test, Acid Number, Color, Iodine Number, and Loss on Heating. Much of the collaborative work necessary for the development and improvement of these methods was carried on by the Standards Committee. The variety of problems and the amount of investigational work necessary were such that progress was necessarily slow with one small group carrying the entire program. In spite of the difficulties however the Standards Committee developed a number of excellent methods which are still in use.

In 1936 the Standards Committee of N.S.P.A. was reorganized and under the chairmanship of Mr. Durkee emphasized the advisability of increased cooperation with the American Oil Chemists' Society in working out methods of analysis for edible soybean oil, which by this time had become an important factor in the shortening and margarine fields. The continuing cooperation with the A.O.C.S. resulted in important contributions to the N.S.P.A. during the terms of Messrs. W. L. Taylor (1939-1940), N. F. Kruse (1941-1942), T. E. Hall (1943), and E. B. Freyer (1944-1945), who served as committee chairmen.

AS an indication of the extent of cooperation between the Technical Committee of N.S.P.A. and the A.O.C.S., the work of various committees of the A.O.C.S. on soybean oil and meal problems might be cited. The Seed and Meal Analysis Committee has studied the determination of oil in meal. The Fat Analysis Committee has investigated problems involving the determination of Unsoaponifiable Matter, Iodine Value, Moisture and Volatile Matter, Flash Point, and Break Test. The Refining Committee has worked out methods for refining the several types of soybean oil which were adopted by the Association for trading purposes. The reproducibility of the refining methods was excellent, and they have been in use since 1943-44 with very few reports of serious disagreement between laboratories. The Color Committee, after an extended investigation, has recommended the adoption of a spectrophotometric method for the determination of oil color. This procedure was accepted as a tentative method by the Association and has been satisfactory for soybean oil.

Current studies being carried on by A.O.C.S. committees include: a review of the Continuous Sampling Method in an effort to remove possible sources of errors; an attempt to eliminate errors in the determination of flash point resulting from the presence of higher-than-normal percentages of moisture; a study of such factors as solvent used, indicators and electrometric titration procedure in connection with the determination of free fatty acid in an effort to make it more satisfactory for the dark colored oils; the search for methods of analysis for characteristics of degummed soybean oils which may be used in the establishment of degummed oil standards.

THE purpose of this editorial has been to point out the cooperation between the N.S.P.A. through its Technical Committee and the A.O.C.S. The extensive committee program described, which does not cover every activity, surely emphasizes the excellent relationship between the two groups and the splendid service rendered by the A.O.C.S. committees.

An additional service is furnished by the Referee Examining Board of the A.O.C.S. This unbiased group first determines the qualifications of chemists to perform the analytical work required in the handling of oils, fats, and meals, and, if the qualifications warrant, then certifies them as referee chemists. They are accepted as such by the Oil Chemists' Society and the industry involved. In the soybean field the Technical Committee depends entirely upon the A.O.C.S. certified list of chemists for the selection of Official Chemists to serve members of the N.S.P.A.

A new chairman, S. O. Sorensen, will take over the responsibilities of the Technical Committee for the 1951-52 season.

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