

Abstracts

series of animal experiments in China. The results revealed that under normal conditions, detergents of all types have no toxic effect on humans and are safe to health. China is known to be rich in oil resources, animal fats and vegetable oil supplies, especially oil with a high content of paraffin. This undoubtedly provides very good opportunities for manufacturing surfactants with Chinese oils and fats. We believe that in addition to the technical research and reforms during the past few years, the adoption of current techniques and apparatus from abroad may cast a new light on the prospects for the detergent industry in China.

2.5 Trends in the Soap and Detergent Industry in Japan

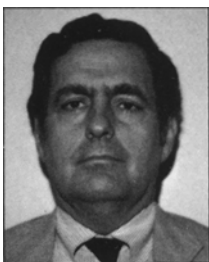


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In this decade, the soap and detergent industry of Japan as well as other countries was influenced mostly by the second petroleum crisis in 1978 and ecological safety problems, interrupting a steady growth in the industry. However, newly developed products have stimulated consumer needs, and production of household cleaning products has climbed to pre-1978 volumes. The deep ecological concern in Japan pushed household products into nonphosphate formulations. About 95% of heavy-duty detergent has changed voluntarily to nonphosphate content in a relatively short time. In response to consumer demand, low-irritation dishwashing detergents have become more prevalent. The trends of these products and technologies will be reviewed in connection with Japanese characteristic washing conditions, social trends and related industries.

Session III—Raw Materials

3.1 World Petrochemical Feedstocks for Detergents: The Next Decade



C.M. Schlaudt (speaker) and H.F. Pierce
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Petrochemicals constitute the bulk of the world's detergent raw materials. This situation is likely to continue

well into the 1990s. There is no other group of raw materials that can meet the world's detergent needs reliably in the huge volumes required at reasonable costs. The past 10 to 15 years substantiate this claim. During these most turbulent and trying years ever for the petrochemical industry, the industry continued to provide a strong and reliable supply. This performance will continue at least for the next 10-15 years. Underlying factors to be discussed include (a) a massive worldwide infrastructure, (b) numerous strong competitors, (c) abundant and affordable feedstocks, and (d) innovative technology attuned to the needs of the detergent industry.

3.2 Oleochemicals—Outlook until 1990



H.J. Richtler and J. Knaut (speaker)
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Oleochemistry is characterized by modestly growing markets and, in some cases, by stagnating markets. Usage in soaps, detergents and cleaning agents is increasing only in proportion to population growth in important industrialized countries. Expanding acreage for oil-producing plants (e.g., oil palm in southeast Asia) results in ever-increasing volumes of vegetable oils, most of which are used for edible purposes. Short- and medium-term prospects are good with regard to raw materials available for oleochemistry. This pertains to laurics as well. The low-cost situation for oils and fats should continue. As countries that produce the raw materials also increase their capacity to produce basic oleochemicals, the possibilities for established producers are narrowed. Chances for oleochemical-based materials are seen in the partial substitution of petrochemical materials, e.g., surfactants. Prospects for such trends are good with regard to costs and performance and because of ecological factors. The outlook for oleochemicals is evaluated until the beginning of the next decade, taking into consideration the aspects of important end-user markets.

3.3 Inorganic Raw Materials for the Detergent Industry



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The worldwide capacity and supply situation for sodium tripolyphosphate is reviewed, with specific attention to