

## **The Value of the A.O.C.S.--to the Fat and Oil Technology of India**

THE development of modern oil and fat technology in India is of comparatively recent origin. Owing to the long and intimate political and commercial connections with Great Britain, this development is naturally associated with the type of equipment manufactured in the United Kingdom and the methods of oilseed milling and processing of oils and fats prevailing there. But more recently, as the industry has developed and more Indian firms have come into existence and as German and (recently) American equipment has been employed, the American methods of testing and processing have begun to be adopted. Naturally it is difficult to state in precise and quantitative terms the nature and extent to which these American methods are being employed in the fat and oil technology in India. It will however be possible to indicate this in a general way.



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Most of the present knowledge of the American methods of processing and testing and of the rules of trading of oils and fats is made available in India through one or more of the activities of the American Oil Chemists' Society. Hence the value of the A.O.C.S. to the oil and fat technology of India primarily lies in its Journal, secondly in the testing and analytical methods published by the Society, and lastly in the trading rules of the National Cottonseed Products (Crushers) Association, the scientific section of which the A.O.C.S. is an outgrowth. Besides these, some members like myself, who have had opportunities for personal contacts with several leading members of the A.O.C.S., also sometimes obtain certain technical information from them directly.

PERHAPS it is not so widely known that in India there are 27 active members of the A.O.C.S. and that 18 educational and research institutions and 50 factories and industrial establishments subscribe for the Journal of the Society. Though for a country of the size of India this is not much, yet the circulation of nearly 100 copies of the Journal and possibly an equal number of the *Methods* is bound to have its influence felt on the oil chemists and technologists in the country. Being the only journal solely devoted to the field of oil and fat chemistry and technology and having a range from papers of an essentially fundamental character to matters of practical and technical importance, it is of considerable interest to the research worker, the plant chemist, and the technologist working in that field in India as in other countries.

Though the American methods of processing oils and fats are not at present universally or even mainly followed in India, yet quite a number of plants, especially those for which the equipment was supplied by Wurster and Sanger of Chicago or their former associates, Power Gas Corporation of England, follow mainly the American techniques as described in the Journal from time to time. Again, though it is too early for the Indian industry to adopt many of the latest developments in American technique as published in the Journal, current literature on topics like antioxidants and stability of fats is widely read and applied to some extent. I understand that a few of the progressive industrialists have either already introduced modern methods of deoiling of soap stock and are switching over from the batch to the continuous process of oil refining by employing centrifuges or are about to apply these methods.

IT is in the matter of adopting the A.O.C.S. methods that the Indian industry is showing greater readiness. In fact, in several plants the methods published by the Society are adopted both for controlling the plant operations and for testing various raw materials and finished products. The eminently practical nature and the availability of all the methods in book form are the two chief factors in making them popular. Indeed in certain educational institutions the Society's "Methods" are prescribed as textbook.

However in the field of trading oil seeds and crude oils no proper trading rules are regularly followed. People are just beginning to show an interest in the trading rules followed in the U.S.A. In this direction considerable progress has yet to be made on the lines of the trading rules, recognizing premiums for better quality seeds and crude oils that are followed in the States, which, if done, will result in considerable improvements in the quality of the commodities (oil seeds and oils) offered for sale.

In general, India is grateful for the wealth of information available from the Society and for the extensive work it is doing to improve fat and oil technology throughout the world.

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