

Introduction to this Special Issue of JAOCS

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The World Soy Protein Conference was held in Munich, Germany, November 11-14, 1973. More than 1,100 delegates and their wives from 46 countries participated in the lectures and social activities. The Minister of Agriculture, Josef Ertl, from West Germany and Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, from the U.S., as well as three U.S. senators also were present.

The general tone of the meeting was one of concern for the shortage of protein which has been caused by increased needs brought about by burgeoning populations and increased affluency. Soy protein, which has good nutritional and excellent functional qualities, can be formulated into desirable foods to help alleviate these needs. Legal and political barriers should be removed, so that wider applications of soy proteins can be developed to supplement other natural protein supplies.

The American Soybean Association initiated and sponsored this great Conference at a most opportune time. By special arrangement the ASA and the American Oil Chemists' Society have agreed to publish the Conference Proceedings in the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society. Advantages to the ASA are rapid publication with an immediate circulation of about 6,000 copies to 60 countries at a low cost. Extra copies will serve as Proceedings to be distributed by the ASA to Conference delegates. Advantages to subscribers of the Journal are that they will have copies of the full Conference Proceedings at no extra cost. There will be little disruption of our regular publication schedule, with resumption of our regular publication schedule in February.

Therefore, this issue is devoted to the World Soy Protein Conference Proceedings. For convenience all pages are numbered as part of the News Section using the "A" designations. The Technical Section of the 1974 volume of the Journal will begin with the February issue.

The Conference speakers and staff have provided exceptional cooperation in getting the papers to us promptly. The Journal staff has worked diligently to put the whole publication together in record time. I salute them all and express deep appreciation to them.

We hope that this cooperative effort between ASA and AOCS will lead to other ventures of mutual interest in the future. We indeed have common goals.

The following pages record the proceedings of what we now recognize as a highly successful World Soy Protein Conference. It was in October 1972, that the germ of the idea of this Conference first was conceived by the Market Development Division of the American Soybean Association. It was felt that the time was right to gather together top representatives from all areas affecting the soy foods industry. Now was the time to bring together scientists, technicians, researchers, and administrators to hear and discuss the latest developments in the state of the industry, markets, technology, research, utilization, and governmental controls and laws.

When the Conference was conceived, the staff hopefully predicted an attendance of around 300. As the Conference grew near, it was apparent that the interest was greater than expected. This was indeed the right time: 1,100 representatives from 47 countries actually attended.

The events of the past year made this Conference even more timely than we originally expected. The coverage of the subject matter was both excellent and complete. It covered the world soy protein markets; soy protein products, production and properties; legal and governmental regulations; utilization of soy protein in foods; nutritional aspects of soy protein; plus future developments and future prospects.

We feel confident that this Conference will be recognized as marking the beginning of a new, growing world-wide awareness of the importance of soy protein food and the impact it will have on the food technologies and the food habits of the world's people.

On behalf of the American Soybean Association, I want to thank all the participants in this World Soy Protein Conference for their help in making it a highly successful and very worthwhile Conference.