

source of protein for humans. Runners-up were meat and fish. More than half the persons surveyed said they had eaten foods with soy protein as the prime ingredient during the past year, and about a third said they believed adding soy protein to meat or foods improved the nutritional quality, about a fourth said it had no effect, and about 20% said they didn't know if it had any effect.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission voted this past spring to establish a committee on vegetable food proteins. This United Nations-backed organization works to establish basic standards of identity for food products moving in international commerce. Establishment of the committee is recognition of vegetable food proteins' growing importance.

Earlier this summer two important regulatory reports were issued, one in Europe and one in the United States. The European report was by a Common Market Study Group on the use of vegetable proteins in food, particularly meats. In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration published its long awaited proposed regulations for vegetable proteins on July 14, 1978.

In Eastern cultures, where soy has been an important source of protein for centuries, the recent surge of interest in the West may seem a bit tardy. College communities in the United States, particularly on the West Coast, have recently reported increasing consumption of the Eastern soy foods such as miso and tofu. One session at the World Conference will be devoted to these long time uses. Eastern nations, however, are looking at the new Western applications of vegetable proteins as yet another way to use a familiar product. In early 1978, an American Soybean Association-sponsored meeting on soy protein in Singapore attracted several hundred registrants.

Copies of the proceedings of that conference are available from the American Soybean Association, PO Box 158, Hudson, IA 50643, USA. Cost is \$10; copies will be mailed postpaid.

Developing third world nations currently can view vegetable food proteins as yet another potential source of protein.

Vegetable proteins have found their largest market thus far in institutional food service programs. Soy protein has been used in school lunch feeding programs since 1970 in the United States. Soy proteins' most visible excursion into the consumer market came in 1973 when rising meat prices

permitted successful introduction of hamburger extended up to 25% with soy protein. Many stores reported selling up to three pounds of the extended ground meat to every one pound of regular ground meat.

During 1977, U.S. producers of soy products produced 649 million pounds of edible soy protein (on a 50% protein basis) and 302 million pounds of industrial product. Total deliveries during the first quarter of 1978 (edible and industrial) were 224 million pounds.

Interest in vegetable food proteins is rising — and the World Conference is providing an international forum for those involved to get together and talk about what's happening now, and in the future. ●

Spouses' program features historic sites

Spouses of technical program registrants will have plenty of time to tour Amsterdam as well as see other parts of The Netherlands during the World Conference on Vegetable Food Proteins.

All participants in the conference are invited to participate in the Sunday, Oct. 29, opening reception in the exposition area; the Monday, Oct. 30, evening reception at the world famous Rijksmuseum, where Rembrandt's "The Night Watch" is among the many paintings by the noted artist; and the Thursday, Nov. 2, Dutch festival evening at the RAI Center.

On Monday, Oct. 30, spouses will attend the opening session of the conference, at which His Royal Highness Prince Claus of The Netherlands will officially open the event. Coffee will be served in the RAI-restaurant, followed by a boat trip through Amsterdam's famed canals. The program will end at noon time.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, a full-day excursion is planned to Schoonhoven, known as the "silver city" and to the famous mills of Kinderdijk. Luncheon will be served in Schoonhoven.

On Thursday, Nov. 2, the area east of Amsterdam will be visited, beginning with a tour of the 12th century castle Muiderslot, followed by a trip through the beautiful surroundings of the Queens' palace in Soestdijk, and concluding with a pancake lunch at the Lage Vuursche. ●



The Night Watch, Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn.