



Introduction to this World Conference Proceedings Issue of JAOCS

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More than 1,000 persons participated in the World Conference on Vegetable Food Proteins held October 29-November 3, 1978, in the RAI Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Prince Claus of The Netherlands opened the Conference and welcomed the delegates and guests. Ambassador Joseph, the U.S. Ambassador to The Netherlands, and Dr. Ir. M.P.M. Voss of The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, gave opening addresses. Dr. Karl Gander, Director of Research for Unilever Food Research Laboratories in Hamburg, Germany, and Cochairman of the Conference, presented greetings from numerous dignitaries who could not be present in person. Dr. A.R. (Dick) Baldwin, Vice-president and Executive Director of Research for Cargill, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and General Chairman of the Conference, responded and reviewed the objectives and plans for the Conference. He also presented an Indian peace pipe (made by the Baldwin family) to the Prince, who promised to use it whenever there was lack of tranquility at home or abroad.

The Conference purpose was to examine current information on utilization of vegetable proteins for nutritional and functional purposes. Delegates, from four dozen nations across six continents, were those interested in the regulation of food and food ingredients, institutional feeding programs, food assistance and emergency feeding programs, and the commercial use of vegetable proteins in food products.

There were 54 speakers in the 10 plenary sessions and an almost equal number of invited speakers at the 17 round table discussion groups. Plenary sessions, which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each day, were well attended by 500 to 800 persons in each session. Simultaneous round table discussions (three or four per day) were held each afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and attracted as many as 300 persons in each session. Exhibitors occupying 54 exhibit spaces were open during the three-hour luncheon

break each day, showing everything from analytical equipment and processing machinery to various vegetable protein products ready for incorporation into consumer products.

General and trade press from The Netherlands, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, United States, and Near East attended. Press conferences were held each afternoon.

During the luncheon break, delegates could purchase meals featuring entrees in which vegetable proteins were used as extenders and as analogs and for functional purposes. Thus, for example, after hearing about how vegetable proteins could be used in meats or confectionery products, delegates could sample such desserts or taste a meat analog similar to those described by speakers. At the exhibits the delegates could learn how to make the products and where to obtain the ingredients.

Strong interest by those attending was evident throughout the week in the crowds at the plenary session, in the round table discussions and in the exhibit area. Even at 5:30 p.m. on the final day of the Conference, more than 200 persons were still busy in the round table discussion groups!

Delegates to the World Conference on Vegetable Food Proteins began arriving in Amsterdam's RAI Centre early on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 29, 1978. After registering, they began to greet old friends and meet new ones as the exposition accompanying the conference opened that afternoon. During the early evening, a buffet arranged by the Food Protein Council of the United States provided samples of vegetable food protein-fortified foods. The official opening of the plenary sessions was held Monday morning, Oct. 30, 1979. Delegates filled the Main Hall shortly before the arrival of His Royal Highness Prince Claus of The Netherlands and other dignitaries. Official introductions were conducted just outside the Main Hall, then the conference officials and the honored guests entered the main auditorium.