

NOTAS

DESIGNING AN EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSFER OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Professional People Are a Unique Resource

Several major channels exist and can serve as a vehicle for transferring useful food science and technology from developed to developing countries. One such channel can be from government to government. Another channel, on whatever terms are necessary, can be from industry to industry. A third is based on college and university relations between developed and developing countries. All of these avenues are being used.

The involvement of professional people as professional people in this type of enterprise is of relatively recent origin. Here, often a great potential resource may exist arising from the fact that in developed countries large numbers of professional people are organized into societies representing their specialities. Over and above the professional's commitment to a particular industry, government, or university there often exists a practical social idealism that needs only a challenge and a channel for its expression. Such a channel is represented in the U.S.A. by the League for International Food Education (L.I.F.E.).

L.I.F.E. is the clearing house for a consortium of eight professional societies with a membership of 180,000 professional people. These members are professionally qualified in all aspects of food science and technology.

A respectable number of the members can also be motivated and interested in providing technology for solving food problems in developing countries. However, enlisting these professionals and presenting to them in a proper manner the problems needing solution is a time consuming task requiring continuous effort and a variety of approaches. We will discuss a number of these approaches.

Enlisting the Professional for the War on Hunger

Within the often very large memberships of the professional societies is a modest number of members who have a genuine desire to make a contribution of technology on a free voluntary basis. Out of this grass roots desire came the birth of L.I.F.E. But this good intention must be constantly fostered in many ways or it will fail to be consummated.

This has been accomplished by:

- 1) publishing a monthly newsletter;
- 2) presenting papers at colleges and universities describing the objectives and structure of L.I.F.E. and soliciting the support of the faculties and students as professional people;
- 3) presenting appropriate papers at the major meetings of our consortium societies (these are subsequently published in the journals of the societies);

- 4) helping to organize committees within the professional societies to address major problems. One such example is a "By-Products and Waste Prevention Committee for Developing Countries";
- 5) providing the officers of the consortium with suitable information to take back to their professional societies, and encouraging them to present papers about the consortium;
- 6) producing an extensive array of publications directly applicable to the needs of developing countries, or aimed at presenting problems needing solution to professionals in our own country. Much of the content of our publications comes from qualified professionals which, in turn, affords an effective way of stimulating their thought and interest.
- 7) establishing a roster of experts from the societies for food problem solving in developing countries;
- 8) presenting a L.I.F.E. exhibit at major meetings of the societies.

A Newsletter is Indispensable

An effective means of reaching out to professionals and to the people needing technical information is by means of a regularly published newsletter. In the case of L.I.F.E., this is a monthly publication. Only a few topics are covered in any one issue. The articles are written very concisely and generally upon request a reference list is supplied.

We can summarize our approach to producing an effective newsletter by the following precepts:

- 1) It should address only one or two key topics in each issue and these should provide useful substantive information.
- 2) The language should be as non-technical as possible
- 3) The articles should be concisely and clearly written
- 4) They should have immediate pertinence to the needs of the readers
- 5) The technology provided should be applicable, if possible, to more than one location
- 6) The reference list provided upon request should permit the reader to delve deeper into the technology outlined in the article.

A somewhat unexpected use of our newsletter has been its incorporation into courses in colleges and universities in food science, both in the U.S.A. and in developing countries. This has been gratifying experience since it obviously represents an important form of technology transfer.

Responding to Requests for Technical Information

A Custom-Made Task

Perhaps the most useful of all activities is to solicit and respond to specific requests for technical information from overseas. These may come from the private food industry sector, from governments, voluntary agencies, universities, trade associations, and bilateral or international aid organizations.

In order to respond properly to these requests, a carefully classified list

of several hundred experts has been recruited from among the membership of the eight societies in the L.I.F.E. Consortium (but not necessarily limited to these societies). A request is generally sent out to several of these experts. When the answers come back to L.I.F.E. they are carefully examined. Those responses that apply directly to the stated need are assembled and sent out to the requestor. Each request receives a number and becomes a "project". In time, this "project" may become a useful resource for responding to other requests. Or, as sometimes happens, the requestor may wish to have a continuing correspondence with L.I.F.E. involving related or new questions.

Our experience has been that to be useful, answers to requests should be provided as promptly as possible and should be custom-made to fit closely the specific need of the client. One of the most difficult tasks is to really determine exactly how useful a response has been. Many roadblocks can develop before an enterprise can be carried to a successful completion. Somewhere along the way the client may lose interest and drop his project.

The Funding Aspects of L.I.F.E.

It is obvious that the effort of any viable institution must be supported with a level of funding sufficient for the intended task. L.I.F.E. has been fortunate in having received such support from the Office of Nutrition in the Agency for International Development of the U.S.A. L.I.F.E., however, is a private non-profit voluntary organization. It has, from the beginning, been the ultimate intent that L.I.F.E. be supported as much as possible from private sources such as the food industry, allied industries and the foundations.

Samuel M. Weisberg y
Ann L. Dyer, L.I.F.E.
115 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Rm. 705
Washington, D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL EN TECNOLOGIA DE PROCESOS DE OLEAGINOSAS Y ACEITE VEGETAL

Entre el 1 y el 5 de Marzo de 1976 se celebrará en Amsterdam, Holanda, la citada Conferencia auspiciada por la Sociedad de Químicos del Aceite (AOCS), numerosas organizaciones de distribución mundial en el ramo y por el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos.

Para información adicional sobre locales de exhibición, programas y bolsas de viaje favor dirigirse a:

James Lyon, Executive Director
American Oil Chemists' Society
508 South Sixth Street
Champaign
Illinois, 61820, U. S.A.

**CURSO DE POST-GRADO EN NUTRICION HUMANA CONDUCTENTE
AL GRADO DE MAGISTER. UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE. SEDE SUR,
SANTIAGO, CHILE**

Con una duración de 18 meses académicos, se iniciará en Agosto de 1975 el citado curso destinado a formar profesionales especialistas en el campo de la Nutrición y Alimentación Humana, capacitados para efectuar investigación y docencia en esta Rama de la Ciencia en su respectiva área de trabajo. Para mayor información dirigirse por correo aéreo a:

“Programa de Magister en Nutrición Humana”
Dpto. de Nutrición y Tecnología de los Alimentos
Universidad de Chile, Sede Santiago Sur
Casilla 15138, Santiago 11 - Chile.

OCTOGESIMONOVENA REUNION DE LA A.O.A.C.

Entre el 13 y el 16 de Octubre de 1975 se celebrará la 89ª Reunión de la A.O.A.C., en el Hotel Marriott, Twin Bridges, Washington, D. C., 20001. Los trabajos a presentar versarán sobre métodos analíticos aplicables a materiales y productos de importancia para la salud y la agricultura. Para mayor información dirigirse a:

L.G. Ensminger
Executive Secretary, A.O.A.C.,
Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D. C., 20044 - U. S. A.

DECIMOQUINTO SIMPOSIUM INTERNACIONAL EN ESPECTROMETRIA DE MASA Y RESONANCIA MAGNETICA NUCLEAR

En la ciudad de Bolonia (Italia) tendrá lugar entre el 12 y el 13 de Noviembre de 1975 el XV Simposium Internacional en lo referente a la aplicación de la Espectrometría de Masa (E.M.) y de la Resonancia Magnética Nuclear (R.M.N.) en las industrias alimentarias. Para mayor información dirigirse a:

Don Pallotta
Istituto de las Industrias Agrícolas
7, vía San Giacomo 40126
Bolonia, Italia.

CURSO DE NUTRICION BASICA U.N.M.S.M.

Entre el 1 y el 15 de Marzo próximo pasado, fue ofrecido el Curso de Nutrición Básica, dictado por los Profesores del Instituto de Bioquímica y Nutrición, U.N.M.S.M. El curso estuvo organizado por la División de Bromatología y Nutrición de la Sociedad Química del Perú y auspiciado por la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos y el Instituto Hipólito Unanue.

SOLUCIONES AL PROBLEMA POBLACIONAL **Seminarios Internacionales**

Especialmente dirigidos a médicos que deben ejercer en otros continentes, la Universidad de Colorado anuncia el inicio de los Seminarios Internacionales en el área del control y de la planificación demográfica a nivel mundial. Los seminarios tendrán una duración de 1 ó 2 semanas, iniciándose en las siguientes fechas: Junio 9, Agosto 11 y Octubre 6 de 1975 y Febrero 23, Abril 26 y Junio 7 de 1976. Para mayor información favor dirigirse a:

Thomas Moulding, M. D.
Container C246
Dept. of Preventive Medicine
University of Colorado Medical Center
4200 E. Ninth Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220.

IV CONGRESO LATINOAMERICANO DE **NUTRICIONISTAS Y DIETISTAS**

La Confederación Latinoamericana de Nutricionistas y Dietistas (CONFELANYD) ha escogido a Venezuela como sede de su IV Congreso Latinoamericano a celebrarse en Caracas en los días 20 al 25 de Julio del presente año en las instalaciones del Parque Central.

El mencionado Congreso tendrá como tema central "La Problemática Nutricional y Alimentaria de la Población Marginada".

Para más informes dirigirse a:

Lic. Elvira Q. de Ramírez
Colegio de Nutricionistas y Dietistas de Venezuela
Apartado 8574
Caracas, Venezuela.

NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF PLANT FOOD-BIOCHEMISTRY OF FOOD **PLANTS-INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT AND MEN**

Es el título de un congreso que se celebrará en Wädenswil, Suiza del 7 al 10 de Oct. de 1975. Para mayor información dirigirse a:

Dr. W. Schuphan,
D 6222 Geisenheim, Heidestr 9,
Alemania.

SEGUNDO SEMINARIO LATINO-AMERICANO DE CIENCIAS Y **TECNOLOGIA DE ALIMENTOS**

El Segundo Seminario Latino-Americano de Ciencias y Tecnología de Alimentos será organizado entre los días 24 y 30 de Agosto de 1975, en Campinas S.P. Brasil, por la Sociedad Brasileira de Ciencia y Tecnología de Alimentos (SBCTA) y el Instituto de Tecnología de Alimentos (ITAL).
Dirección del Secretariado: Caixa Postal 271 Campinas S. P. Brasil.