

**WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENTS IN FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY,
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT), BANGKOK (THAILAND),
APRIL 24-27, 2001**

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES : 13 (INCLUDING 11 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRE)

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The demand for processed food is rising in the developing countries due to improvement in living standards and changes in life style. Apart from internal consumption, processed food and its export are playing an important role in the economy of the developing countries. Keeping this in view and the fact that most of the member countries of the Centre are agriculture-based economies, the Governing Council of the Centre had approved the Centre's proposal for organising a workshop to review the recent developments and trends in food processing technologies, as part of the Centre's activity in the priority area of Agro-Technology.

The workshop on Developments in Food Processing Technology was organised in association with and at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand during April 24-27, 2001. The Process Technology Programme of AIT focuses on processing technologies in food and bioprocess industry through value-added product development, innovative processing technologies and packaging methods. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) co-sponsored the workshop.

The workshop was attended by 16 participants from 13 countries, including 11 member countries of the Centre, namely, Bangladesh (Dr. K.M. Fazlur Haque of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research in Dhaka and Mr. Md. Abul Kashem of the Ministry of Science & Technology), Bhutan (Mr. Ugyen Rinzin of Bhutan Agro Industries Ltd in Thimpu), Egypt (Dr. Nabih Abd Elhamid Ibrahim of the Food Technology Research Institute in Giza), India (Prof. J.S. Pai of the University of Mumbai and Mr. R. Kishore of the Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion), Indonesia (Prof. Dr. Mrs. Ir. Tien Rustini of the Ministry of State for Research and Technology), Iraq (Dr. Moayyad M. Al-Hakim of the Agricultural and Biological Centre in Baghdad), Mauritius (Mr. Hamlall Munbodh of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and International Trade in Moka), Nepal (Dr. Madhav Prasad Baral of the Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology), Pakistan (Mrs. Surruya Wadud of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratories in Peshawar), Syria (Ms. Faten M. Bachir Hamed of the Directorate of Agricultural Research in Damascus) and Vietnam (Mr. Cao Van Hung of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Thailand (Ms. Sumalai Srikumlaithong of Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) in Bangkok) and Philippines (Ms. Filipina Divina Sonido and Ms. Bess Chua Gaw of the Philippine Food

Processors and Exporters Organisation Inc. in Quezon City). Thailand's participation was sponsored by APCTT and participation of Philippines by their Industry. Although Nigeria had sent their nomination, they could not attend.

At the inaugural session Mr. M. Fazlur Rahman, Secretary to the Government of Bagladesh in the Ministry of Science and Technology and President of the NAM S&T Centre and Prof. Jean-Louis Armand, President of AIT gave their inaugural and presidential addresses, respectively. Mr. Rahman lauded the cooperation between the Centre and the AIT and emphasised the importance of food technology for developing countries. He stated that food technology, which was a multi-disciplinary subject, cuts across important economic sectors of agriculture and industry. Prof. Jean Louis Armand expressed his happiness at the ongoing cooperation between the AIT and the Centre and appreciated the programmes already organised successfully by the Centre at AIT. He dwelt on the evolution of AIT which has celebrated its 40th Anniversary and has got 10,000 alumni in 140 countries, is recipient of the Raman Magsasay Award for its outstanding services and has attracted support from various international organisations and programmes for its activities. Mr. N. Srinivasan of APCTT proposed a vote of thanks.

The workshop programme comprised of technical presentations followed by discussions and visits to modern food processing plants. Recent development in the following areas and topics were covered in their presentations by eminent faculty drawn from Process Technology Programme of AIT's School of Environment Resources & Development (SERD), Industry and FAO.

- Innovations in food processing technology
- Trends in food bio-process technology
- Developments in food processing equipment
- Development of convenience foods
- Food irradiation
- Food packaging
- Instrumental methods for food quality assessment
- Small scale food processing
- Information technology and computer applications.

The Technical Sessions started off with a comprehensive review of the overall status of 'Developments in Food Processing Technology', presented in two parts by Prof. V.K. Jindal of Processing Technology Programme (SERD) of AIT. Later in subsequent sessions, he also spoke on 'Instrumental Methods for Objective Food Quality Assessment' and 'Information Technology & Computer Applications'. Prof. Athopol Noomhorm, Professor of Post Harvest & Food Process Engineering at AIT spoke on 'Developments in Food Processing Equipment', 'Processing of Fruits and Vegetables', 'Preservation of Foods by Irradiation' and 'Quality and Safety Issues in Food Industry'. Dr. S.K. Rakshit of

the Bio-process Technology, AIT covered the topics on 'Developments in Food Bio-process Technology', 'Instrumental Methods for Objective Food Quality Assessment' and 'Cleaner Production in Food Industry'. Dr. Alastair Hicks of FAO Regional Office in Bangkok gave a presentation on 'Developments in small - scale Food Processing Technology'. From Industry Mr. Stef van Linder & Mr. Richard Dean Lovell spoke on 'Developments in Processing of Convenience Foods' and Mr. Poon Kongcharoenkiat spoke on 'Recent Trends in Food Packaging'.

In the Plenary Session, the nominees of the participating countries presented Country Report on status of food technology and industry in their respective countries. The status report submitted by Mrs. Ozumba Augusta Uzoamaka from Nigeria was circulated in her absence.

On the last day of the workshop, visits to two food processing industrial units were organised to familiarise the participants on different aspects of modern food technology. The first was a visit to a fully automated milk processing plant producing various milk products including plain pasteurised milk, flavoured milk and yogurt etc. and the second one was to a modern air-conditioned HACCP & ISO 9000 certified chicken processing plant, where they were shown the entire range of processing from cutting, trimming, treating and dressing and frying/roasting before packaging under ultra-clean hygienic conditions with all analytical facilities including hazard analysis. At the concluding session, the faculty and participants discussed possible cooperation and exchange of information in the area of Food Technology. The President of the Governing Council, Mr. M. Fazlur Rahman gave the closing remarks and complimented Prof. Jindal for the excellent conduct of the workshop and then gave away the certificates to all the participants.