An AACC International Update

Bernie Bruinsma, AACC International President

As president of AACC International, I feel it is important that members are aware of the association’s activities and are given the opportunity to comment. All members of AACC Intl. play an important role in achieving our goals and helping to keep the association highly relevant. I would like to update you on some recent activities.

Current Priority Science Issues—In preparation for the New Products Task Force, members and staff have been organizing a series of think tanks to determine what scientific issues our members are currently dealing with every day.

Quality of Science—A portion of our members are questioning if AACC Intl. is attracting the best research for presentations at the annual meetings. We have been seeking input from this segment of membership and the board is considering changes.

Membership Task Force—Jim Dexter has led this group and they have examined the membership structure and services in great detail. Their report and recommendations will be presented to the board this month.

Fortification Task Force—Grain enrichment was an early effort of AACC Intl. and could be looked at again in light of new data. A new task force is being formed to look at enrichment/fortification of grain products.

Grains and Health Institute—Members from several universities in North America have asked the board if AACC Intl. could provide leadership in the creation of a virtual institute to seek research funds and coordinate grants in the area of whole grains and health.

Hawaii Program—The descriptions of the annual meeting symposia are available on the website. We have received approximately 360 technical abstracts, which matches previous years’ submissions. Please take a look at the pages in this issue to see a few new things we’ve added to the program.

ICC—AACC Intl. Summit—ICC and AACC Intl. officers have been holding a series of conference calls with the goal of creating additional partnering and cooperative activities. A summit meeting is planned in June.

Advancing Cereal Science Presentations—A new software technology makes it possible to record voice along with PowerPoint slide presentations and quickly make them available. An entire database of presentations is envisioned.

Corporate Partnerships Program—The Corporate Development Committee is examining a new partnership program. Companies could choose their benefit package based on AACC Intl.’s portfolio of products.

Recent Programs in Europe—We have recently completed two successful courses in Europe. Crispy Cracks: Creating and Retaining the Crispiness of Food took place in March and the Food Extrusion Master Class took place in April.

Bernard L. Bruinsma
AACC International President

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed reading the article by Rodney et al., “A New Approach to the Pearling Test for Grain Hardness” in the November/December issue of Cereal Foods World, which describes the use of the Kett Pearlest rice pearler to measure grain hardness. However, I must point out that this is not really a “new approach.” In 1997, scientists with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, developed and published a method using the Pearlest machine for measuring pearl millet dehulling yield, a parameter directly related to grain hardness. The reference is Gomez, M.I., et al., 1997, Manual of Laboratory Procedures for Quality Evaluation of Sorghum and Pearl Millet, ICRISAT, Patancheru, India.

John Taylor
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Response

Dear Dr. Taylor,

We appreciate hearing of this report of the Kett rice pearler measuring dehulling yield in pearl millet and sorghum. We did not locate this report in a literature search for grain hardness methods. Our paper obviously focused on screening for grain hardness in wheat. We hope that this simple equipment may find new uses for an even wider range of grain species.

Sincerely,

R. Rodney
Chevalier College
S. Uthayakumaran, I. L. Batey, and C. W. Wrigley
Wheat CRC and Food Science Australia

Cereal Foods World welcomes letters from our readers. If you would like to submit a letter, please include your name, affiliation, and relevant contact information. Send correspondence to m Hudson@scisoc.org, or fax to +1.651.454.0766, or mail to Matt Hudson, Cereal Foods World, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121 U.S.A. Submitted letters will become the property of AACC International and may be edited to fit our format.