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Contents

A. To the Reader	1
B. Staff	3
C. Feature Article	4
D. Forthcoming Events (2004)	6
E. Past Events (2003)	7
F. Report on Ongoing and Planned Co-ordinated Research Projects (CRPs) and Research Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs)	8
G. Results of the 20th Meeting of the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (ICGFI)	9
H. FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratory	12
I. Nuclear Preparedness	13
J. Websites	15
K. Publications	15
• Annex: Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods	17



A. To the Reader

I am pleased to announce that we are currently evaluating applications to fill a professional post for a Food Safety Specialist within the Food and Environmental Protection Section of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. It is envisioned that the qualified candidate selected would support Member States in the development of quality control mechanisms in the areas of food and environmental protection; would provide technical advice to support efforts towards research activities, technology transfer and laboratory accreditation; and would organise training activities and write guidelines, protocols, standard operating procedures and related technical documents. Major responsibilities in the new position will reflect a broadened scope related to quality control in the area of good agricultural practices throughout the food chain.

This issue of our Newsletter also includes a summary of the 20th Meeting of the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation, which was recently held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7-9 October 2003. Among other things, the ICGFI Meeting unanimously supported the presentation of the Engel Award to both Dipl.-Phys. Dieter A.E. Ehlermann and Paisan Loaharanu. The Engel Award is presented to those individuals that have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of food irradiation.

Dr. Ehlermann was recognized for his significant contributions to the acceptance of food irradiation as a safe and beneficial technology through work in the areas of food science, the provision of technical information and education. Dr. Ehlermann's contributions were based on his background of over 35 years in the field of food



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