

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 1981

9

from the Department for Scientific and Technical Communication

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### Improving Information Transfer within the EC

The symposium on "the exploitation and transfer of scientific and technical information" (see Newsletter No 4), held by the Commission in Luxembourg on 10-12 June 1981, was attended by about 180 participants.

The symposium provided many insights into the subject as a whole and the various methods which are used to advance the exploitation of information.

One sad fact which emerged very clearly is that, although considerable efforts are sometimes devoted by Member States to promote the exploitation of the new ideas produced by research, these efforts are deployed in an almost exclusively national framework. Little attention is paid to the possibilities opened up by operating on a European scale. One of the main reasons is that, generally speaking, public organisations concerned with technology transfer or, for that matter, information services in general, are funded nationally and therefore, quite naturally, tend to work in a strictly national environment.

As the chairman of one of the sessions put it, "are we Europeans prepared to learn from each other?". The participants seemed to think they ought at least to be given the chance to do so and urged the Commission to hold seminars as follow-ups to the symposium. Each seminar would concentrate on a specific problem, as it affects a well-defined category of people. It would be useful, for instance, to bring together organisations responsible for industrial exploitation of the results of publicly-funded research (e.g. NRDC in the U.K., ANVAR in France, certain universities which have technology transfer depart-

#### If you wish detailed information about the Commission's activities

In the scientific and technical field and the reports, articles, conference proceedings, manuals, directories, atlases, glossaries, etc. associated with them, consult:

— Euroabstracts Section I (activities covered by EEC and Euratom Treaties)

and/or

— Euroabstracts Section II (coal and steel).

For a **free copy** write to CEC — DG XIII/A2, BP 1907, Luxembourg.

The information is also available on-line via Euronet-Diane in the **EABS data base**. Write to ECHO Service, Ms A. ILJON, B.P. 1907, Luxembourg, for details or call Luxembourg 4301 2923.

If you wish to keep up to date with the **highlights of these activities**, consult the Commission's Videotex journals:

— Euronews (on Prestel, UK)

— Euronieuws (on Viditel, The Netherlands)

where you will find news items on:

— latest Council of Ministers decisions on research,

— latest calls for tenders for research under contract,

— forthcoming conferences, symposia, etc.

— recent publications,

— a special feature: 'The invention of the month', etc.

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ments, etc.) with the aim not only of comparing working methods but of laying the foundations for deliberate cooperation.

Another useful topic, which would deserve a seminar, is the question of exploiting the technical report literature, i.e. extracting information of industrial interest from research reports, putting it into readily understandable language and publishing the resulting articles in newsletters or trade journals, for example.

Throughout the symposium it was stressed that transfer of information is essentially a form of human communication. Various technical aids, such as computerised data-bases and data-banks were certainly valuable, but experience shows that today most potential users, especially in small- and medium-sized firms, are never likely to use them. They are more likely to be receptive to "tailor-made" information received from experts whose profession it is, after having identified their needs, to gather and evaluate on their behalf the data relevant to these needs. Adopting the right psychological approach towards the customer, in order to make him receptive, was also frequently mentioned as an essential requirement.

The discussion period of one of the sessions was devoted to two interrelated questions, that of the value of information and that of defining the different professions involved in the transfer of information. The general consensus was that it would be of advantage to the European economy if information could be regarded more and more as a commodity with a price-tag. This should, in the long run, enhance the quality of information and technology transfer services, providing those who supply them with a more stimulating working environment. It became apparent, at the same time, that although a wide variety of professional skills are required, no attempt seems yet to have been made to define in detail the different kinds of expertise involved in the information transfer business and that the Commission could usefully order a study on the subject. This could lead to the establishment of a code of practice for each branch of the profession and the definition of training requirements.

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### ORDER FORM

Please send me the proceedings of the symposium on the transfer and exploitation of scientific and technical information, held on 10-12 June 1981.

\_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the German edition

\_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the English edition

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Many other useful suggestions were made during the symposium. For instance, several participants insisted on the necessity, in the face of the increasing dispersion of information services, to establish simple referral systems of the "who knows what?" variety. It also became evident that much still had to be done to improve access to licensing opportunities, the organisation of fairs being perhaps the best method of achieving this objective.

The full proceedings of the symposium, including the papers presented by the main speakers, the panel members and a summary of the discussions will be published. There will be four editions, in German, English, French and Italian respectively. Price will be in the region of 20-25 ECU (about 1 000 Bfr, 140 Ff, £ 12, Lit 30 500, DM 61, DKr 192).

## PUBLICATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

### 1. In step in Europe — Coordinated agricultural research of the European Community

The quality of the agricultural research conducted within the Member States of the European Community is recognized world-wide as being of a high order. But the limitations of national budgets impose restrictions on the type and amount of work done and the speed with which it can be brought to fruition. Usually, national research services find it difficult to justify funding projects on subjects which are not of immediate concern to their country.

The great merit of the coordinated agricultural research programme of the Commission of the European Communities is that it is concerned with Community (transnational) problems and it can look ahead in preparedness for situations that are likely to be significant in the future. Examples of this are the programmes that have been successfully carried through on bovine leukosis and African swine fever.

This brochure deals mainly with how and why the Commission's coordinated agricultural research programme started, how it is administered and what it has achieved so far. The first successful coordinated agricultural research programme to be carried out in the Community was limited to the very important subjects of classical and African swine fever (this was conducted initially from 1964 to 1971, but has been continued under succeeding programmes). Following this success, the Directors of the agricultural research services of Member States met and assisted Commission staff in drawing up proposals for a more comprehensive programme of coordinated research. In 1974, this committee was given statutory recognition as the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) and in 1975 the Council approved and funded the first full programme.

The four subjects of this programme — animal leukoses, effluent from intensive livestock units, beef production and plant protein production — were chosen with particular regard to their relevance in smoothing the working and development of the common agricultural policy and the same criteria have been

used in selecting the 10 subjects of the current period. Achievements during the first period were considerable and this is due in no small measure to the guidance and help that is given by SCAR. The staff of the Commission also appreciate the dedicated help given by a large number of scientists, representative of all nine countries, who serve on the programme committees and expert subcommittees.

A feature of the programme is its great success in quickly achieving a high degree of communication and collaboration between scientists of the different Member States working in the same field. The result, in some contract holder's experience, has been a doubling of the rate of development of their research.

Through the programme, the Community's resources of scientific brains, research experience and working facilities have been used — and will continue to be used — efficiently and effectively to speed the kind of work that will yield results that are of value to the whole Community.

EUR 6720 DA, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL

ISBN 92-825-1707-1

pp. 42

Price: BF 85

Order from: Office for Official Publications, P.O. Box 1003, Luxembourg

## 2. *Vicia faba*: feeding value, processing and viruses

This publication contains the proceedings of a seminar on field beans (*Vicia faba*) held at Cambridge, UK on 27 to 29 June 1979 under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities as part of the EEC Common Research Programme on Plant Protein Improvement.

The EEC Seed Legume Group has met annually since 1976, and at the last meeting at Bari, Italy, in April 1978 it was decided that the main subjects for the Cambridge meeting should be feeding value and processing of field beans, particularly in relation to plant breeding objectives. The meeting was intended therefore as an opportunity for contact and discussions between animal nutritionists and plant geneticists; a discussion of the outlets for the crop was especially important in view of the recent information of an EEC processing subsidy for field beans and peas.

The importance of viruses in *Vicia faba* in Europe had been apparent during a field meeting of the EEC Seed Legume Group at Stuttgart in 1977, and as this subject was not included in the 1978 Bari meeting, papers and discussions on viruses were arranged for the Cambridge seminar and are reported here. Also included are four offered papers on other aspects of *Vicia faba*.

A meeting was held of the Working Group (not reported here) when the EEC Joint Field Bean Test and exchange of material were discussed. The seminar also afforded the participants the opportunity to visit the Cambridge Plant Breeding Institute where they discussed in the field the EEC Joint Field Bean

Test, field bean breeding trials, physiological studies on field beans, and a grain-legume species trial; they also visited Rothamsted Experimental Station where Mr. J. McEwen kindly demonstrated various aspects of multi-disciplinary studies being undertaken there on causes of yield instability in spring and winter beans (*Vicia faba*).

EUR 6631 EN

ISBN 90-247-2263-2

pp. x + 422

Price: Dfl. 95,—

Order from: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, P.O. Box 566, 2501 CN. The Hague, The Netherlands.

## 3. Effluents from livestock

The initial programme on Effluents from Intensive Livestock funded by the Commission of the European Communities placed much emphasis on the utilisation of slurry by spreading on agricultural land. This topic received the major part of money available for Common Action (projects partly funded by CEC) and was also the subject of a Seminar at Modena in 1976. The objective measurement of odour has proved an intractable problem in spite of its great importance and the effort devoted to it, including part of the present programme. A seminar was held at Gent in 1976 to discuss odour characterisation and control. The handling and treatment of slurry was considered to be a topic more appropriate for each country to undertake so that it could match the experimental work to its own particular needs. Engineering, however, has to provide the necessary equipment for controlling odours, storing slurry and spreading it on the land. The considerable amount of work being done was reviewed and discussed during the Seminar at Cambridge in 1978.

For the farmer to be able to use slurry to his best advantage and with minimum risk to the environment, he requires a framework within which to fit his particular conditions. This can be provided by fairly simple models. More complex models are needed by investigators in order to follow the processes involved in slurry use and indicate important areas for further work. Both aspects have received some attention in the Common programme and were discussed at a Seminar at Chimay in 1978.

Finally, the subject matter of Effluents from Intensive Livestock included aspects of human and livestock health hazards associated with the utilisation of animal effluents. This topic was the subject of a Workshop in Dublin in 1977.

These proceedings record the work done and progress made in the areas funded by the CEC following the advice of the Expert Working Group on Effluents from Intensive Livestock. Some topics are complete; others need to be continued in order to assess long term effects. The areas of common interest with other investigations, such as the recycling of animal wastes in relation to work on secondary raw materials, will require greater co-ordination in the future if the best use is to be made of the scientific skills and resources available.

EUR 6633 EN

ISBN 0-85334-895-2

pp. ix + 712

Price: £ 40

Order from: Applied Science Publishers Ltd, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex, England

#### 4. Improvement of quality traits of maize for grain and silage use

"The Commission of the European Communities is attempting to improve the protein status of the Community and it is not its intention to support research for the sake of research. The Commission is interested in practical applications and intends to transfer your results into the field as soon as possible". This statement was made by Dr. J.L. Gillot at the end of this seminar on "Improvement of Quality and Quantity Traits of Maize for Grain and Silage Use". It explains the basic ideas of the seminar which are to concentrate on one agricultural crop and to analyse the research problems on an interdisciplinary level involving plant breeders, agronomists, plant physiologists and animal nutritionists. We consider this as the most promising method of integrating research findings in an attempt to help solve the future complex biological problems associated with improved agricultural production.

The number of participants was limited to a small group of invited experts to ensure effective work and to allow frank discussion. Experts primarily came from countries within the Commission of the European Communities, but also from Switzerland, Canada and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, CIMMYT, in Mexico. This allowed the seminar to include a wide range of topics of maize which are relevant to both animal nutrition and human nutrition in developing countries.

EUR 6568 EN

ISBN 90-247-2289-6

pp. ix + 504

Price: Dfl. 120,—

Order from: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, P.O. Box 566, 2501 CN The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### 5. Modelling nitrogen from farm wastes

The Expert Group on Animal Effluents of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research organised a number of full seminars during the 1976-1978 programme dealing with several aspects of livestock effluents. The subjects discussed included analytical methods, odour problems, health questions and engineering requirements for effluent treatment and disposal. Many people either state explicitly or assume tacitly that much of the effluent from livestock will eventually be returned to the land. The effects of untreated and treated effluent on crop growth and the potential for pollution depend on a large number of factors. Their importance, quantification and interactions may be best described by the use of mathematical and biological models. The present seminar brought together experts in the various aspects of modelling and soil processes to assess the present position and needs for future work. The organisers hope these aims have been fulfilled.

EUR 6361

ISBN 0-85334-869-3

pp. vii + 195

Price: £ 10

Order from: Applied Science Publishers, Ltd., Ripple Road, Barking, Essex, England.

#### 6. Nitrogen losses and surface run-off from land-spreading of manures

This publication contains the Proceedings of a Workshop held at Johnstown Castle, Wexford, (Ireland) on May 20-22, 1980, under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities as a part of the EEC programme of co-ordination of research on effluents from livestock, and at the request of the Effluents from Livestock Committee.

The subject of the Workshop was Nitrogen Losses and Surface Run-off from landspreading of animal manures, and covered the following topics:

- Surface run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus
- Nitrogen losses by leaching
- Nitrogen losses to the atmosphere
- Nitrogen storage in the soil
- Nitrogen uptake by the crop

The number of review papers was restricted and most of the time was devoted to summary papers from each country and to discussion. The Workshop was therefore structured to ensure a direct comparison between each member country of the experimental results obtained on each topic over the three year research programme, 1977-1979, and thus highlighted areas of consensus and uncertainty.

EUR 6898 EN

ISBN 90-247-2471-6

pp. xiv + 471

Price: Dfl. 95

Order from: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, P.O. Box 566, 2501 CN The Hague, The Netherlands

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

#### 1. Solar Houses in Europe: How they have worked

In the last few years, solar heating of dwellings and in particular solar water heating has attracted a lot of new interest. Though the number of currently existing solar houses is still very small when compared with the total number of houses in Europe, increasing oil prices and the need for energy conservation will certainly lead to a considerable extension of this market.

This book presents for the first time a comprehensive analysis of European solar houses. Monitored data from houses in various C.E.C. countries and climates have been compiled and this information serves to highlight the performance of typical solar heating systems.

The book was prepared within the framework of the European Communities Solar Energy R & D Programme. The cooperation of architects, building engineers, owners of solar houses and solar energy experts which made this work possible, is gratefully acknowledged.

I hope that the book will lead to a better understanding of solar heating and in particular to a more realistic assessment of its benefits.

EUR 7109 EN ISBN 0-08-026743-2 (Hardcover)  
pp. vii + 303 ISBN 0-08-026744-0 (Flexicover)  
Price: £ 17 (hardcover), £ 8,50 (flexicover)  
Order from: Pergamon Press Ltd., Headington Hill  
Hall, Oxford OX3 OBW, England

## 2. The energy saving guide

This book is intended to give non-specialists a simple, yet rigorous, means of comparing investment in energy saving measures with other types of financial investment. It shows, through a variety of worked examples, how attractive some energy saving measures can be and how measures can be ranked according to their cost-effectiveness. Use of this book by those contemplating energy saving investments should, therefore, help to ensure that their money is spent in the most cost-effective way, with maximum benefit to the nation.

I believe this to be important, since, if conservation measures are to have a significant impact on energy demand, they will have to be implemented by us all, industry and individuals alike.

The importance of individual decisions on energy conservation is clear once we realize that in the United Kingdom, for example, 30% of total energy demand goes to the 20 million households. If householders were to invest in the more cost-effective of the measures discussed in this book, they could quite easily reduce their energy consumption by a third. On a national scale, this would amount to a saving of the equivalent of about 150 million barrels of oil per year, the value of which, at today's oil price, would be considerable.

The same distributed decision process applies to the adoption of energy saving measures by industry where, since total energy demand is higher, we may expect even larger energy savings.

The reader will see that I have concentrated on the "earnings" of energy saving measures, saying little about how the capital cost is to be met. This is because most countries have different tax laws affecting capital investment and most companies have their own accounting procedures. In addition, many countries are currently offering incentives to investment in energy saving measures, whilst others are considering them. The incentives range from cash grants towards the capital cost, to tax rebates and low interest loans. There can also be disincentives due to the fact that energy saving improvements to a building may increase its value and hence attract higher rates or local taxes. To go into detail on these matters, therefore, would require a separate book which would, unfortunately, soon be out of date.

Readers are advised, however, to investigate carefully the incentives and disincentives existing locally and to determine their effects on the capital cost. One can expect the salesman of an energy saving device to be particularly well versed in this matter.

EUR 6606 EN ISBN 0-08-026738-6 (Hardcover)  
pp. xi + 224 ISBN 0-08-026739-4 (Flexicover)  
Price: £ 20 (hardcover), £ 6,75 (flexicover)  
Order from: Pergamon Press Ltd., Headington Hill  
Hall, Oxford OX3 OBW, England

## 3. Third E.C. Photovoltaic solar energy conference

In the last few years, much progress has been made in learning how to use solar energy. In photovoltaics the prospects look brighter every year and as a result of this, photovoltaic conferences are attracting increasing interest from the public.

The 1980 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Cannes was the third organized by the Commission of the European Communities since 1977. With more than 700 participants from all over the world, it was the biggest held to date in Europe on photovoltaics.

These proceedings reproduce the 55 invited and more than 120 submitted papers which have been presented during the conference. In general, these papers were of very high quality; they provide a comprehensive overview of the current status and future prospects of photovoltaics.

I take this opportunity to thank the Commissariat à l'Énergie Solaire in Paris and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers in New York for their cooperation in organizing this very successful conference.

EUR 7089 EN ISBN 90-277-1230-1  
pp. xlv + 1132  
Price: Dfl. 155,—  
Order from: D. Reidel Publishing Company, P.O. Box  
17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands

## 4. Waste Management

The EEC's heavy dependence on imported raw materials, combined with insufficient priority given to recuperative technologies, provided twin incentives to convene the European Conference on Waste Management.

The conference was also held in answer to a call for a serious international forum to enable high calibre spokesmen to express their views on a diversity of vital interests.

The ambitious objective was that such a melting pot would smooth the road to cohesive policies and purposeful action, especially in the field of waste recycling.

Among the speakers there were several specialists ready to outline the state of the art of a variety of technical subjects. This range included aspects of packaging, hazardous waste, the utilisation of waste in agriculture, energy from waste, and waste paper.

Paper was to play a particularly serious role, because pulp and paper is the largest external commodity need by the EEC countries after oil.

Speakers were to be drawn from all parts of the EEC, in the expectation that country-to-country comparisons would stimulate progress in specific areas. This hope was frequently realised.

Well represented was the Environment and Consumer Protection Department of the Commission itself. It is this department that has been quietly setting the beginnings of a coherent policy for waste management for throughout the 250 million population Community for the past seven years.

EUR 7277 EN ISBN 90-277-1293-X  
pp. ix + 277  
Price: Dfl. 85  
Order from: D. Reidel Publishing Company, P.O. Box  
17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA CALENDAR

1. 6th International conference on structural mechanics in reactor technology (SMIRT — 6). 17-21 August 1981, Palais des Congrès, Paris
2. Conference on measurements, testing and control in rolling mills. 2-3 September 1981, Luxembourg
3. Symposium on the scientific basis for the assessment of hazards from chemicals associated with the environment. 7-10 September 1981, Imperial College, London
4. Symposium on coke oven techniques. 23-25 September 1981, Luxembourg
5. 2nd European Symposium on physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants. 29 September-1 October 1981, Varese (Italy)
6. Conference on steel in marine structures. 5-8 October 1981, Paris
7. EEC Conference on The Information Society 18-20 November 1981, Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, Ireland
8. Symposium on Financing more innovation at less risk 15-17 December 1981, Luxembourg

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