

Editorial

doi: 10.1111/j.1757-837X.2009.00026.x

The arrival of the new official journal of the ICC has already provoked much comment. We are pleased to say that almost all of the comments are complimentary with respect to style and content. It is very early in the life of the journal and we are still learning what is needed. One topic that has been raised a couple of times is the title that we chose. The debate leading up to the final choice was almost as intense as that with respect to the scope and aims for the journal.

Some of the discussion about the journal title revolves around the use of the word 'quality' which tends to have different meanings depending on the context in which it is used. In many cases product quality is focussed on concerns over the safety and wholesomeness of foods and these are very important issues, which need to be constantly addressed. In the MoniQA programme testing methods and their application to food safety are being addressed while in other contexts, e.g., the Healthgrain project and Dietary Fibre 09, the nutritional qualities of foods are very much in focus.

The ICC has always played a leading role in developing and agreeing new testing methods for the raw materials used in the grains-based industries and products made from grains and that role continues undiminished. It was with a wide view of the term quality and the needs to ensure that all

aspects of quality were covered that the journal title was chosen. From the beginning there was also the view that we should not confine ourselves to human cereal-based foods. A lot of crops are used in the feeding of animals, which ultimately impact on the human food chain.

Extending the scope of the journal to cover non-grain crops was a recognition that the raw materials we use in food processing come from a wide range of crop sources and that significant processing of non-cereal crops for human and animal consumption takes place in many different parts of the world.

The challenges of producing and processing crops in a world which demands high quality and safe foods are considerable; they are not unique to one sector of the food industry and so we hope that by setting a wider scope for the journal we can share technical experiences and scientific knowledge for the mutual benefit of human kind.

This new journal is just a small part of that vision and we hope that with time the contributions that it offers will have lasting benefits for all involved in food production.

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