

## **Proc. 7th All Pakistan Food Science Conference December, 1996**

### **SEVEN YEARS OF THE PAKISTAN SOCIETY OF FOOD SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS**

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The subject of food preservation is as old as the human race. Primitive man gathered food as early as 1,000,000 years ago and also learnt the methods of food preservation. In the geographical region now known as Pakistan, the Indus Valley Civilization has left remarkable accounts of the preservation techniques being followed by the inhabitants of this region. Research on the preservation of fruits and vegetables had started at the Punjab Agricultural College and Research Institute, Lyallpur and the Agricultural Research Station Tarnab as early as 1930s. Food Technology emerged as a distinct discipline in 1960 in the then Punjab Agricultural College Lyallpur.

By the year 1975 when more than 300 graduates had received their B.Sc. Agric. degree with a major in Food Technology, a need was felt to form a Society and gather the food professionals on one platform. In April 1979 these efforts fruited and 30 graduates assembled in the Department of Food Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad to set up an ad hoc committee to establish a Society. Draft By-Laws were prepared and sent to the professionals who had graduated from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The first meeting of the Society was held on November 11, 1979. The Society was registered on February 7, 1981 under No. RP/871 of 1980-81 with the Registrar Joint Stock Companies Punjab.

Owing to certain circumstances, the Society remained dormant till 1990. On the eve of the 46th Old Boys Gathering of the Alumni of Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur and the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, a get-together of Food Technologists was arranged in which all the participants showed great enthusiasm for the revival of the Society. Accordingly, it was decided to call a meeting of the Food Technologists on 25th March 1990. Invitations were sent to as many Food Technologists as possible depending upon the

availability of the addresses. Over 120 professionals gathered at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Prof. (Retd.) Dr. M. Shafiq Chaudhry presided over the meeting. He outlined the history of the discipline and the Society in Pakistan and invited comments/suggestions from the house. The participants actively participated in the debate and expressed their opinions. The house unanimously pledged to revive the Society and agreed to elect a new Executive Council. The followings were elected as office bearers of the Society:

Prof. Dr. M. Shafiq Chaudhry	President
Dr. Mumtaz Ali	Vice President
Dr. Javaid Aziz Awan	Secretary
Mr. Muhammad Shoaib	Joint Secretary
Miss Nuzhat Huma	Treasurer

This and the subsequent Executive Councils have honoured the confidence posed in them. They have been actively contributing to the strengthening of the Society. Now the Society is not only alive to its manifesto, but is also serving as a bond between its members.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY**

##### **1. Membership**

The Society has received an excellent response from professionals working in the teaching institutes, research organizations and the industry. Besides these, others engaged in the food profession have also joined hands to promote the cause of this discipline. The students have also responded well. There are basically three categories of membership to which members are admitted: professional member, associate member and student member. The year-wise breakdown of the memberships is as follows:

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Year	Professional and Associate members	Student members
1990	63	65
1991	99	107
1992	146	73
1993	221	108
1994	294	99
1995	318	44
1996	427	133

### 2. Publication of the Journal

The newly elected Executive Council held a few meetings during the year 1991 and decided to bring out a publication to foster closer links with the members. This publication was named as "Food Science News". This has now been converted from the year 1996 into a full-fledged journal called "Pakistan Journal of Food Sciences". Initially it was decided to bring out this publication on quarterly basis. Owing to certain reasons, it is now being published biannually, i.e. two issues per annum. So far the number of issues published in each volume has been as follows:

Food Science News	1991	Vol 1	Nos. 1, 2, 3-4
Food Science News	1992	Vol 2	Nos. 1-2, 3-4
Food Science News	1993	Vol 3	Nos. 1-4
Food Science News	1994	Vol 4	Nos. 1-2, 3-4
Food Science News	1995	Vol 5	Nos. 1-2, 3-4
Pak. J. of Food Sciences	1996	Vol 6	Nos. 1-2, 3-4

### 3. Holding of Annual General Meetings

Since the revival of the Society on March 25, 1990, Annual General Meeting is being held every year in different locations as follows:

11.05.1991	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
23.04.1992	Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad
29.04.1993	PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Lahore
16.12.1993	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
22.12.1994	NWFP Agricultural University Peshawar
20.12.1995	PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Lahore
18.12.1996	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

### 4. Revisions in the By-Laws/Constitution

The original By-Laws of the Society were prepared by a committee headed by Prof. (Retd.) Dr. M. Shafiq Chaudhry, the then Chairman Department of Food Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad in early 1979. This was circulated to the professionals who were also invited to attend a meeting on November 11, 1979. A total of 95 members gathered and voted to adopt the By-Laws. These By-Laws were revised and approved as the Constitution of the Society by the General Body in December 1994 at Peshawar. Some amendments were approved on December 20, 1995 at the Sixth Annual General Meeting at Lahore.

### 5. Establishment of the Chapters

So far Chapters have been established in Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi/Islamabad. Only the Lahore Chapter has been active and has organised a number of professional and recreational activities.

### 6. Award of Commemorative Shields

The Society honours prominent food technologists and industries for their contributions in the field by presenting commemorative shields to them at the Annual General Meetings.