

WORKING DRAFT

IMPLEMENTING

the

NATIONAL RADIATION PROCESSED FOODS PROGRAM

1. Program Description

To conduct research and development, economic, marketing, and consumer acceptance studies, and feasibility demonstrations necessary to establish the commercial practicality of civilian applications of radiation processed foods and to accelerate their introduction into the economy.

2. Basic Assumptions

- A. The most immediate civilian application of radiation to preserve foods, both from a technical and economic point of view, is low dose treatment to extend shelf life of perishable foods, including meat, fish, vegetables, and fruits.
- B. The Army wholesomeness program will be conducted at an adequate level and will be pursued to final clearance of the presently programmed individual foods and that these will obtain clearance for broad classes of foods.
- C. Wholesomeness clearance by FDA at sterilizing doses will automatically apply to the same foods or classes of foods at lower sub-sterilization doses.

3. Program Administration

- A. Overall policy, program direction, and budget would be established by the Interdepartmental Committee.
- B. Program operations would be conducted by one designated Agency on behalf of the Interdepartmental Committee and its member Agencies. This to include program budgeting, contracting, and reporting.
- C. The Interdepartmental Committee would function by:

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- (1) Reviewing and approving the program as presented annually by the operating Agency, including the proposed budget request to Congress.

NOTE: This would not preclude an Agency pursuing activities with its own funds independently of the Interdepartmental Committee.

- (2) Receiving periodic reports and evaluations from the operating Agency on the status of the program.
- (3) Meeting at least semi-annually to consider policies, programs, and procedures and issue such public statements as may be considered desirable.
- (4) Establishing an Executive Committee to meet as necessary at the call of the operating Agency to consider specific problems as they arise.

D. The operating Agency would function by:

- (1) Receiving proposed programs and projects from member Agencies, with cost and justifications, for inclusion in the overall program.
- (2) Receiving proposals from private organizations and reviewing them where necessary with an appropriate member Agency.
- (3) Preparing the overall program and budget for approval by the Interdepartmental Committee and making the budget request to Congress.
- (4) Contracting with member Agencies and others for conduct of work.
- (5) Receiving all reports, evaluations, etc., from contractors and others and assuring their availability to member Agencies, industry, the public, and abroad as appropriate.

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4. Program Objectives

- A. To identify potential civilian applications of radiation processed foods which would have substantial technical, economic, or other significance in food production, processing, distribution, marketing, or consumption.
- B. In selected cases, to identify and conduct research and development work necessary to establish the technical and commercial feasibility of specific applications.
- C. To supplement Army wholesomeness studies as related to the above referenced specific applications where necessary for FDA clearance.
- D. Through suitable Government facilities (e.g., PXs, commissarys, cafeterias) and with adequate "promotions", to test market for these selected radiation processed food products.

5. Facility Requirements

- A. To achieve the foregoing program objectives it is necessary that there be available to the Interdepartmental Committee a food research and development facility with suitable radiation sources and food processing plant. If the Army establishes such a facility, the Interdepartmental Committee should seek an arrangement for access to it. Should the Army not construct a facility, the Interdepartmental Committee should move as promptly as possible to support construction of such a facility. Attachment 1 sets forth in detail the need for and proposed components of such a facility.

6. Problems Foreseen

- A. Due to the budgeting cycle, little if any operating funds will be available for the civilian radiation processed foods program before FY 1962.
- B. Assuming arrangements could be made promptly for construction of a research and development facility, it would not be available for use before FY 1962.

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before FY 1962.

7. Initial Activities

- A. Survey all research and development work to date to analyze and collect data relevant to the civilian program.
- B. Conduct studies as described in 4A above.
- C. In selected cases, identify scope and cost of research and development program needed.
- D. Analyze status and timing of Army wholesomeness program and establish close and continuing liaison with this activity.

NOTE: that "B" and "C" above have already been done in the case of fish by MIT under contract with AEC. A full report will soon be available.

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