

THE CRACKER

July 2012
Edition 56, No.2



The Official Voice of the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation for the World Nut and Dried Fruit Trade



**SIAL PARIS HOSTS
INC PAVILION**

REUS-BARCELONA CONGRESS 2013

**INC LAUNCHES CLIMATE CHANGE/
WORLD NUTRITION RESEARCH FORUM**

INC WORLD FORUM OF NUTRITION RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION



By Prof. Jordi Salas-Salvadó, Chair of the INC World Forum of Nutrition Research and Dissemination, and Chair of Human Nutrition, Rovira i Virgili University, Reus, Spain.

Over the past years, the Scientific and Government Affairs Committee of the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council, whose chairman is Mr. Pino Calcagni, has especially focused its strategies to the Food Safety. It is evident that

Food Safety (contaminants, mycotoxins, etc.) is crucial for Nut Companies and trade, but it is also an important issue for the Public Health. Another point which is worth to take into account is the nutritional benefit of nuts in human consumption; hence, the importance of promoting scientific studies in relation to nuts and dried fruits. Moreover, these studies will also contribute to increase the consumption of this type of food. Mr. Pino Calcagni and I strongly believe that the INC World Forum of Nutrition Research and Dissemination (hereinafter referred as “the Forum”) will be a precious tool for the Scientific Committee to drive knowledge on the potential effects of nuts and dried fruits consumption on health and disease. Besides it will promote international cooperation among reserachers with similar objectives.

The international umbrella for health and nutrition research on nuts and dried fruits.

The Forum emerges to be the international umbrella for health and nutrition research on nuts and dried fruits. The Forum will promote scientific research and will coordinate the research proposals of the different geographical groups; it will define priorities in relation to nuts and dried fruits; it will promote calls for specific research and also disseminate the results of the different research studies worldwide in various languages.

Several activities will be promoted by the Forum, such as submitting and monitoring health claims, promoting calls for Expressions of Interest in Research, and also assessing the candidates for the Golden Nut Award for Excellence in Research.

The Forum will be formed by two committees. First, the Academic Honorary Committee; it will be composed by a maximum of six Senior Reputed Scientists in relation to Medical Sciences from different parts of the world. The main objective of this committee is to define the general research priorities and research topics of interest every two years. Secondly, the Evaluating Nutrition Committee; it will be also composed by members from all five continents and the maximum of members will be ten. The tasks of the Evaluating Committee will consist on defining the specific calls for research projects; evaluating the Expressions of Interest and Award Nominees, assessing the candidates for the Golden Nut Award for Excellence in Research, and also to establish a dissemination plan of the Nutritional Studies founded by the INC or not. Many distinguished scientists around the globe have agreed to participate as members of the Forum.

One of the main activities of the Forum will be the establishment of a call for Expression of Interest in Research every year. The Forum promotes epidemiological, basic, clinic and strategic research that may contribute to enhance the understanding of the health effects of nuts and dried fruits; to promote the production of healthy and safe products; and to produce and disseminate knowledge in accordance with its mission. Since the INC represents 15 foods (almonds, Amazonia/Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried figs, dried grapes and prunes) the Forum prioritizes studies conducted with more than one type of nut or dried fruit. It will also be prioritized the studies conducted in cooperation with different partners. Furthermore, the Forum prioritizes research which explores and increases the knowledge of nuts and dried fruits as part of a healthy diet. Especially those in relation to predefined priority areas, including: diabetes control and prevention, metabolic syndrome, cancer, intermediate markers of cardiovascular disease, cardiovascular disease prevention, weight management and satiety, cognitive function, reproductive health, bone health and allergies.

Another activity of the Forum that could be highlighted is the Golden Nut Award for Excellence in Research. It recognizes the outstanding achievements in health and nutrition research related to nuts and/or dried

fruits. The nominations are open to scientists of all nationalities regardless of the geographical site at which the work was done. Nominations can be made by the INC World Forum of Nutrition Research and Dissemination, or by an INC member or recognized institution. The recipient of this award should be an investigator whose contributions have led to significant accomplishments in a body of work in health and nutrition research and who is, normally, still engaged in research activities. The recipient should have undertaken studies that have led to significant findings on the health benefits of nuts and/or dried fruit consumption. Moreover, special emphasis will be placed upon the international significance and impact of the nominee's research program. For the purposes of this award, research is meant to include basic, clinical, epidemiological, behavioural or psychosocial research. The award will be delivered at the annual World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress.

The Forum will promote international cooperation among researchers oriented to the study of nuts and dried fruit consumption on health and wellness.

Finally, we are currently designing and developing the 1st World Forum for Nutrition Research: Mediterranean Food on Health and Disease. The World Forum for Nutrition Research emerges as the meeting point of three major events occurring in Spain in 2013: The International Congress of Nutrition (in Granada) organized by the International Union of Nutrition Sciences, the World Congress on Nuts and Dried Fruits (in Barcelona) organized by the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council, and the International Congress on Mediterranean Diet (in Barcelona) organized by the Mediterranean Diet Foundation. In fact, this Forum is organized with the collaboration of the Iberoamerican Nutrition Foundation (FINUT), the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council and the Mediterranean Diet Foundation. The World Forum for Nutrition Research Conference will provide the opportunity for a comprehensive overview of the latest research developments in relation to the healthy benefits, as well as other social and cultural aspects, of selected typical Mediterranean food.

On behalf of all the members of the Forum, we encourage to all the scientific community to actively participate on the call for Expressions of Interest, and submit for presentation the most recent scientific projects in relation to nuts and dried fruits and health; as well as the dissemination of this new initiative, which will stimulate and enhance the scientific evidence of studies based on nuts and dried foods and also its consumption in the general population. We also look forward to your participation in the World Forum for Nutrition Research Conference, a creative exchange of ideas from scientists from many different countries.

