

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON RADIATION PROCESSING

To Double World Food Production Proliferate Radiation Technologies!

by Matthew Ehret-Kump

The 34th annual International Meeting on Radiation Processing, held in Montreal June 13-16, 2011, brought to-

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gether leaders in science, industry, and government from around the world to discuss the recent breakthroughs in radiation-based technologies. The focus of the conference was the civilian application of X-ray, gamma ray, and electron-beam technologies as applied specifically to the domains of food preservation,

health care, and life sciences more generally.

This year, as daily news reports remind us, there is an even greater urgency to increasing the food supply. Twenty-five to 50 percent or more of food crops are lost to insects, fungi, and other spoilage around the world. Food irradiation can begin to reverse this, especially in the developing sector.

Food production has been decimated by years of imperial monetarist policies, and shortages have been compounded by extreme weather patterns; growing anti-science, eco-fascist hysteria in the

general population; and speculation.

Although the ability to control the electromagnetic spectrum is a relatively recent breakthrough for humankind, it has an important and ever increasing role in improving the productive powers of labor, and humanity's mastery over the universe. The creative application of our understanding of radiation for the interests of the common good has been the primary variable behind the amazing increases in population potential over this century, and the foundation upon which the continued increase of that potential into the unbounded universe now rests.



Ruth Brinston/IMRP

A technical presentation at the IMRP conference.

Today, increasing world food production is essential to prevent the looming mass starvation and death, and this absolutely requires radiation-based technologies. The LaRouche movement has called for *doubling* world food production, along with a new financial architecture (including a return to Glass-Steagall) that is necessary to make this happen. We can succeed in creating the necessary higher platforms of human potential only on the condition that the embrace and expanse of radiation-based technologies occur globally and swiftly.

In this spirit, we spoke with many conference participants, and here we present excerpts from some of these discussions, along with three longer interviews.