

## Canadian heads International Union of Food Science and Technology

Joseph H. Hulse of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), became the first Canadian president of the International Union of Food Science and Technology on September 21 at their fifth congress in Kyoto, Japan.



Joseph H. Hulse

The International Union of Food Science and Technology, which was inaugurated during the third International Congress of Food Science and Technology in Washington D.C., in 1970, seeks to promote international co-operation in food science and technology. Its members include national institutes and academies from 37 countries, including the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, of which Mr. Hulse is a former president.

Mr. Hulse, director of the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division of Canada's IDRC, has been with the centre since its inception as a public corporation. It was created by Act of Parliament in 1970, to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the specific needs of developing countries. The centre is unique in that, although financed by Canada, it is governed independently by an international board of governors, who set its policies and priorities.

### IDRC work

According to the annual report, the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division undertook 63 new projects totaling some \$10.6 million last year. In Sep-

tember '77, the division was involved in the United Nations Conference on Desertification which focused on two priorities — agriculture in the semi-arid tropics, and savannah forestry. In both areas, the division was instrumental in establishing projects, particularly in the poorest agricultural regions of the world.

Increasing attention was given to aquaculture research, producing the first successful breeding in captivity of milkfish (a major food source in Southeast Asia) in an IDRC-supported program in the Philippines. In India remarkable increase in fish production in village ponds was achieved using the techniques of polyculture (several non-competitive species of fish in the same pond).

Postproduction systems to reduce the losses of food incurred between harvesting and consumption continues to be important work in the division, as does research using crop and industrial by-products in combination with integrated animal production systems and improved pasture lands.

Prior to joining the IDRC, Mr. Hulse was special adviser to the president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). He held senior positions with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was director of research for Maple Leaf Mills Ltd. of Toronto, and head of Food and Nutrition Research with the Canadian Government's Defence Research Medical Laboratories. During 1970 he served as special adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the world protein problem.

### Something to sneeze at

Many Canadians are only too familiar at this time of year with the symptoms of hay fever — sneezing, watery eyes and a stuffed-up nose — caused by ragweed, hay-fever sufferers' greatest enemy.

Other plants produce air-borne pollen, but none in the abundance or with the same toxicity as ragweed.

Three species of ragweed occur in Canada, with one, the common ragweed, found in every province.

"With the clearing of land and the intensification of agriculture, ragweed has spread and become a serious pest," says Cliff Crompton, a weed specialist with



*Common ragweed occurs in every province. At this time of year its pollen is the enemy of hay-fever sufferers.*

Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

While the ragweed hay-fever sufferer in central Canada wonders when he may again breathe freely, his counterparts in the Maritimes and most of western Canada should be free of the distressing symptoms. "This is because the common ragweed has made itself most at home in the low-lying areas of Quebec and Ontario. From mid-August to mid-September, hay-fever sufferers in these areas, particularly in and around the cities of Montreal and Toronto will be plagued by the highest ragweed pollen counts in the country," Mr. Crompton says.

In the Atlantic region, ragweed stands are only extensive in certain areas such as the Annapolis Valley. Even in these areas the problem is nowhere as serious as in Ontario and Quebec. Newfoundland in

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