

Foreword

Recent research has highlighted the importance of long-chain *n*-3 fatty acids in the diet of man. Their importance in relation to cardiovascular disease has led the UK Department of Health to recommend increased consumption of long-chain *n*-3 fatty acids and control over the *n*-3 : *n*-6 fatty acid ratio in UK diets.

These developments have widespread implications for all sections of the food supply chain. In general, plant- and animal-derived foods are poor sources of long-chain *n*-3 fatty acids, although fish is usually a rich source. However, careful manipulation of the diets of animals may be able to compensate. These present new challenges to the animal production industry, and highlight the close relationship that exists between the diets of animals and man. The aim of this conference was to provide a forum for discussion of these developments with particular emphasis on the impact of fats in the diet of farm animals on the composition of the meat, milk and eggs that we eat.

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