

THE BASICS OF INDUSTRIAL OLEOCHEMISTRY

A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF SELECTED
TECHNOLOGIES BASED ON NATURAL
OILS AND FATS



G. DIECKELMANN · H. J. HEINZ

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Production and distribution:
Printer and editor Peter Pomp GmbH,
D-4300 Essen 11

ISBN 3-89355-008-9

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Acknowledgements

The authors want to express their sincere gratitude to the oleochemical and engineering companies and organizations for kindly allowing the use of relevant material, photos, flow sheets or documentations. Their names are duly cited wherever reference is made.

Especially encouraging assistance was received from the companies:

Ballestra, Milano;
Buss, Pratteln;
Chemithon, Seattle;
Feld & Hahn, Bendorf;
Haldor-Topsoe, Lyngby;
Haltermann, Hamburg;
Henkel, Düsseldorf;
Kao, Tokyo;
Lurgi, Frankfurt;
Margarine Institut, Hamburg;
Montz, Hilden;
Mazzoni, Busto Arsizio;
Meccaniche Moderne, Busto Arsizio;
Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati;
Quantum-Emery, Cincinnati;
Sulzer, Winterthur.

Grateful appreciation is due to

Dr. L. Jeromin

who sacrificed much of his leisure time to review the manuscript making very valuable suggestions and to

J. Rennert

for his competent advise on many occasions.

Preface

Oleochemistry has been already addressed by several authors. This book,

„The Basics of Industrial Oleochemistry”

however, represents an eyewitness report on the results of over 40 years of personal involvement in the technological progress.

While oleochemicals, with an estimated output of 9 Mio tons/year are small compared to the 100 Mio tons/year of primary petrochemicals, they are an important component in today's marketplace. We, the oleochemical people know that we have and will continue to have a competitive edge in quite a number of product lines.

To a large extent, this is due to the high technological standard of this mature industry. A most important factor, however, is that natural oils and fats are produced from renewable rawmaterials and that most of their derivatives are biodegradable. It furthermore has become possible to better respond to consumer needs by modifying the carbon chain distribution of the oleoproducts by selection of the feedstock. Plant breeding will increase this versatility in the future. Yet, these developments are only modest forerunners of the opportunities of genetic engineering in plant and animal breeding in the future.

We hope that this report will find interested readers inside and outside of the oleochemical community who are looking for a comprehensive study of this particular field.

September 1988

The authors

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