PROMOTING PRIVATE FOOD IRRADIATION IN BRAZIL

Fausto Caravalho Pinto
Centro de Desenvolvimento de Tecnologia Nuclear - CDTN
Comissao Nacional de Energia Nuclear, Rua Mario Werneck s/n Cidade Universitaria
Pampulha-Belo Horizonte/MG, CEP 30.127-970, Brazil

The "Centro de Desenvolvimento de Tecnologia Nuclear - CDTN" is a Nuclear Technology Development Center located at Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Among others activities, CDTN is working on the promotion of food irradiation at a national level. For this purpose, a translation was made to Portuguese language of the ICGFI booklet "Food Irradiation, facts and fiction", and others documents, which are used in lectures to different kind of people at different places of the country: students, scientists and entrepreneurs, as an example. Other documents used are the folder "Food Irradiation", also translated to Portuguese, with the permission of MDS NORDION, and one single sheet based in the folder "Ten most frequently asked questions about food irradiation". During these lectures, a certain amount of interested people is invited to know the better as possible about food irradiation. Lectures given at both the local Commercial Chamber and at the Minas Gerais State Industry Federation gave to CDTN a general idea of the local interested entrepreneurs in having a food irradiation plant. According to this, CDTN has established advisory assistance agreement to some of these entrepreneurs. Three of these are seriously considering the possibility of buying gamma processors. Namely, STERJON LTD, which pretends to build up an irradiator in the town of Uberaba, Minas Gerais, started the licensing procedures with Brazilian Nuclear Commission; CENDEBRAS LTD, which also started the licensing procedures with Brazilian authorities having the intention to build up an irradiator in Brasilia, the capital of the country; NACIONAL COMÉRCIO E EMPREENDIMENTOS LTD, a Company located at Belo Horizonte, which still making tests on some products to verify the feasibility of the process for their food products. These tests are being made in São Paulo, at the "Centro de Engenharia Nuclear na Agricultura". The CALIMAN LTD, a Company located in the State of Espírito Santo, which exports papaya to USA, demonstrated interest in having a gamma irradiator for the application in the process of quarantine treatment for fruits. This Company is also making some tests on papayas of their own property, to compare with the current process of quarantine they are using today.