

# education in leather technology



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## foreword

This publication is the outcome of a seminar organised and conducted by the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras in January 1964. The problem of education in the field of leather technology had been engaging our attention for quite some time past and it was felt that it would be opportune to arrange for an exchange of views among all those associated with it by holding the seminar during the Leather Week, concurrently with the Indian Leather Fair and Symposium on Mineral Tannages. We could thus lay claim to the advantage of having had the benefit of the participation and advice of not only educationists in this field, but tanners, industrialists, scientists and students and others associated with the tanning industry from India and from several countries abroad.

The seminar was formally inaugurated on January 27, 1964 by Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University who, while wishing the seminar well, cautioned against a dogmatic approach to the question of introducing uniformity and standardisation in educational systems on a country-wide scale. We had also the privilege of the personal participation and guidance of Dr. T. C. Thorstensen, Visiting Professor to the Lowell Institute of Technology, Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. and Prof. A. Kuntzel, Dean, Technische Hochschule für Gerbereichemie, Darmstadt, W. Germany. In the guest-lecture, Dr. Thorstensen stressed on the need for a broad-based education with specialisation in leather technology and expressed the opinion that the Indian leather technologist had everything to look forward to as ours was a developing industry.

As many as twenty-eight papers (four from abroad) were presented during the Views-Forum sessions and these helped to crystallise out the ideas necessary for formulating a broad plan to serve the future needs of the industry. The background note prepared earlier by the Central Leather Research Institute (Y. Nayudamma and P. S. Venkatachalam) was found to cover most of the points made during these sessions and therefore taken as the basis for discussion and formulation of a plan for the future. It is this blue-print note with the suggestions and modifications

brought out during the final session of the seminar that is presented in the succeeding pages.

The organisers of this seminar are grateful to the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research for their financial assistance which has facilitated the active participation of the principals and lecturers of various regional tanning institutes. Our thanks go to the authors of the papers, delegates, visitors and observers from different sectors of the industry, government and educational organisations who participated in these deliberations and to the Chairmen of the seminar sessions viz., Shri Moni Banerjee, Principal, College of Leather Technology, Calcutta; Shri Vasant P. Pandit, Director, Western India Tanneries, Dharavi, Bombay and Dr. G. S. Laddha, Director, A. C. College of Technology, Madras, for their valuable cooperation and guidance of the deliberations in their respective sessions. I should also record my appreciations of the unstinting efforts put in by the Chairman Mr. P. S. Venkatachalam and the Convener Mr. K. C. Shivappa and my various other colleagues in having so ably organised and conducted the seminar.

In bringing out this publication, the Central Leather Research Institute sincerely hopes that the necessary vital link has been provided to the concerned educational authorities to put to action the ideas mooted in the seminar by concretising them in the form of a broad plan to serve the cause of education in the field of leather technology.

C.L.R.I., Madras-20  
March 9, 1964

Y. NAYUDAMMA  
*Director*

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