

Research and Development

In 1985, responsibility for Group tobacco R&D was reallocated more appropriately among the CAC companies, and R&D Southampton became a department of BATUKE. BATCo is responsible for the co-ordination of the Group's tobacco research resources and programme.

Several important initiatives aimed at increasing the co-ordination of the six Group R&D Centres have been implemented: all projects are systematically filed on a database and the reporting of progress (both written and via technical workshops) has increased markedly. It is now possible to identify and control effort allocation across the full span of Group projects.

The Group Research Programme has been agreed at the Research Conference and has the following priorities:

- i) improvement of smoke subjective quality. B&W have opened up several important approaches including ammonia treatments, reconstituted tobaccos, special leaf grades and casing treatments. The use of tobacco processing/casing treatments to improve poor quality (often indigenous) leaf will assume increasing importance in BATCo companies
- ii) flavour/taste modifier research. BATCo identify important routes to taste modifiers including harshness reduction and Souza Cruz, through Suvalan, are exploring fruit extracts as potential flavour improvers for BATCo products.
- iii) improvement of physical quality of cigarettes, particularly as tobacco usage is reduced. Identification of consumer standards of acceptance will be important; means of increasing puff number and ash character are being explored
- iv) cost reduction. Four principal strategies will be pursued: waste tobacco utilisation through novel extrusion techniques; expanded tobacco inclusion; move to lower density cigarettes; low cost filter materials
- v) reduction of the nuisance aspects of smoking.

Increasingly, means will be sought of linking BATCo companies to the appropriate source of technology in the six R&D centres.

ALH/DET
29th October 1986

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