Abstract: This volume presents the views and experiences of prominent workers in the field concerning the importance of food composition data, current problems, and what must be done to improve the situation. It provides an essential introduction and survey for anyone interested in or expecting to be involved with gathering, compiling, and using food composition data. It emphasizes the ways in which food composition data underpin research and policy in important areas of public health, dietetics, nutrition and epidemiology as well as being critical for the food industry and key decisions made by bilateral and international assistance agencies. It is a useful reference for university courses on food and nutrition.