

India Sets Zero Tariff on Oil Meal Imports Signaling Willingness to Open Up Trade

May 23, 2013

The Government of India announced May 22 that it is suspending tariffs on oil meals, including soymeal and oil cakes. Though not currently a significant market for U.S. soy, USSEC CEO Jim Sutter believes this is a welcome sign of market development potential for U.S. soy exports to the soy-producing country. Indian imports of edible oil are on the rise. In 2011-2012, India imported a record 10.19 million tons (MT) of vegetable oil, a significant increase over previous years. The Food and Finance Ministries of India believe that lowering custom duties will create stable prices for consumers. With national elections scheduled for next year, the political environment in India is influencing policies on food safety, food security, and international trade. According to the World Food Programme, India incorporates 25 percent of the world's hungry and poor population, where more than 70 percent of children are malnourished and about 10 million or more people die of chronic hunger or hunger-related diseases every year. India's government has struggled to address its food security crisis, but is now showing more urgency to pass legislation and to explore policies to curb food prices and improve the quality of life of India citizens. USSEC staff and industry advisors believe the time is right for policy reforms and USSEC has shifted its focus in India toward preparing for future Indian soy import needs rather strictly promoting soy utilization.

Agriculture sector's share in GDP dips: Assocham

Times of India

June 03, 2013

Despite record foodgrain production during the course of the past few years, the share of agriculture and allied sectors to India's gross domestic product (GDP) has declined by more than 4.5% between 2004-05 and 2010-11; while the share of services in the gross domestic product has increased by more than 4.6% during the same period; apex industry body Assocham has said. Moreover, the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the gross state domestic product (GSDP) of the top 19 states in India declined significantly during the aforesaid five-year period, thereby registering a fall ranging between about 2% to about 12% in the GSDP, according to a sector specific analysis carried out by Assocham. While the industrial sector saw a paltry increase of 0.5%, the mining and quarrying sectors marginally dipped by 0.6% across India during the aforesaid period; according to the Assocham analysis. The industry sector in Punjab saw a surge of about 6.27%, followed by Uttarakhand, where the industry sector grew by about 6.13%. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are other states that saw marginal growth in industrial sector.

"Jharkhand is the only state across top 20 states in India to have witnessed a surge of over 3% and about 11% in the share of agriculture-allied activities and services sector respectively in its GSDP," said DS Rawat, national secretary general of Assocham, while releasing the findings of the chamber's analysis. The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the GSDP has fallen drastically by 7% in Uttar Pradesh. Expressing concern over the decline in the share of agri-allied activities in the GSDP of almost all the states, Rawat said that, "This calls for increased investments in research and development for speedy improvement in yield, besides addressing infrastructure requirements in storage,

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communication, roads, and markets, in the agriculture sector." According to an Assocham-Yes Bank study titled '2nd Green Revolution: Agriculture to Agribusiness,' the government must push agricultural reforms, including streamlining of norms to promote private sector investments in the sector.

Export of soyabean meal declines by 29.74 per cent in May' 13

Economics Times

June 04, 2013

The export of soyabean meal during May 2013 was 0.97 lakh tonnes as compared to 1.39 lakh tonnes in the same period of previous year showing a decrease of 29.74%. The overall demand of soybean meal has declined in the global market which has pushed down exports from India. On a financial year basis, the export during April 2013 to May 2013 has been 1.98 lakh tonnes as compared to 4.75 lakh tonnes in the same period of previous year showing a decrease of 58.33%. During current Oil year, (October - September), total exports during October 2012 to May, 2013 are 27.95 lakh tonnes as against 32.61 lakh tonnes last year, showing a decrease of 14.29%. The data has been collected and compiled by Soybean Processors Association based on the information received from the members, port authorities and other agencies. The data does not include exports to Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh by rail or road.

Ruchi Soya Industries to re-enter soya milk category

Hindu Business Line

June 04, 2013

FMCG player Ruchi Soya Industries plans to re-enter the soya milk category with a modified offering and possibly a new brand. The maker of Nutrela brand of soya nuggets and edible oil had entered the soya milk category under the N'rich brand in 2008 and subsequently pulled out. Later, it had also introduced another brand Soya fresh in glass bottles. It is now planning to reformulate its soya drink offering to re-enter the still nascent category.

"Being a leader in the soya category, we did think of a soya drink in the past under brands such as N'rich and SoyaFresh. But due to issues like packaging we had to keep a low profile with the brand and also exit the category. Today, we are looking at re-entering the category with a soya-based drink," said Dinesh Shahra, Founder and Managing Director, Ruchi Soya Industries. N'rich was a soya-based protein drink in fruit-based flavours such as apple and kiwi and positioned as a healthy beverage in a tetra pack.

Currently, the soya milk category is dominated by international brands such as Silk and Soyfresh and even indigenous brands such as Sofit (Hershey Foods) and Staeta Soy Milk (ProSoya Foods). Even Hindustan Unilever had made a splash into the category under Kissan Soya Milk in 2011. Being a non-dairy product, soya milk targets lactose intolerant consumers, but the taste has been the biggest hindrance for the acceptability of the product. Even big players such as HUL are struggling to get



Dinesh
Shahra

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volumes for its Kissan soya milk despite extensive research and development on the product. “Masking the taste is the biggest challenge for soya milk brands. Once any of the players manages to do that, only then will the category get easily accepted in India. However, Indians are getting more aware about the benefits of soya and this should also lead to making these soya milk brands more acceptable going forward,” says a marketing analyst. Meanwhile, Mumbai-based ProSoya Foods which has been selling one of the first indigenous brands Staeta for the past eight years has recently roped in Australian fast bowler Brett Lee to endorse its brand and also help in growing the category in India. The soya milk category is estimated at Rs 50 crore and has a CAGR at 50 per cent.

NFSM Leads to 42 mt Additional Foodgrain Production Against Target of 20 mt Consultative Committee on Agriculture Meets

Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Minister Shri Sharad Pawar today informed members of parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his ministry that the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has resulted in increase in foodgrain production by 42 million tonnes as against the target of 20 million tonnes set for the Eleventh Plan. The Minister said that various interventions under NFSM have resulted in distribution of almost 75 lakh of farm equipment, nearly 175 lakh quintals of high yielding variety seed of rice, wheat and pulses, and knowledge transfer through more than 49,000 Farmers Field Schools and 8 lakh field demonstrations. During the Twelfth Plan, the Minister said, the scope of NFSM is proposed to be widened to include coarse cereals under the Mission. A target of additional 25 million tonnes of foodgrain production has been proposed during the XII Plan, i.e., 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat, 4 million tonnes of pulses and 3 million tonnes of coarse cereals. In addition to enhancing the productivity of foodgrains in low productivity areas, stabilizing the productivity gains in high producing areas is equally important. Accordingly, NFSM is being revamped during the XII Plan with focused attention on identified crops following location specific, target oriented production strategies for accelerated production of food grain crops and promotion of ‘cropping system’ approach in place of promoting ‘individual foodgrain crops’. Major cropping systems such as rice-wheat, rice-pulses, maize/millets-pulses, rice-rice etc. will be promoted for proper crop rotation, intercropping, etc. Provision has also been kept for post harvest management for value chain integration and for taking up strategic/adaptive research.

Giving further details about the structure and implementation of NFSM, the Minister stated: “In the XI Plan, NFSM-Rice was implemented in 144 districts of 16 States, NFSM-Wheat in 142 districts of 9 States and NFSM-Pulses in 468 districts of 16 States. From the year 2012-13, NFSM coverage has been extended to all North East States, by adding 6 NE States to the NFSM list (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim). NFSM has also been extended to 2 Hill States, viz, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand under Rice and Wheat and to J&K for Wheat. Thus, NFSM is now being implemented in 27 States of the country.

“NFSM has helped to widen the food production basket of the country. The focused and target oriented implementation of Mission initiatives has resulted in bumper production of wheat, rice and pulses. The production of foodgrains in 2011-12 has been a record level of 259.32 million tonnes, against a target of 245 million tonnes. In 2012-13 also, despite drought in some parts of the country, foodgrain production is on course to realise target of 254.24 million tonnes.”

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The Consultative Committee consisting of members of both the Houses of Parliament was called to discuss the progress of NFSM and seeking members' views on the scheme. The members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who attended the meeting were: S/Shri A. Ganeshamurthi, M. Krishnaswamy, K. Sugumar, K.P. Dhanapalan, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Gobinda Chandra Naskar, Sardar Sher Singh Ghubaya, Darshan Singh Yadav, Smt. Renubala Pradhan, K.D. Ramalingam and special invitee Smt. Santosh Chowdhary.

Kitchen for midday meals to come up in Lucknow

Express News

June 09, 2013

Saturday laid the foundation of a modern centralised kitchen that Akshaya Patra Foundation, an NGO, is setting up in Lucknow to supply midday meals to the schools here. The state government has provided land free of cost to the NGO to set up the kitchen in Amausi industrial area. Speaking on the occasion, Akhilesh said Akshaya Patra will supply nutritious meals from this kitchen to nearly 1 lakh students of Class I to VIII from July 2014 onwards.

He said the NGO was at present supplying midday meal to around 1.64 lakh students in 1,865 schools of Vrindavan and Mathura. He asked the NGO authorities to start work in other districts also. "Unless the stomach of the students is full, they cannot concentrate on studies. So the state government is committed to provide them nutritious food along with good quality education," Akhilesh said. He said free laptops to students of government schools have brought them at par with students of public schools.

Export of Soybean meal continues to fall

Times News Network

June 08, 2013

It may not sound well for the Soya growers in the country, particular in Madhya Pradesh, which is a major contributing state on the front in the country. The export during May 2013 was 0.97 lac ton as compared to 1.39 lac ton in the same period of previous year showing a decrease of 29.74%. Overall demand of soybean meal is poor all across the world. This information was given by the spokesperson & coordinator of Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), Rajesh Agrawal.

SOPA's office is located in Indore. On a financial year basis, the export during April 2013 to May 2013 has been 1.98 lac ton as compared to 4.75 lac ton in the same period of previous year showing a decrease of 58.33%, added he. During current oil year, (October-September), total exports during October 2012 to May, 2013 are 27.95 lac ton as against 32.61 lac ton last year, showing a decrease by 14.29%. If one has a look on the country-wise/port-wise export of soybean meal during the period under observation, then also the same findings will come. The data has been collected and compiled by Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), based on the information received from the members, Port authorities and other agencies. However, the data does not include exports to Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh by rail or even by road.

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FAO predicts balanced commodity markets in 2013-14

World-Grain

June 13, 2013

Food commodity markets, in particular for cereals, are set to be more balanced in 2013-14, according to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Outlook report published on June 13. World food imports in 2013 are tentatively forecast at \$1.09 trillion, close to last year's level, but 13% below the record of 2011, the biannual report on global food markets said. Higher bills for fish and livestock products are anticipated to offset lower expenditures on most other commodities, especially sugar. Prospects for abundant domestic crops in the least developed countries (LDCs), low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and countries in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to limit their import needs. With the world cereal harvest forecast to surge to a record 2.46 billion tonnes in 2013, cereal prices could ease, with markets becoming calmer, Food Outlook said. Latest indications point to a more comfortable world cereal supply-and-demand balance in the new 2013-14 marketing season. After a relatively tight situation and high prices in 2012-13, "good production prospects and a likely replenishment in world stocks could pave the way for calmer markets and some easing of prices in the new season," the report said. This year's forecast record cereal production would represent a 6.5% increase on last year's reduced level, supported by higher global wheat output and a sharp expected rebound of maize production in the U.S. Rice production is also set to increase in 2013, although concerns over diminishing prices may dampen growth.

Global cereal utilization is forecast to reach 2.402 billion tonnes in 2013-14, which is 3% above 2012-13. Much of the growth would stem from higher use of maize for feed and industrial purposes in the U.S. Total feed use of coarse grains is forecast to be greater in developing than in developed countries for the second consecutive season. Based on current prospects, by the end of seasons in 2014, world cereal stocks could register an 11% recovery to 569 million tonnes, the highest level in 12 years. World trade in cereals is forecast to reach 306 million tonnes in 2013-14, similar to the 2012-13 level. A reduction in wheat trade is expected to offset a rebound in maize while rice trade in 2014 is forecast to change little.

Govt defers promulgation of ordinance on Food Security Bill

Press Trust of India

June 13, 2013

The government plans to convene a special session of Parliament for passage of the Food Security Bill as a divided Cabinet on Thursday shunned the idea of promulgating an ordinance to implement the watershed legislation. A meeting of the Cabinet could not arrive at a decision on bringing an ordinance to implement the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's pet programme and instead decided to court opposition parties for passage of the bill in a special Parliament session. Home minister and leader of the Lok Sabha Sushil Kumar Shinde, parliamentary affairs minister Kamal Nath and food minister K V Thomas will meet opposition leaders to elicit their support for passage of the key legislation, finance minister P Chidambaram said after the Cabinet meeting. "The Food Security Bill is ready.

We would like to pass it as a bill but ordinance version of bill is also ready. We decided today that we would like to make one more effort to ask the opposition parties whether they will cooperate in passing the bill in a special session of Parliament," he said. Thomas said the ordinance route has not been completely shelved and remains an option available to the government. The Food Security Bill was tabled in the Budget session of Parliament but could not be taken up for discussion due to

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pandemonium in the Lok Sabha over various scams. The bill aims to give legal rights to 67 per cent of the population over a uniform quantity of 5 kg foodgrains at a fixed price of Rs 1-3 per kg through ration shops.

Food Security Bill would make government the largest hoarder

Economics Times

June 13, 2013

All those in charge should be sacked and, in case of negligence, prosecuted for causing hunger and malnutrition. All those in charge should be sacked and, in case of negligence, prosecuted for causing hunger and malnutrition. Consumer price inflation for May is 9.31 per cent. The biggest driver has been food inflation, of which the biggest contributor is cereals and products: 14.74 per cent in rural areas, a whopping 21.25 per cent in urban areas, together working out to 16.29 per cent overall. This is unpardonable. The government has in its stocks 77 million tonnes of grain right now. If grain prices are still soaring above the birds of the sky, there can only be one explanation: mismanagement. Those in charge of managing our food stocks have demonstrated utter incompetence or criminal negligence. In either case, all those in charge — minister and babus — should be sacked and, in case of negligence, prosecuted for causing hunger, malnutrition, scaring an already timid RBI off reducing interest rates and, thus, contributing to economic slowdown.

One excuse the babus have for not getting rid of surplus stocks — in relation to a buffer stocking norm of 31.9 million tonnes as of July 1 — is their dread of not being able to show sufficient grain to feed the gargantuan requirements of the food security law being forced through, at the instance of the UPA chairperson. Hell hath no fury like a UPA chairperson scorned, the babus tell their insipid minister in charge of food, and, together, they do nothing, either to estimate the likely requirement of grain as per the food security law or to sell their stocks in the market to increase availability and reduce the price or at least the rate of price rise in the case of grain. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has done an estimate of the revised buffer stocking norms. The July target, it estimates, would be 41 million tonnes. Which still leaves the government with huge surpluses. And this is a danger of the food security law: of making the government the largest hoarder and pushing up food prices.

India considers special parliament session on food security bill

June 13, 2013

The Indian government is considering convening a special session of parliament to pass a bill to subsidise food for two-thirds of the population. The bill was tabled in parliament earlier this year but disruptions meant it could not be debated. The government, eager to make it law, had been criticized for trying to push it through as an ordinance. But it now says renewed efforts will be made to get opposition support for a bill, which could then be voted on. The Food Security Bill proposes to make food a legal right and seeks to provide 5kg of grain every month to 800 million poor people. The bill was an election promise made by the ruling Congress party and, correspondents say, its implementation will help the party in general elections due next year. Critics have described the bill as a political move aimed at winning votes and which is financially unviable, reports the BBC's Sanjoy Majumder in Delhi. Analysts say that it is unclear if opposition parties will provide the support that the government seeks.

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Millions live below the poverty line, and many children are malnourished in India. The bill proposes to provide a kilo of rice at three rupees (six cents; four pence), wheat at two rupees and millet at one rupee. The scheme is likely to cost 1.3 trillion rupees (\$23.9bn; £15.8bn) every year. Many politicians had criticized the move to push through the bill through as an ordinance rather than putting it to a vote in parliament. The government says it had made several efforts to make sure the bill was discussed.

India soybean acreage may go up 5-7% this kharif season

Business Standard

June 14, 2013

Soybean acreage in India may go up by 5-7% this year, said industry experts. Last year (Kharif 2012), total area under soybean cultivation in India was 10.75 million hectare, according to Soybean Processors Association of India (SPAI). Soybean is a rain-fed kharif crop and it is sown in June-July every year. We feel in Maharashtra some area under cotton cultivation may shift to soybean and Madhya Pradesh may also see at least 0.2 million hectare increase this year, said Rajesh Agrawal, spokesman and coordinator, SPAI. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are number one and number two soybean producers in India respectively. Last year, total area under soybean in Madhya Pradesh was 5.813 million hectare and Maharashtra was 3.212 million, according to SOPA data. Experts feel better price realisation compared with other crops is another reason for soybean as a preference. At present, soybean prices in Madhya Pradesh mandi auctions are at Rs 3,700-3,800 per 100 kg. Plant delivery prices are in Rs 3,800-3,925 per 100 kg range. In Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, farmers have prepared their fields and are eagerly awaiting another spell of rains. Due to good pre-monsoon activity, soybean sowing is likely to start early in growing states, industry sources said. Some traders in physical markets feel sowing has already started in small pockets in some Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra districts, they added.

Cargill eyes larger food play in India

Will step up investment behind brands and manufacturing plants.....

US food major Cargill, which derives close to Rs 10,000-crore from marketing and processing edible oils, staples and food ingredients in the country, proposes to step up investment in India as it seeks a greater share of the Rs 3.85-lakh-crore processed food & beverage market. The Indian unit of the \$134 billion (or Rs 7.63 lakh crore) company, is eyeing acquisitions of edible oil brands and manufacturing plants in the south of the country, a region where it is looking to beef up its presence, says Siraj Chaudhry, chairman, Cargill India. "In the medium term we would certainly look at addressing this either by acquiring brands or assets in the south," Chaudhry, an FMCG veteran, who has worked with companies such as ITC besides Cargill, said in a conversation with Business Standard.

Cargill's Gemini edible oil, which was acquired in 2005 from a Pune-based company called Parakh Foods, has a presence in the south. Barring Gemini, all its other brands including in-house brand Nature Fresh and acquired products Rath, Sweekar and Sunflower are strong in the west, north and east of India. Chaudhry says that acquisitions in the south would help rebalance the edible oil portfolio of the company. "We were fortunate to acquire brands such as Rath, Sweekar and Sunflower which have a

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strong history and parentage in the country. These brands were core to us, but non-core to their original promoters," he added. Rath was acquired from ConAgra subsidiary Agrotech in 2010, Sweekar from Marico in 2011 and Sunflower Vanaspati from Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting last year. While Cargill has never disclosed the size of these acquisitions, analysts have pegged these buys between Rs 30 and 100 crore. The company, which has been growing at a clip of about 10-11% in the last few years, recently re-entered the branded atta space under Nature Fresh and has also stepped into the branded olive oil segment, regarded as a small but growing niche. Chaudhry says that the company may look at pulses and other staples to expand its product portfolio here.

Cargill, which competes with Indian companies such as Adani Wilmar and Ruchi Soya, is also looking to beef up its supply of food ingredients to the institutional segment by targeting specialty oils, fats, sweeteners, flour-based products etc. Cargill derives over Rs 2,000 crore of its revenues from supply of ingredients to F&B companies and is looking to grow this business as interest of local and international majors in the domestic F&B market increases. Towards this end, the company is looking to set up a corn-milling plant in Karnataka with an investment of Rs 400 crore, which will produce modified starch for the food processing and pharmaceuticals industries, Chaudhry says. "We are in the process of identifying land for the plant. Work on the plant is likely to begin end of 2014," he said. Cargill has also set up an application centre in Gurgaon, Haryana, the second such in Asia-Pacific after China, will act as an R&D hub for development of ingredients for the food processing industry in the country. "This centre will work closely with other application centres across the world including ones in Europe, Latin America and US," Chaudhry says. Shri Pawar Calls for Strengthening International Research Institutions, Sharing Knowledge. India has Achieved an Overall Agricultural Growth of More than 3.5 % during the Last Five Years.

Statement of Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar at FAO Conference in Rome

Agriculture & Food Processing Industries Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar today called for strengthening international research institutions and sharing knowledge so as to realise higher yield potential of different crops. The Minister was addressing FAO Conference at Rome. Shri Pawar also highlighted India's recent initiatives in the field of agriculture that have led to more than 3.5% growth in the last five years. Following is the full text of the speech given by the Minister at the FAO Conference:

"Mr. Chairperson, DG FAO and distinguished Delegates, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to address this august gathering. Let me use the same to share India's experience in agriculture development and also to comment on the work planned by FAO in the coming two years. I begin by complimenting Director General FAO and his team for making excellent arrangements for the Conference and for proposing an agenda which focuses on the key issues that impact global food security and sustainable agriculture development. I am confident that we would all benefit from the knowledge exchange and experience sharing for crafting a more involved plan of action for FAO in its endeavor to achieve food and nutritional security for all and thereby improving the socio economic status of our farming community. Friends, agriculture is a critical sector of Indian economy, providing employment to nearly 60% of our population. Nearly sixty percent of our cropped area is rainfed with no assured source of irrigation which inhibits the realization of full yield potential. It is challenging to

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meet the demands of our growing population for food, feed, fibre and fuel with limited natural resources, mainly land and water, and more frequent climatic variability.

We have embarked on a path breaking journey to intensify support to our farmers, 85% of whom have operational holdings below 2 hectares. We have initiated a slew of policy and programmatic measures to increase investment in Agriculture, create opportunities for private sector through marketing reforms and launched a focus on food security in a mission mode approach for increasing production of food. I am pleased to inform you that our efforts over the years have met with resounding success. We have achieved an overall agricultural growth of more than 3.5% per annum during the last five years. We are setting new records in production of food grains year after year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the food basket of the country has been widened with increasing share coming from relatively under developed regions. Not only have we been able to meet the demand of 17% of global population residing in India, but have exported nearly 20 million tonne of foodgrains, thus becoming a major contributor to the world food basket.

While efforts are being made to bridge the yield gaps to increase agricultural production, it is a matter of concern that there is stagnation in realizing the higher yield potential in different crops. New technological tools especially through genetic engineering need to be employed more aggressively to build tolerance to various abiotic and biotic stresses that inhibit crop yields. Research products made available as a result should be easily accessible and affordable to all. In this regard, we call for strengthening the CGIAR institutions for generating significant technological innovations that could then be easily adapted and up scaled by the National Agriculture Research Systems. A lot is happening in other spheres of our rural economy as well, through increased investments for developing Human Resources by way of Right to Education, Health and Employment for All, and by creating new institutions that enable the rural population to take advantage of the high economic growth of the country. We are now poised to enact a National Food Security Act which will legally entitle about two third population of the country, that is, nearly 800 million people to have access to adequate quantities of foodgrains at very affordable prices through a revamped Public Distribution System. The new law will also contain provisions for nutritional security of children, pregnant women & lactating mothers including mandatory maternity benefits to them for a period of six months. This is going to be the world's largest food and nutrition security programme.

Despite several challenges, Indian agriculture has made tremendous strides. We will be happy to share India's success stories with other developing countries. We continue to assure our support to FAO in all its endeavours for promoting South-South Cooperation. We look up to FAO as a knowledge repository and a natural apolitical ally for addressing global challenges in Agriculture. It is also a very useful platform for sharing of best practices across different countries for cross learning and mutual benefit in development efforts of each country. In this context, I would like to acknowledge the recent initiatives of the FAO secretariat in devolving more funds for supporting technical cooperation programs and focusing on country specific strategies and partnerships by strengthening the FAO country offices. These are important first steps to make knowledge generated by FAO truly relevant and meaningful to meet the specific needs of individual countries. India welcomes such long overdue initiatives and looks forward to a more fruitful association with FAO in the coming times. We are committed to strengthening the newly launched Agriculture Market Information System hosted in FAO under the G20 Action Plan on Agriculture. We are now regularly publishing periodical reports in the form of Agricultural Outlook of select commodities where situation analysis and forecasts are presented in the

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short and the medium terms. We are grateful to FAO for supporting this initiative with technical assistance on international exposure and capacity building. We believe that informed decisions based on sound analysis help develop better understanding of food situation internationally and locally.

I would like to conclude by saying that on the basis of our experience in recent years, we are convinced that only a country led agriculture development plan with liberal investments in creating the needed Rural and Agriculture infrastructure supported by strong R&D and an innovative programmatic formulation and implementation approaches for technology transfers to farmers is the right strategy to sustain agriculture development and ensure food and nutritional security. We endorse the strategic objectives guiding the development of plan of action of FAO as most of the elements contained in these objectives are in consonance with what we are practicing in India. The DG has rightly emphasised on the need to completely eradicate hunger from the face of this earth. His work programme and the budget need the fullest support from all member nations. We hope that the conference would accord its administrative and financial approval to the proposal of the Director General to carry out the plan of action finalized at the end of this conference.”

FAO Statistical Yearbook shows role of agriculture

World-Grain

June 19, 2013

The 2013 edition of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Statistical Yearbook released on June 18 sheds new light on agriculture's contribution to global warming, trends in hunger and malnutrition and the state of the natural resource base upon which world food production depends. The Statistical Yearbook is available here. Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture grew 1.6% per year during the decade after the year 2000, new FAO data presented in the yearbook show, with the sector's total annual output in 2010 reaching 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂ eq, a measure used to compare and aggregate different greenhouse gases). This equals 10% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Among the various agriculture sectors, livestock activities and the use of synthetic fertilizer are the largest contributors. This does not include emissions caused by land use change and wild fires. Issued annually, FAO's Statistical Yearbook is an authoritative compendium of data on the major trends shaping global food and agriculture today. For each thematic area, brief analyses of the main trends are paired with graphical data visualizations as well as tables with key indicators. The topics it covers include: capital and investment; climate change; food availability; food production and trade; food prices; hunger and malnutrition; the consequences of political instability and natural- and human-induced disasters on food security; the state of the agricultural resource base and sustainability and environmental impacts.

Almost 870 million people, or 12.5% of the world's population, were undernourished in 2010-2012; the vast majority of them (852 million) live in developing countries. Between 2005 and 2011, one out of four African countries reported a stunting rate of at least 40%. Stunting rates also exceeded 40% in South and South East Asia during the same period, with peaks in India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Timor-Leste. African countries show the highest rates of underweight prevalence. During 2005-11, 16 African countries showed underweight rates of at least 20%, with the highest levels recorded in the Horn of Africa. Global crop production has expanded threefold over the past 50 years, largely through higher yields per unit of land and crop intensification. Global per capita food supply rose from about 2,200 kcal/day in the early 1960s to over 2,800 kcal/day by 2009. At 3,370

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kcal/person/day, Europe currently has the highest average per capita food supply. Cereals occupy more than half of the world's harvested area and are the most important food source for human consumption. Of the 2.3 billion tonnes of cereals produced each year, 1 billion are destined for human consumption, 750 million tonnes are used as animal feed and 500 million tonnes are either processed by industry, used as seed, or wasted.

Following a decade of slower growth in the 1990s, global public spending on agricultural R&D increased steadily from \$26.1 billion in 2000 to \$31.7 billion in 2008. Most of this increase was driven by developing countries. China and India accounted for close to half of this growth, but other countries - particularly Argentina, Brazil, Iran, Nigeria and the Russian Federation - also significantly increased their spending on public agricultural R&D. Still, these trends mask the negative developments that have taken place in numerous smaller, poorer and less technologically advanced countries. Buoyed by high commodity prices, agriculture has demonstrated astonishing resilience during global economic turmoil. In 2010, agricultural value-added at the world level rose by 4%, in contrast to a 1% increase in overall GDP.

Soybean College coming to St. Paul

June 17, 2013

The Mid-Summer Classic, known as the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, is coming soon, but for soybean producers the best place to see all-stars is at the ASA Soybean Marketing and Production College on July 30 in St. Paul, Minn. ASA is announcing Dr. Christy Sprague, Associate Professor, Michigan State University; Dr. Aaron Hager, Associate Professor, University of Illinois; and Dr. Jason Norsworthy, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas as its all-star lineup of speakers for its Herbicide and Weed Resistance Management session.

FEC Seeding - Square - Dr. Sprague's research and extension program focuses on integrated weed management, biology, ecology, and management of emerging problematic weeds, and understanding the interactions with weeds and other pests and pest/crop management practices. Dr. Hager's focus is developing an innovative approach that ultimately expands our knowledge and understanding of weed biology, with a particular emphasis directed toward addressing the contemporary weed species infesting the major field crops of Illinois. Dr. Norsworthy's emphasis is to conduct innovative research that will lead to reduction in herbicide reliance, expenditures, and usage or improve weed management efficiency in crops in Arkansas, providing alternatives to those herbicides that pose the greatest environmental risks.

The Herbicide and Weed Resistance Management session at the ASA Soybean Marketing and Production College will use the soybean industry's "Take Action HRM" approach and will provide attendees with the tools needed to develop a three- to five-year integrated management plan. "These speakers are experts in weed and herbicide resistance management and demonstrate the importance of educating soybean producers to implement integrated management plans," said Bob Worth, ASA Vice President, Membership and Corporate Relations committee Chair, and a soybean producer from Lake Benton, Minn. "Learning how to develop a best management plan will help soybean producers maximize their on-farm profitability."

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The ASA Soybean Marketing and Production College is sponsored by the following corporate and state checkoff and association partners: AGCO, Bayer CropScience, Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board, Delaware Soybean Board, Kansas Soybean Commission, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association, and the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board.

China about genetically modified food

June 23, 2013

The Ministry of Agriculture's recent approval of imports of three new kinds of genetically modified soya bean has sparked concern over safety assessments and reignited debate on the mainland over the safety of GM food. A day after Xinhua reported the approvals, the National Business Daily ran a front-page story headlined "Doubt and suspicions over GM soya beans: did the government approve import at lightning speed?" The report said the ministry did not get the safety certificate for the RR2 soya bean until as late as May 20, less than three weeks before imports were approved. RR2 is one of two new varieties of GM soya bean owned by US-based seed-engineering giant Monsanto that have been approved for import. One of the varieties has obtained approval for cultivation in nations including Canada, Japan and the United States, while the other has gained approval for cultivation in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The ministry said on its website: "From the start of the application process to the final approval, the time taken was about three years, demonstrating the government's prudence."

Many internet users criticised the decision. One microblogger wrote that agriculture officials were happy to feed ordinary people GM food "because the food they eat is provided specially for them and is genuine green food". "Of course they swear that GM food is safe to eat, but they're letting ordinary people become laboratory rats," the post, later deleted by censors, continued. Yu Jiangli, a Beijing-based food and agriculture campaigner with Greenpeace, said long-term trials were necessary to prove that GM food was safe to eat and would not damage the environment permanently. "GM food will have an irreversible impact on the ecosystem and biodiversity, and the health impacts for humans and animals are unknown," she said. The ministry did not respond to a request for comment, but two days after the soya bean announcement, Peng Yufa, deputy director of the National Transgenic Crop Committee, told state media the imported soya beans would be made into cooking oil. "The final product will not contain transgenic protein," he said, "so there is no food safety threat."

Deng Zhixi, deputy director of the ministry's Research Centre for Rural Economy, later gave a press conference in which he accused the public of ignorance. "Questioning the import of GM food arises from ignorance and a lack of understanding of the science of genetic modification," he said. "People don't understand it and just rely on a feeling that it is bad for them. In fact, this is not the case at all." Deng said the approval of the new soya beans was carried out in strict accordance with legal procedure. "There are now more than 60 countries using [the soya beans]; China is by no means the only one," he said. Web users were quick to express anger at his words. "Everyone has the right to question the safety of their food," one microblogger wrote. "This government official has confused 'asking questions' with 'ignorance'. His behaviour betrays real ignorance." Another microblogger suggested government officials take the lead by eating GM foods themselves. "In a few years you can be the proof they are safe!"

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GM foods, especially soya beans, are becoming increasingly hard for mainlanders to avoid. China is the world's largest buyer of soya beans, importing up to 80 per cent of its supplies, mostly from the US and Brazil. At least 93 per cent of all soya bean crops in the US are GM, and GM seeds have also been widely adopted in Brazil. Shirley Li, vice-president of the Beijing Organic Farm Company, the mainland's largest domestic producer of organic foods, said basic ingredients such as cooking oil and soy sauce all contained GM products. "People have been eating these products for years without knowing. It's very unethical," she said. The mainland already imports five other varieties of GM soya bean, as well as GM corn, canola and sugar beets. Domestic GM research and development is supported with government funding. GM cotton and papaya are grown commercially. The four million hectares of land on the mainland under GM crops constitute the sixth-largest planting area in the world. In March, state media reported the introduction of GM crops was "a crucial part of China's efforts to feed a fifth of the world's population using less than a tenth of the world's arable land". The State Council released a draft grain law for public scrutiny in February last year, saying it was aimed at ensuring grain security "by stabilising grain output and intensifying control and supervision over the market".

The draft law includes regulations on the research, testing, production, distribution, and import and export of GM grain seeds, and bars the use of any GM technology without government permission. It was well received by anti-GM campaigners. But some scientists said it would limit mainland research in the field. "It's unscientific ... because many GM research projects involve the application, dispersal and production [of GM food]," Huang Dafang, from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences' Biotechnology Research Institute, told the 21st Century Business Herald. Nothing more has been heard of the law. "There is not much transparent information," Greenpeace's Yu said. "I am also very interested in its progress."

Soy components offer food industry options

June 23, 2013

Utilizing the soybean's unique properties has opened the doors to a broad range of applications that provide protein and oil worldwide. Those numerous uses were the focus of the recent "Processing and Marketing Soybeans for Meat, Dairy, Baking and Snack Applications" course hosted by the International Soybean Program at the National Soybean Research Center on the University of Illinois campus. "One of the really cool things about soy and one of the things I've always loved about it is that it's really so much more than just a soybean. It is a protein resource and an oil resource, and that's very unique when we look at the various crops that are around," said Bridget Owen, National Soybean Research Laboratory associate director. Owen was among the course's opening speakers with her presentation on soybeans as a food ingredient. A soybean's value comes from when it's processed into its various components. "Those various ingredients are then processed and can be utilized for a whole range of food, fuel and industrial applications, and soy is just such a gem for that," Owen said. "From an oil perspective, it's a great lipid resource. It's traditionally been a strong oil source for us in cooking oil, as well as in food ingredients." All one needs to do to see the importance and wide usage of soybean oil in the baking and processed food sectors is to look at the food's contents label, and those usage opportunities continue to increase through soybean breeding and research.

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"It's such an exciting time right now because we're seeing so many great things happening with new varieties being introduced with some of the recent new high oleic varieties we've seen," Owen said. "But we've also seen other components come out that are being shown to have good nutritional benefits, as well as functional benefits for the oil side of things. "I just think there are a lot of really exciting things on the horizon for soybean oil, and that presents some really nice opportunities in the food sector, as well as our continued work with biodiesel, too, and then also the pull-off from that for the industrial applications, as well." Soybean protein also has created greater demand through an expanding list of products, and Owen has witnessed these opportunities in her role overseeing NSRL's nutrition programs in various parts of the globe. "We do a lot of work with the defatted soy flour, which is about 50-percent protein content. That product goes into all different kinds of things," she said. "It goes into a lot of baking applications. We've done work with it in noodle applications, instant noodles like the dry ramen noodles with some work in Cambodia. We've also seen it utilized in pastas and other noodle-type applications.

"We're doing a project right now using some defatted soy flour in snacks and have done work with the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department with some product development that they have worked on for India for an extruded snack with soy flour. "It has really nice applications. It's very adaptable and versatile. "We've also used defatted soy flour a lot in our school feeding programs around the world because it works really well as a component to a soups and sauces, and it works in beverages, as well. It adds that protein punch into the system, but doesn't drastically alter the flavor profile, so it works really well in that. "It also brings some functional aspects to some systems that can also be really helpful." Defatted soy flour also is utilized in some baking applications that allow for cost savings by reducing the amount of eggs needed. "Then if you take that defatted soy flour and you further process it, extrude it, it gives it some texture. You then get the granules or the textured soy protein and that is really a fantastic product to work with," Owen explained.

"We do a lot with textured soy protein because it is such an adaptable product. It's very easy to prepare. It's user-friendly, and it's a great product when you add it to a food system — it absorbs the flavors and spices in that system that it goes into. "So it's really a nice product in that it picks up all of those flavors, but it has nice texture or mouth-feel to it, so it can mimic meat products. We've used it as a meat-extender in combination with meat products, and we've also used it in places where meat just wasn't accessible. "So we've used it a great deal in school feeding programs where, unfortunately, the economics didn't work out, where a school couldn't afford to bring in meat products or they didn't have a cold chain to allow them to bring in the meat products. "We've done that in Central America, India, Africa, Southeast Asia, all of the different locations, and what's really great that textured soy protein is it works in all those different applications because it picks up those different flavors that are common to those local cultures.

"When we do it in school systems, I always like that because I think that's the biggest challenge. Kids are very straightforward, and they don't have a problem telling when you messed it up. They're always the biggest critics. They're a good test case because they'll tell you right away whether it's good or not. "We've had really good success with textured soy flour." Textured soy protein also has a greater shelf life, allowing schools in the developing world to store the product, and it can then be prepared by the local communities that prepare the lunches. Textured soy protein is utilized in many different products in the U.S., as well. There also are other processed products in the soy protein family that are available. "Soy protein concentrate, which has about 65 to 70 percent protein content, is a fantastic product that is

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utilized in a number of food applications, particularly in meat processing, beverage application, some baking application and also some of the pasta applications,” Owen said. “It gives you a little bit more protein punch and also has some nice functional aspects to it. Concentrates are an excellent product when you’re looking for that higher level of protein, but also a real nice product to work with.” She said the concentrate and the soy isolates which contain about 90-percent protein can be utilized in the meat sector. The course included a stop at the Meat Sciences Laboratory to see these applications.

“You’re able to utilize these soy proteins, and you’re not losing that important protein in those meat products, but you’re gaining some functional aspects that are really useful when it comes to moisture retention, their ability to cook evenly and the overall quality and texture of the meat. It provides some nice functional aspects to that,” Owen said. “Isolates are also commonly utilized in beverage applications, utilized in a lot of the nutritional products such the nutritional shakes, beverages and formulas. They’re also utilized in ice cream and soup-based dishes. “These products offer a lot of options for people designing new food products. They also offer a lot of options for consumers, too, such as protein bars, shakes and other beverages, cereals and all these different things that bring that nice protein punch to them. Soy plays a really important role in all of that. “We have an excellent soy processing industry in the U.S. that delivers this huge variety of products that bring not only great nutrition, great functional attributes, but also really good taste.”

Baking for glowing health

June 24, 2013

Chaitali Raizada wants to create awareness on healthy eating | EPS Chaitali Raizada wants to create awareness on healthy eating | EPS For the life of her, Chaitali Raizada can't understand how people wolf down burgers and French fries. And it is stranger when she hears parents blaming their children for bad food choices. And so, no wonder, this 37-year-old, who learnt her lessons on nutrition early, is on a 'good food' mission. "The truth is that parents are so entrenched in a certain lifestyle that they would rather pass on a bag of potato chips than take the effort to eat healthy. A child will only pick among choices he or she is exposed to," says Raizada. Today, with the message of healthy eating, she runs Taantraa, a baking unit where she creates cakes and muffins to suit vegan, gluten free diets. "I always enjoyed baking. It became an even more consuming passion once Aanyaa, my daughter was born. I didn't want her to have any of the white stuff like refined flour or sugar," says Raizada. So she made cakes using jaggery, multigrain flour (sprouted wheat, wheat, ragi and jowar and bajra) and wheatgrass. Two years ago, Raizada, while still working with an IT major in Bangalore, went from home baker to part-time entrepreneur to start Taantraa. "I would bake through the night, after work. I started with five flavours of cakes, now there are fourteen," she says. Of those, the Moong Dal Cake is Raizada's signature bake. "It came from finding a way to get my daughter to have her proteins."

While Raizada goes the extra length to ensure wholesome ingredients and taste, she's aware that it's only half the battle won in propagating healthy food choices. "These cakes don't look half as good as they taste, especially since cosmetically dressing them up with whipping cream or colours is not part of my philosophy. So getting people to take the first bite is the challenge," says Raizada, who since February, this year, quit her job to focus on her Indiranagar-based venture. Raizada insists that investing in homemade healthy food is what can keep us away from the commercialisation of food that we see around. "All of us can take small steps to reject this marketing blitzkrieg that forces us to make

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wrong food product choices. It's worth its while to invest in homemade food that is closest to our culture." And she has her suggestions. "It would be better to pick rock salt or sea salt over regular white salt and instead of white sugar that's been bleached, palm sugar, coconut sugar or date sugar would be a fine option," she says. According to her, these choices gradually become part of one's life and you won't enjoy the chemically processed alternatives any more. "My daughter, who is now nine, has caught on with my food sensibilities. Now when she has regular cakes elsewhere, she comes back saying how bad it tasted. I can't tell you how gratifying it is to know that she already recognises good from bad," she states.

Soy Groups Develop Sustainability Protocol

June 26, 2013

Groups say assurance protocol ensures a commitment to sustainable production practices for U.S. soy. The United Soybean Board, American Soybean Association and U.S. Soybean Export Council Tuesday announced the creation of a U.S. Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol to ensure international markets for U.S. soy remain open. The groups created the protocol as a way to outline the industry's expectations of sound environmental objectives, social responsibility, promoting economic growth and improvement in technology and cultural practices. Further, groups say it is an opportunity for the soybean industry to show international customers who are currently reviewing their sustainability requirements for suppliers that U.S. farmers are already meeting high standards for sustainable soy production. "In the past, consumers and farmers have not always agreed on what it means to be sustainable," said Richard Fordyce, Missouri soybean farmer and chair of the USB Freedom to Operate Action Team. "By introducing the U.S. Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol, we're showing farmer dedication to sustaining the natural resources and rural communities that are so important to everyone, and we're backing it up with third-party measurement and verification so our customers have confidence in U.S. soybeans," Fordyce added.

Educational materials on the program will be available later this summer on the USB website. The materials will ensure farmers understand the components of the agreement and its measurement standards. "For our future as individual farmers and as an industry, the U.S. soy family is demonstrating that we understand the expectations of our customers and assuring them our product is sustainable according to their definitions," Fordyce said.

USSEC is Optimistic with Results of India's First Buyers – Sellers Meet

June 23, 2013

USSEC hosted the first national level commercial meeting for marketing opportunities in India at the Radisson Hotel in Indore from May 2-4. The buyers – sellers meet was convened in the backdrop of increasing domestic consumption and concerns of domestic availability, rising prices and other trade related issues. USSEC stressed the importance of bringing together all partners in the soy value chain to deliberate emerging issues and concerns in order to develop solutions leading to sustainable growth in domestic soy consumption. Indian stakeholders no longer consider soybeans to be an oilseed crop, but now largely recognize soy as a protein crop intended to provide wholesome food and feed products at

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affordable prices. Soybean meal and defatted soy flour are now considered co-products and not by-products of soy processing.

Approximately 110 feed utilization members from throughout India came to seek solutions on soy for their business operations and take away tools for raw material management. National feed interests were represented by influential companies such as the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association (CLFMA), National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) and several large soy buyers such as Suguna Foods, Ananda Fisheries and Venkys. The major meal utilization sectors (broiler, layer and aquaculture), which collectively comprise about 4 million metric tons (MMT) annually, were also well-represented at the two-day event. The opportunity for feed representatives to interface with top crushers in addition to leading traders facilitated valuable networking opportunities throughout these meetings. Discussions with India's feed utilization members helped create a clearer understanding on expectations of S&D, quality concerns, tools required for managing raw materials in the future, and further opportunities. Utilizing soy will help feed representatives run animal production businesses successfully and in a sustained manner.



The USSEC team facilitated talks strengthening trade linkages between buyers and sellers with the expectation of leading to sound market development pathways in the future. The views of the country's leading trade organizations further added to the interactions and understanding of the soy complex in India. These trade associations recognized the domestic potential and made recommendations to sellers to explore this potential sector and use it to sustain their businesses.



There was a significant shift in the focus of all stakeholders from crush for oil and export of soybean meal (SBM) to crush for meal and increased domestic consumption. Virtually all participants spoke of the need to enhance the quality of soymeal to be able to utilize more SBM in further value-added products. Investment interest ranged from the feasibility of producing high value ingredients such as soy protein isolates and concentrates to textured soy proteins, as well as marketing high quality food grade defatted soy flour. Near unanimity was seen with the various stakeholders in relation to the soy balance sheet as well as with future projections of domestic utilization of soy in India.

Feedback from large processors was unambiguous in relation to the future growth and market access of value-added soy foods. These processors are actively seeking engagement with USSEC resources to assist with capacity



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and trade building processes. Utilization food companies have long seen the need to improve the quality specifications of soy flour to meet the user industry needs. ITC, the largest user of defatted soy flour for fortification of wheat flour, indicated that the utilization of soy flour in multigrain flour could double if the quality of soy flour is improved. The crushers / sellers appreciated the market needs for quality products and assured that they would make necessary improvements to soy flour as soon as possible. Similar discussions took place between Dal Analogue producers and large institutional consumers such as school meal providers to partner together for delivering better protein nutrition at affordable prices.

USSEC is very pleased with the discussion initiated at this inaugural buyers – sellers meet. The meetings provided an appropriate platform for stakeholder conversations and were conducive for frank deliberations between all partners to arrive at solutions for accomplishing sustainable domestic consumption through value-added soy food and feed products.

Canada's Soy Food Pioneer Continues to Innovate and Capture New Markets Marketwired

June 27, 2013

A company often only thought of for its tofu, Sunrise Soya Foods receives its first industry recognition of this kind in the 57 year history of the Vancouver grown family business. Sunrise Super Squeezies Omega-3 DHA Pudding Tubes won "Best New Dessert" at the Retail Council of Canada's Grand Prix New Product Awards earlier this month. Surprising industry followers, Super Squeezies stood out amongst a healthy competition as "a delicious treat for kids and their health conscious parents," according to a member of the Grand Prix Awards jury. The Super Squeezies award came as a welcomed surprise to CEO Peter Joe, "Given the company's history with tofu in Canada, it was a delight to my family and many others in the company that it was our soy pudding product that brought us this kind of attention," says Joe. "At Sunrise, we always aim to satisfy the appetites of dedicated tofu fans with the best in the market. The trickier part is going after the tofu skeptics with creative products. I think the latter is exactly what we accomplished with Super Squeezies."

Super Squeezies is the first dairy-free pudding in a tube. Made using Canadian non-GMO soybeans, each tube is packed with Omega-3 DHA, important for brain, eye and heart health. Super Squeezies are gluten-free, lactose-free and cholesterol-free and contain no artificial colour, flavour or preservatives. Since the Joe family started the Vancouver business in 1956, innovative and strategic business thinking has been the foundation of growth for Sunrise. The company can be accredited with building the tofu market in Canada from a primarily ethnic-based demographic to a true Canadian diversity. As the leading and only national seller of tofu in Canada, Sunrise products are sold across the country as well as in select US markets. Part of this success is due to the brand's strategic marketing and ability to successfully educate current and potential consumers on how to turn a seemingly boring white block of tofu into a delicious and healthy meal. The Joe family is grateful for the continuous support its products receive from the community. Amongst other initiatives, Sunrise remains active in giving back through projects such as the newly launched Super Squeezies School Donation Program, and in its 27(th) year in 2013, the Sunrise Annual Charity Golf Tournament that supports the Canadian Diabetes Association. With its B.C. roots firmly in place, this Canadian entrepreneurial success story has already expanded production to a 2(nd) plant in Toronto and grown its team to over 200 employees across Canada.

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Sunrise will leverage the success of Super Squeezies to continue to introduce products that address food industry priorities such as health benefits and convenience.

About Sunrise Soya Foods - Sunrise Soya Foods, founded in 1956, is the largest tofu manufacturer in Canada, specializing in a wide range of tofu and soy products. Using only Canadian, non-GMO soybeans, Sunrise Soya Foods products are certified Kosher and contain no cholesterol or trans-fats. For more information on Sunrise Soya Foods, please visit: www.sunrise-soya.com.

Soybean production could go up 7-10%: SOPA

Business Standard

June 28, 2013

Around 80-85% soybean sowing is done in the country and remaining may get over by first week of July. Soybean production is likely to go up by 7-10 per cent as most growing areas have witnessed early or timely sowing, said industry experts. "Sowing is near completion and it is likely to get over across the country by July 5," said Rajesh Agrawal, coordinator and spokesman, Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA). "If all goes well, like rains at regular intervals, soybean production is likely to go up by 7-10 per cent this year," he added. At present, around 80-85 per cent soybean sowing is done in the country and remaining may get over by first week of July, claimed Agrawal. Sowing in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will finish by June-end but in Rajasthan it may extend to July, said traders. In Kharif 2011-2012, soybean sowing was not timely due to delayed and insufficient rains which had resulted in second time sowing in Madhya Pradesh, said farmers. Agriculture scientists also feel India may harvest bumper soybean crop this year if the crop gets proper rains in the coming days. "Usually, sowing in last week of June is considered timely and seeds sown in this period yield maximum output," said G K Gupta, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Soybean Research (DSR) Indore. This year, most growing areas have witnessed early or timely sowing hence yield may cross 1,300 kg per hectare in many parts, added Gupta. According to SOPA, Indian soybean output in Kharif 2012 was 12.68 million hectare and average yield in the country was 1,185 kg per hectare.

Soy prevents skin cancers

June 27, 2013

There is a evidence that soy protein helps protect against cancer. Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley have found that if they paint the skin of mice with the soy protein lunasin, fewer tumours than usual occur when the animals are exposed to carcinogens. Those on the highest dose of lunasin had a 70 per cent lower tumour incidence. This builds on earlier work from this team that shows how lunasin interferes with cell division in tumours.

Lunasin binds to a protein that itself binds to DNA, blocking a step that normally leads to multiplication of cancer cells. Even when the mice did get tumours, they were slower to develop and there were far fewer of them. The study backs up previous research that suggests that consumption of soy protein can help reduce the incidence of cancer.

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MSP for kharif crops for 2013-14 season

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today approved the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for kharif crops of 2013-14 season. The MSP of Paddy (Common) has been fixed at Rs. 1,310 per quintal and of Paddy (Grade A) at Rs. 1,345 per quintal. This is an increase of Rs. 60 per quintal and Rs. 65 per quintal respectively over their MSPs of last year. The MSPs of Jowar (Hybrid), Jowar (Maldandi) and Ragi have been retained at last year's level of Rs. 1,500 per quintal, Rs. 1,520 per quintal and Rs. 1,500 per quintal respectively. The MSP of Bajra has been raised by Rs. 75 per quintal and fixed at Rs. 1,250 per quintal. The MSP of Maize has been raised by Rs. 135 per quintal over last year's MSP at Rs. 1,310 per quintal. The MSP of Arhar (Tur) has been fixed at Rs. 4,300 per quintal and of Moong at Rs. 4,500 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 450 per quintal and Rs. 100 per quintal respectively over their MSP of last year. The MSP of Urad has been retained at last year's level of Rs 4,300 per quintal.

The MSPs of Groundnut-in-shell, Soyabean (Black) and Sesamum have been increased by Rs.300 per quintal each and fixed at Rs. 4,000 per quintal, Rs. 2,500 per quintal and Rs. Rs.4,500 per quintal respectively. MSP of Soyabean (Yellow) has been increased by Rs. 320 per quintal over its MSP of last year and fixed at Rs. 2,560 per quintal. The MSPs of Sunflower Seed and Nigerseed have been retained at last year's levels of Rs.3,700 per quintal and Rs. 3,500 per quintal respectively. MSP of Cotton (Medium Staple) and Cotton (Long Staple) have been raised by Rs. 100 per quintal each, over their MSP of last year. They have been fixed at Rs. 3,700 per quintal and Rs. 4,000 per quintal respectively.

Soy protein helps diabetics with kidney problems

Adding soy protein powder to the diet improves kidney function in male diabetics, according to a small study. Soy protein is reckoned to have a number of health benefits, mainly because of the isoflavones it contains. These can act a little like the female hormone estrogen. A new report from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign reveals how adding soy protein to the diet helps men with type 2 diabetes. A group of 14 older men with diabetes-related kidney dysfunction added soy protein to their diet for eight weeks, then replaced it with milk protein. In the soy phase, protein in the urine went down – a sign of improved kidney functioning. The levels of high density lipoprotein (HDL or 'good') cholesterol also went up by about four per cent. In the milk protein phase, the levels of protein in urine went up and HDL went down. It's not clear how soy exerts these benefits. It may be the estrogen-like properties of the isoflavones help the kidneys – for women tend to have slower progression of kidney disease than men do. The study was a small one and needs to be expanded to see if soy is really beneficial to diabetics.

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विभिन्न मण्डियों में सोयाबीन के भाव
(Soybean Mandi Rates)
दिनांक: 30-June-2013

सोयाबीन				अन्य उत्पादों के मण्डी भाव	
Market	Arrivals (Tonnes)	Variety	MinPrice (Rs./Quintal)	MaxPrice (Rs./Quintal)	ModalPrice (Rs./Quintal)
राजस्थान (Rajasthan)					
रामगंज मंडी (Ramaganj Mandi)	9.8	अन्य	3575	3600	3600
बारन (Baran)	162	अन्य	3442	3520	3475
बूंदी (Bundi)	500	अन्य	3481	3601	3541
चित्तौड़गढ़ (Chittorgarh)	0.6	अन्य	3200	3230	3215
खानपुर (Khanpur)	60	अन्य	3550	3690	3620
कोटा (Kota)	411.6	अन्य	3500	3776	3730
इटावा (Etawah)	66.6	अन्य	3300	3669	3484
Bijolia	NR	अन्य	4000	4050	4050
Badrisadri	NR	अन्य	3600	3650	3620
Anta	16.4	अन्य	2700	3546	3460
	10	अन्य	3600	3660	3630
महाराष्ट्र (Maharashtra)					
सावनेर (Savner)	17.4	अन्य	3300	3450	3375
सांगली (Sangli)	10.4	अन्य	3300	3650	3475
श्रीरामपुर (Shrirampur)	0.3	अन्य	3525	3525	3525
वरोरा (Warora)	50	अन्य	3600	3690	3645

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लोहा (Loha)	1.7	अन्य	3425	3600	3500
लातूर (Latur)	525.5	पीला	3599	3721	3709
परभनी (Parbhani)	4	पीला	3500	3650	3575
धुले (Dhule)	0.1	अन्य	3600	3600	3600
दयोलगांव राजा (Deoulgaon Raja)	6.4	अन्य	3300	3500	3300
जिन्तूर (Jintur)	8.5	पीला	3450	3670	3600
चन्द्रापूर (Chandrapur)	17.5	अन्य	3500	3580	3550
कोपरगांव (Kopergaon)	1.8	अन्य	3200	3610	3536
कमलेश्वर (Kalmeshwar)	19	पीला	3375	3558	3490
अम्बेजोगई (Ambejaogai)	27.5	अन्य	3570	3674	3641
अकोला (Akola)	73.9	पीला	3515	3600	3560
(Sindkhed Raja)	1.7	अन्य	3400	3550	3500
Rahata	0.3	अन्य	3550	3550	3550
(Babhulgaon)	84	अन्य	3400	3650	3525
(Ausa)	10.5	पीला	3701	3751	3725
मध्य प्रदेश (Madhya Pradesh)					
मन्दसौर (Mandsaur)	2000	अन्य	3100	3675	3370
भोपाल (Bhopal)	168.9	पीला	3241	3525	3453
बियोरा	467.02	अन्य	3325	3550	3450

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(Biaora)					
नरसिंहपुर (Narsinghpur)	8	सोयाबीन	3436	3436	3436
खरगोन (Khargone)	5.9	अन्य	3400	3550	3500
अगर (Agar)	221.5	अन्य	3200	3565	3475
Pohari	0.2	अन्य	3548	3548	3548
Piplya	45.5	अन्य	3300	3599	3475
(Lateri)	9.5	पीला	3205	3475	3445
Javad	0.2	अन्य	3500	3526	3500
Haatpipliya	17.05	अन्य	3399	3535	3480
Gadarwada	45	काला	3200	3530	3400
मणिपुर (Manipur)					
लामलॉग बाजार (Lamlong Bazaar)	0.1	अन्य	NR	5600	5600
छत्तीसगढ़ (Chattisgarh)					
भाटापाड़ा (Bhatapara)	1.4	सोयाबीन	3385	3496	3400
(Gandai)	100	सोयाबीन	2900	3100	3000
डोंगरगांव (Dongargaon)	3330	अन्य	3000	3300	3200
गुजरात (Gujarat)					
धोराजी (Dhoraji)	0.3	स्थानीय	3130	3355	3330
दाहोद (Dahod)	20.8	अन्य	3600	3700	3650
कर्नाटक (Karnataka)					
भालकी (Bhalki)	7	सोयाबीन	3410	3550	3501
Laxmeshwar	NR	सोयाबीन	3129	3871	3459
हावेरी	28	सोयाबीन	3680	4080	3860

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(Haveri)					
Dharwar	12	सोयाबीन	3500	3500	3500
बीदर (Bidar)	1	सोयाबीन	3470	3515	3490