

SFPWA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Soy Food Promotion and Welfare Association (SFPWA) has sought following support in Union Budget 2012-13.

1. Interest subvention on pre and post shipment rupees export credit - The interest rate in Japan, UK, Switzerland, US are below 2 % whereas in India it is average 9.50 % on export credit. Therefore, India is not able to compete in International market. We like to draw your kind attention regarding the RBI circular 2008/09/326 DBOP.Dir.(Exp) BC no.101/04.02.01/2008-09 dated 16 December, 2008 in which the Government has excluded the Interest subvention of 2 percentage points on pre and post shipment rupees export credit for processed agricultural products. Earlier processed agricultural products was included in the list of Interest subvention alongwith Textile (including Handloom), Handicrafts, Carpets, Leather, Gem and Jewellery, Marine Products and SME with 2 percent pre and post shipment rupees export credit.

2. Concessional rate of tax (VAT) in the domestic market - The VAT tax on soya food product varies from 4% to 12.5% in various categories and various states of India. From year 2010 GST will be made applicable and therefore it is requested that the soya processed foods listed below should be categorised to zero rate of tax.

- Soya Edible Flour/Flakes/Grits
- Soya Lecithin
- Soya Nuts/Papad
- Soya Badi/Chunks/Granules/TSP
- Soya Milk, Tofu (Paneer)

3. Export incentives on food products - India is a major producer of soybean in Asia, but we use 97% soybean to produce soymeal for animal feed. Soy food category like Soya Flour, Textured Soya Protein, Soya Tofu, Soya Milk, Soya Lecithin, Soya Protein Concentrate, Soya Protein Isolate are not exported from India where as these products have an excellent market in Asia. In order to increase the exports of soya products, this industry needs support from the Government. To keep this objectives in mind, the Government of India has launched new scheme of Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) in Foreign Trade Policy. We request to consider following products in the said scheme.

- Soya Lecithin Powder / Liquid
- Soya Flour
- Soya Protein Concentrate /Textured Vegetable Protein/TSP

4. Reduction of excise duty on Soya product from 10.3% to Nil - Soya Lecithin Liquid, Lecithin Powder, Phosphatidyl Choline and Soya Proteins Concentrate are manufacturing from soya bean. These products have followings unique features;

- Decrease the level of cholesterol and lipids thereby exerting a positive influence in case of arteriosclerosis and Lipo metabolic disorders
- Improves memory function
- Promote ability to concentrate
- An Essential nutrient
- Promotes ability to concentrate
- Protects against fatty degeneration of the liver

Looking to above, these products can be helpful to the public at large. Further, we have not been able to utilise the potential soya food products to improve the health of our countrymen because of lack of non -priority in Central Government schemes. Presently, Govt. of



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India charging the excise duty @ 10.3% and we request your goodself to reduce to Nil for the development and promotion of the soya food products.

5. Service tax exemption - Agricultural Products are fully exempted to pay service tax when stored in Warehouse as per Service Tax Act,1994. We would like draw your kind attention that food industry have to pay 10.3% service tax for warehousing of processed food product. This is injustice with this product. So to support food processing Industries, fiscal concession is required from your good office.

6. Generic Promotion of Soya Food - Soya food being new category of food products need promotion to educate masses about high protein and health benefits of these products. We request yourself talk up this work on lines of operation flood /egg promotic campaign. This expenditure for 5 years will result into better health of our countrymen thus reducing government expenditure on health care.

7. Inclusion of soya in govt. feeding programs - As soya is the best source of protein it should be included in government feeding programs like ICDS, Mid-day meal, Antyodaya scheme, BPL schemes.

8. Fiscal support for new technology - Fiscal support to soya food industries for new technology for development of new products like soya dal analogue, soya protein isolate, soya protein concentrate, soya diary products, soya ready to use food.



TAILORED NON-GMO SOYBEANS CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN ANIMAL AND AQUAFEEDS

Dr. John Schillinger is acknowledged as one of the most accomplished soybean breeders of the past century and a father of GMO soybeans. But today, Dr. Schillinger `s research centres on non-genetically modified (non-GMO) varieties. For the past decade Dr. Schillinger has specialized in creating high protein soybeans with low anti-nutritional factors, tailored for specific feed uses. Dr. Schillinger has devoted over 40 years of his distinguished career to working with soybean genetics. His research programs have emphasized the function of various compositional factors of soybeans and their impact on nutritive value in feed and food. His developments of soybean varieties for the food industry in United States, Japan and Korea are well recognized. Currently, four of Schillinger Genetics' food grade varieties (240.RY, 389.FYC, 3520.FHPC and 448.FHPC) are among the most popular varieties for tofu, soy milk, soy snack and miscellaneous production. All of these varieties were selected for high protein content. For the past 10 years, John Schillinger and his team at Schillinger genetics have turned their attention to animal and aquatic feed use. In 2007, John and his team began supporting feeding trials with swine, poultry and turkeys followed by aquaculture feeding trials with trout, salmon and shrimp – all with great success. Thanks to Dr. Schillinger, novel soybean varieties are now commercially available with oligosaccharide levels (stachyose and raffinose, oligos) significantly reduced from a normal value of 5.5% to 0.5%. Similarly, unique soybean cultivars have been developed which significantly reduce trypsin inhibitors from 55,000 TIU/g present in regular commodity beans to a low of



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7,000 TIU/g. From a practical perspective, the value added advantage in using these improved soybean varieties is highlighted by savings in processing costs since there is no need for heat-deactivation of protease inhibitors, improvement of nutritive value as there is no nutrient deterioration and the elimination of potentially detrimental effects of excessive oligosaccharide concentrations. For the growing aquafeed market, soybean cultivars have been selected with 15-20% higher protein content and with the difficult-to-digest carbohydrates raffinose and stachyose, as well as trypsin inhibitors significantly reduced. The defatted meal derived from these cultivars exceeds 56% in protein content and with further gentle processing will surpass 60% in crude protein (CP). Feeding trials comparing protein digestibility, metabolizable energy, mortality, FCR and growth performance have been conducted with Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, Pacific white shrimp, European sea bass, cobia, yellowtail and red drum. Additional trials with other aquaculture species will be conducted in 2012. Dr. Schillinger's team will describe how redesigned soybean varieties are opening up opportunities for animal and aquafeed manufacturers at the feed conferences FIAAP Asia Conference and Aquafeed Horizons, taking place February 15 and 16, 2012, during Victam Asia 2012 in Bangkok. For more information about these meetings, please visit: www.feedconferences.com [ENDS]



IGC CREATES GLOBAL GRAINS AND OILSEEDS INDEX

The International Grains Council (IGC) is introducing a new grains and oilseeds daily price index aimed at "capturing the broad underlying trends across key markets." The council said it tracks daily information on a wide range of grains and oilseeds, cash markets and futures, "as part of efforts to promote greater transparency in international markets." "Given the increased turbulence in global grains and oilseeds markets in recent years there has never been a greater need for more timely and up-to-date information," the IGC said. The Grains and Oilseeds Index (GOI) is a trade-weighted measure of international price movements across seven key commodities — wheat, maize (corn), barley, sorghum, rice, soybeans and rapeseed/canola. The IGC said it calculates the index daily using 22 U.S. dollar-denominated daily export quotations at leading origins. Further details about the index, including its composition and weightings, as well as 12 years of historical data, may be found at: www.igc.int/grainsupdate/igc_goi.xls.



PRESIDENT INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: CALLS FOR INTEGRATING AGRICULTURE WITH OTHER SECTORS

President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil has called for integrating agriculture with other sectors to make it more competitive. Inaugurating an International Conference on Innovative Approaches for Agriculture Knowledge Management System on November 9, 2011, she said, institutional arrangements and policy orientation for a farmer-centric, industry driven and knowledge based paradigm are required for enhanced competitiveness of the agriculture sector. The 4-day conference has been organised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and National Society for Extension Education. Agricultural scientists and professionals from many countries



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representing several international organisations are attending it. Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Sharad Pawar in his presidential address suggested upscaling of institutional innovations. He said, "More and more agro-based corporate houses have to come forward and take up their corporate social responsibility to reach out to the villages and develop market-led business models on the pattern of other developed agricultural economies of the world. These can enhance the competitiveness of Indian agriculture and trigger a cycle of higher productivity, higher incomes, enlarge capacity for farmers risk management larger private investment and higher productivity with better quality."

Shri Pawar informed the Conference that the aim of agricultural knowledge management strategy is to bring together a package of practices through ICT mediated knowledge creating and organising platform. He said, "This would promote technology led pro-poor growth and diffusion of new technologies for improving crop yields, productivity of allied enterprises and livelihood of farmers in our country and elsewhere. Such a strategy would also allow for the development of highly integrated approaches between agricultural research and emerging public and private extension service providers and NGOs in the field." The Minister said that the Agriculture Ministry has set up Kisan Call Centres (KCC), a free of cost countrywide helpline for farmers and Kisan Knowledge Management System with structured database for availability of information to farming community. Shri Pawar said "The KCCs are being integrated with Common Service Centres of the Department of Information Technology and are expected to work as ICT-based knowledge system. Moreover, the Krishi Vigyan Kendras have also been provided e-connectivity, which will facilitate and empower farmers with the right information at the right time and place." (Source: PIB, November 9, 2011)



THE POWER OF PROTEIN

Protein is vital to life — so vital that every cell in your body needs protein. Without adequate protein, we wouldn't be able to grow, or repair the everyday wear-and-tear that our muscles endure. Hormones, which act as 'cellular messengers' are proteins, and enzymes, which help the body perform many of the chemical reactions that occur inside cells, are also proteins. The body needs these specialised proteins to keep the body functioning properly. So we need to get good quality protein, and the right amount of it in our daily diet. Dietary protein has another benefit, too — it helps to keep hunger at bay. When you eat and digest a protein-rich meal, the brain receives signals that decrease your hunger and keep you satisfied. All proteins are made up of 'building blocks' called amino acids. Many of these amino acids are essential. Which only means that our body cannot make them and so they must be supplied from the diet. When a protein contains all of the essential amino acids, it is considered a complete protein. All animal sources of protein — meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and milk and milk products — are complete. But if one or more of the essential amino acids is missing, the protein is considered incomplete. And, with the exception of soy protein, vegetable sources of protein are considered to be incomplete. So how do strict vegetarians meet their needs for all their essential amino acids? The answer is actually simple — they eat a wide range of plant proteins, and learn how to combine plant proteins in a complementary way — one protein can provide the amino acid that the other one lacks and vice versa. For example, legumes (beans, peas and lentils) lack a particular essential amino acid. Whole grains (wheat, rice or corn) also lack an essential amino acid, but not the one that's missing from the beans. The beans have the amino acid that's missing from the grains, and the grains have the amino acid that is missing in the beans. So by combining the two foods — brown



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rice with lentils, split pea soup with whole grain bread, or black beans with corn tortillas -- the two complement one another by providing all the essential amino acids. Soy is unique — it is the only vegetarian source of complete protein, and the quality of soy protein is as good as animal sources of protein such as meat, eggs and milk. Since soy protein is derived from plants, it contains naturally-occurring phyto-nutrients, beneficial compounds from edible plants.

Soy protein comes in many forms, including soy milk, tofu, tempeh, fresh soybeans (edamame). Soy protein is also available in powder form that can be mixed with milk or soy milk and fruit to create a protein shake. Ideally, a combination of plant and animal proteins in the diet is the way to go. When you include some low fat animal proteins, you're sure to get your essential amino acids, and if you lean towards fish, you'll be sure to get the health benefits of the healthy omega-3 fatty acids found in fish. Meats, poultry, and most eggs and dairy products are not significant sources of omega-3, and they can be high in saturated fat. That's why it is best to use non-fat or low-fat dairy products, and to choose poultry breast meat and the leanest cuts of red meat. Plant proteins have their own unique benefits. For one, they are naturally much lower in fat and saturated fat than animal protein. And, unlike animal proteins, beans, peas and lentils have absolutely no cholesterol, and can contribute a fair amount of fibre to the diet, too. Daily protein needs are different for different people. Men generally need more than women. The former have larger bodies and more muscle mass to maintain. A general guideline is to consume somewhere in the range of 100-150 grams of protein a day, while women should aim for 75-100 grams. Your body gets the most benefit from the protein you eat when you distribute your intake throughout your meals and snacks. In the morning, an egg white omelette, some cottage cheese with fruit, or a protein shake can all provide a good start to your day. If you include some meat, fish, poultry or plant proteins at lunch and dinner, and include some protein with your snacks — like a small carton of yoghurt, some low-fat cheese or a protein snack bar — you'll likely hit your protein target. (The author is a member on Herbalife Nutrition Advisory Board) **Source: November 10, 2011, Deccan Herald**



ARGENTINA FORECASTS 49.5 MILLION TONS OF SOYBEANS

Argentina's 2011-12 soybean area will likely rise 0.6% on the year to 19 million hectares, the Agriculture Ministry said in its weekly crop report. The forecast is the first from the ministry for soybeans, the country's top crop and export.

Soybeans could turn out to be the second-largest crop ever in 2011/12 - Soybeans are a key source of hard currency and tax revenue for the Argentine government. The country is the world's top soy-meal and soy-oil exporter and ranks third in global soybean exports. Planting is in full swing after showers earlier in November, and 30% of the soy crop was planted so far, according to the ministry. Earlier the Buenos Aires Cereals Exchange raised its forecast for soy area to 18.9 million hectares, up from 18.6 million hectares estimated last week. The Rosario Grain Exchange is expecting the soy crop to total 49.5 million metric tons, the second-largest ever. The 2009-10 season holds the record for total soybean production, when 54.5 million tons were harvested. The ministry also trimmed its forecast for 2011-12 wheat production to 12 million tons, down from 12.6 million tons forecast last month. That's down 24% on the year, the ministry said. **(Source: November 21st 2011 - 07:10 UTC)**



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CALL TO SCRAP BIOTECH BILL

The Coalition for a GM-Free India, which represents various citizen groups, has called for scrapping of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill introduced in the Parliament on Tuesday. It said that the Bill "completely overlooks biosafety, imperils our environment and threatens our socio-economic and cultural fabric". The Coalition called for an alternative legislation to "protect and enhance biosafety." Democratic processes should be adhered to when dealing with issues as important as food and farming in our country, it added. In letters of concern addressed to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, the Coalition said that Genetic Modification (GM) "is an imprecise, unpredictable and highly risky technology whose safety is not yet established and whose spread cannot be controlled once released into the environment given that it is a living technology". "The recent past has seen more and more scientific evidence emerging both from the laboratory and the field, about the adverse health and environmental impacts of GM crops. Experience of Bt Cotton, the only GM crop commercially cultivated in the country, clearly shows that GM crops are a threat to our seed sovereignty and farm livelihoods." The Coalition said that the Bill was drafted in a secretive fashion with no opportunity for the general public to comment on the legislation. "There is a serious inherent conflict of interest as the regulatory authority is proposed to be under the Ministry of Science and Technology, which already has a mandate to promote GM crops, a product of modern biotechnology which authority is supposed to regulate."

The Bill provides no mechanism for transparency. On the other hand, it proposes to override Right to Information Act for the benefit of commercial interests. It also overrides the State governments' authority over health and agriculture and is inconsistent with legislation like the Biological Diversity Act. It also lacks any redress mechanisms where by stakeholders such as farmers and consumers can be compensated for damages, it said. Several retired judges of the Supreme Court have also written letters of concern to the Prime Minister. They have called for better regulatory mechanism and demanded that every citizen's right to choose not to eat GM food should be completely safeguarded. The penalties for transgressing of the rights of consumers or farmers and for any environmental damage must be of a deterrent nature and quickly enforceable. The former judges included M. H. Kania (former Chief Justice), Kuldip Singh, Jeevan Reddy, N. Santosh Hegde, Sujata Manohar, M. B. Shah, Ruma Pal, Sam Variava, B. N. Srikrishna and Shivraj Patil. Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Convener of the Coalition, said here that more than 450 individuals and representatives of organisations had signed its appeal to the Prime Minister for scrapping of the Bill. (Source: Roy Mathew Hindu, November 23, 2011)



WOMEN MALNUTRITION

As per National Family Health Survey-3, 2005-06, the prevalence of chronic energy deficiency (measured as low Body Mass Index) is 36.4% and 35.1% in Hindu and Muslim women aged 15-49 years and prevalence of anemia is 55.9% and 54.7% respectively. Thus, there appears to be no Hindu - Muslim divide on women suffering from malnutrition, the Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Krishna Tirath stated in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today. The problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature. The approach to dealing with the nutrition challenges has been two pronged: Multi-sectoral approach for



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accelerated action on the determinants of malnutrition in targeting nutrition in schemes/ programmes of all the sectors. As the multi-sectoral approach takes some time to show results and when implemented together, have a trickle down and horizontal effect to benefit the population over a period of time, other part of the approach is direct and specific interventions targeted towards the vulnerable groups such as children below 6 years, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, she replied. The Minister stated that the Government has accorded priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes /programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations which directly or indirectly have an impact on the nutritional status of the children. Several of the schemes namely, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) have been expanded in recent years to provide for increased coverage and improved services to the people and the impact of these schemes are likely to be visible after some time. Further, to improve the nutritional status, nutrition education of the people, individually and collectively, forms an integral component of several of the above schemes such as the ICDS, NRHM, etc and is also undertaken by using different media such as mass media, print media, folk media etc

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