

# WISHH

## World Initiative for Soy in Human Health

*Enhancing human well-being through soy*

Spring 2004

**Welcome to the WISHH List.** This electronic newsletter provides updates on the many activities of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) Program. To save download time, we have embedded this issue and linked it to the WISHH website. Please email [wishh@asaim.soy.org](mailto:wishh@asaim.soy.org) if you need the WISHH List sent to you as an attached file.

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### WISHH & Guatemalan Ag Ministry Fight Hunger and Help Rebuild U.S. Soy Market



WISHH, the American Soybean Association's (ASA) Mexico City office, the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, and Guatemalan commercial interests signed a letter of intent in April to develop cooperative projects. The initiatives will curb malnutrition, develop small businesses and rebuild a once-important market for U.S. soy.

### Cargill Renews Support for WISHH Project in Honduras

Cargill's Citizenship Committee informed WISHH on May 24 that it will renew its support for the WISHH project in Honduras. ***"We are supportive of your efforts to address food insecurity and contribute to sustainable economic growth in Honduras,"*** wrote Cargill Senior Program Officer Michelle Grogg. See page 2 for details on work with CARE and others...



Soybean leaders went to Guatemala to see soy feed the hungry while it promotes business.



**North Dakota Soybean Council Chair Matt Mechtel and State Executive Deb Johnson found soy and other products from their home state are well received in Guatemala. Food for the Poor is using U.S. food assistance from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program to help Guatemalan kids as well as economic recovery that will assist restored trade with the United States.**

Meat is not readily available to the poor of Guatemala so soy can play a key role in adding protein to diets. Soy is easily added to the beans, rice and vegetables that are locally available. A few years ago Guatemala imported soy for commercial use and government food assistance. WISHH Program Director Jim Hershey says 95 percent of Guatemala's soy imports came from the United States. Those purchases fell off when the economy faltered, but may be restored as WISHH helps the nation access U.S. food assistance funds.

Soybean leaders were on hand to witness the signing of the agreement. They were North Dakota Soybean Council Chair Matt Mechtel, Illinois Soybean Operating Board Vice Chair Steve Scates, Nebraska Soybean Association Director Jim Stewart and North Dakota State Executive Deb Johnson. The farmers and WISHH staff met with the Guatemalan Ministers of education and agriculture as well as leaders of a private company using 15 tons of value-added soy protein per month in processed meats. They also met with USDA officials and several food aid-distributing organizations, including Food for the Poor that received 800 tons of textured soy protein through the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program lunch program.

WISHH staff hopes to develop and support the production and distribution of soy milk or other soy products to the malnourished. One arm of the project may be a school lunch program. Another will likely market economical soy products in poor regions via groups of rural women, giving the women a livelihood and strengthening the economy.

The agreement's other signers made their own unique commitments. ASA-Mexico staff will provide expertise on U.S. soy's use in other Latin American nations and technical assistance. The Guatemalan Ministry of Ag affirmed its commitment to rebuild feeding programs for the poor. Commercial signers include Leyenda Foods, a producer of soy milk products, and Tetrapak, a producer of drink packaging.

## Cargill Grant Continued

Cargill approved a \$75,000 grant to WISHH while the local Cargill business will contribute an additional \$10,000. The project uses defatted soy flour and textured soy flour to demonstrate the value of soy proteins in alleviating hunger, improving individuals' nutritional choices and encouraging expanded use of soy proteins. WISHH is assisting with four distinct efforts in Honduras:

- A pilot program with 11 schools;
- In collaboration with CARE, WISHH helps families introduce defatted soy flour to their diets;
- CARE and WISHH also team up to provide defatted soy flour and textured soy flour to demonstrate the value of soy protein for people with HIV/AIDS;
- Students at Zamarano University are developing soy snacks for school lunches.
- Expands the use of soy protein in therapy for tuberculosis patients.

## **The Solae Company Applauds WISHH for Introducing Company to Government Food Assistance Purchases**

*Food for the Poor to Feed 50,000 in Guatemala with Textured Soy Protein*

The Solae Company has made its first sale of textured soy protein (TSP) to a U.S. government food assistance program. The Solae Company is a joint venture between DuPont and Bunge Limited, and it is commending WISHH for helping introduce the Company to the federal initiatives and groups that can use U.S. soy protein. The Company is optimistic that this is the first of many such sales of soy protein products it may participate in international food assistance efforts.

Florida-based Food for the Poor (FFP) has received 400 metric tons of The Solae Company's TSP from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. The FFP Government Program Specialist Clifford Feldman says that soy proteins will be key in their mother-and-child health and education program that will increase protein in the diets of 50,000 mothers and children in seven regions of Guatemala that have been hardest hit by drought and unemployment.

The Solae Company consultant James Zenner has participated in meetings organized by WISHH to help bring hunger-fighting groups, like FFP, together with soybean processors. ***“WISHH was instrumental in introducing us to the people and the programs that can use our products,”*** Zenner said. “The alliance between Bunge and DuPont allowed The Solae Company to jump on this opportunity to offer textured soy protein made from U.S. soybeans to this government program that will benefit many people.”

## **WISHH Welcomes Ward as New Project Development Manager**

Shannon Ward took over as the WISHH project development manager in January, replacing Leroy Duvall who moved overseas. Her responsibilities include developing projects with private voluntary organizations (PVO) and international groups that introduce or increase soy protein in human diets in the developing world. Shannon identifies and pursues funding opportunities for joint activities.

She has worked in the international arena for 10 years, with about eight years spent overseas in Africa and Central Europe. Much of her work focused on food security and health, as an employee of the World Food Program and PVOs. “Shannon is very familiar with food aid programs funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Agency for International Development,” said WISHH Director Jim Hershey. To contact Shannon, email her at [wishhdc1@yahoo.com](mailto:wishhdc1@yahoo.com) or call 410-570-0716.

## **WISHH Submits Global Development Alliance Proposal to Expand Soy Protein Businesses**

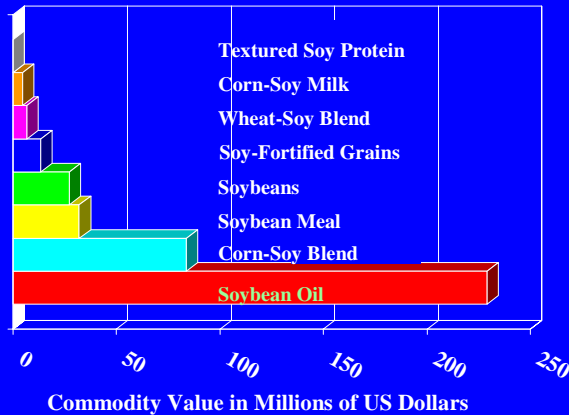
WISHH has submitted a Global Development Alliance (GDA) Proposal to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). GDA finances projects that improve conditions in developing countries, while involving the U.S. private sector.

WISHH partnered with the office of Agriculture, Growth and Trade (EGAT) at USAID to seek a \$600,000 grant from GDA to introduce and expand usage of soy protein in small commercial businesses in Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Honduras. The businesses would be local bakeries, millers, and processors looking to enhance the nutrition level of locally processed foods.

If WISHH receives the grant, it will provide technical assistance to these companies and facilitate their sourcing soy protein for their products. The results of the application will be known this summer.

## The Value of Soy Products in Food Aid – FY 2002

USDA and USAID distributed approximately \$397 million worth of soy products as food aid in FY 2002



Commodity values are estimated at the time that food aid agreements are drawn up, and may not reflect the actual purchase price. Source: FY 2002 Food Aid Table, prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service



**U.S. Department of Agriculture General Sales Manager Kirk Miller presented an overview of U.S. food assistance programs at the WISHH Food Aid Conference in February.**

### Hunger Organizations and Government Representatives

#### Attend WISHH Food Aid Conference and Soy Protein Workshop

WISHH organized a conference in Washington, D.C., for private voluntary organizations (PVOs), government representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), soybean processors and other commodity groups. On February 25, the group heard presentations from USAID and USDA, which administer more than \$1.5 billion in food aid exports and programs. Other presentations covered how PVOs address health and development challenges and how to encourage business development. On February 26, a smaller group of PVOs, industry representatives and the WISHH team examined how to use more soy protein in the wide array of food assistance and develop projects funded by the U.S. government. Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge Milling, Cargill and Solae provide support for the conference. WISHH Advisory Panel farmer leader members Kristen Weeks Duncansen (MN), Darren Kadlec (ND) and Sharon Covert (IL) participated along with other Qualified State Soybean Board representatives from Illinois and Iowa.

#### ***20' Container Arrives in Nairobi***

##### **WISHH Distributes to Catholic Relief Services and Private Companies**

Approximately 10 tons of various soy protein products donated by Archer Daniels Midland Company and WISHH arrived in Kenya in January. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) received more than 4 tons of Textured Vegetable Protein and defatted soy flour for a pilot program at two sites feeding school kids. WISHH distributed the remaining product to meat processors and bakeries for use in product trials aimed at showing the economic advantage of using soy protein in meat and baked goods. In addition, WISHH organized a soyfoods conference where visiting consultants presented technical information to food industry representatives about various applications of soy protein. The consultants then visited target companies which had received samples to ensure proper handling of the product. A number of local companies are interested in the functional and nutritional qualities soy protein can bring to local food processing.

## **WISHH Supports Development of Global HIV/AIDS Nutrition Database**

WISHH is joining with a variety of global hunger fighting organizations to develop a landmark comprehensive database of current nutrition intervention activities for HIV/AIDS patients. The resulting database will speed up program development, maximize resources and identify partners as well as areas of need. The World Food Programme along with non-governmental and governmental organizations and commercial entities are supporting the effort. The database is now accessible at

<http://www.globalnutritiondata.org>

Organizers have developed a template that will target the 14 countries identified in President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that was announced in 2003. The database mission is to provide a user-friendly centralized source of information about nutrition-related programs that target populations impacted by HIV infection and disease. Both humanitarian and commercial interests will be asked to place information into the database so that connections can be easily made by any and all interested parties.

To find out more about the project, contact Cade Fields-Gardner at

[cfg@tceconsult.org](mailto:cfg@tceconsult.org) and please copy [Roli@tceconsult.org](mailto:Roli@tceconsult.org) and [gro.tjore@wfp.org](mailto:gro.tjore@wfp.org)

## **Feed Your Appetite for Soy & Health Info with a New E-Magazine**

*Soy & Health* is a new electronic magazine that offers the latest research and new product information. THV Soy Conference publishes and distributes the newsletter by email free of charge. It replaces the quarterly newsletter "Soyfoods" that was published by the American Soybean Association. To see the magazine and subscribe, go to

<http://www.soyconference.com>

## **During Annual American Soybean Association Meeting Leaders Vote for Continued Emphasis on Food Aid & HIV/AIDS**

Soybean producers gathered in early March to review and revise the policy direction of the American Soybean Association (ASA) and they emphasized the importance of WISHH initiatives. More than 130 producers from soybean production areas across the United States participated in this annual process that guides the ASA. The voting delegates affirmed their support for allocating funds for government food procurement to include soy protein in the diets of people receiving antiretroviral therapy, orphans and HIV/AIDS affected households facing food insecurity.

They also directed ASA to urge the USDA not to reduce funding below \$100 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and to seek additional funding from U.S. and other major industrial democracies.

"ASA strongly recommends that judicious use of soybeans or soy meal in food aid programs should not be precluded automatically by rigid stocks-to-use ratios," said ASA President Ron Heck, a soybean farmer from Perry, Iowa. "A minimum level of soybeans and meal should always be available for humanitarian assistance. Policymakers should realize the importance of nutrition in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and ASA encourages the Administration to direct HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention resources towards feeding programs."

## WISHH at Work

Thanks to the Cochran Fellowship Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, WISHH helped host a group of six bakery industry representatives from the Mideast and Africa who are interested in buying soy flour. In addition to receiving training in baking with soy flour from the American Institute of Baking, the group visited Archer Daniels Midland, Cargill and Cenex Harvest States facilities in Minnesota last month.

The WISHH team participated in the USDA/USAID Export Food Aid Conference on April 20-22, 2004 in Kansas City where they met with PVOs and Industry stakeholders, and heard presentations from an array of food aid experts. HIV Nutritionist Cade Fields Gardner gave a talk on nutrition and devastating diseases. A copy of her presentation is available on the WISHH website at <http://www.wishh.org/hiv aids/Nutrition%20and%20HIV%20Disease-KCCO.pdf>

The American Soybean Association featured WISHH at its soyfoods luncheon on Capitol Hill on March 30. ASA leaders told attending Members of Congress that soy has much to offer global school meal initiatives because it is easily blended into foods that children already like, and it provides an important boost to the protein content of foods that children need to grow.

The Egyptian awareness of soy health benefits is growing, and Frank Daller of Malnutrition Matters is assisting on behalf of WISHH. Frank helped facilitate the soyfoods workshop in December that drew more than 80 attendees and he met with processors who are working on soyfoods plans.

Megan Puzey of the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) worked with Counterpart International in December in Senegal. She followed up on their use of soy in school lunch programs that have received positive feedback. While in Gambia, she also met with Simon Cole, (CRS and WISHH 2003 Midwest Workshop attendee) and nutrition organizations, such as Gambia Food and Nutrition Association that is interested in soy for weaning foods. She also met with the Institut de Technologie Alimentaire in Dakar that is interested in soy to increase protein content.

NSRL's Karl Weingartner was in Botswana in December to continue collaboration with the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) on product development, including producing soy smoothie drinks and adding soy flour to sorghum. In February he also went to Cote d'Ivoire to work with the World Food Program with textured soy donated by ADM and to Botswana, Mozambique and Kenya to participate in soyfoods conferences hosted by WISHH.

WISHH Project Development Manager Shannon Ward traveled to Lesotho and Botswana in southern Africa in late May. The Southern Africa region has received significant soy exports in recent years, both food aid and commercial, and WISHH is working to expand markets in the region. Botswana, not a food aid recipient, has had a Memorandum of Understanding with WISHH for the past year. Ward met with several companies that have plans to launch new soy foods. In Lesotho, WISHH has signed a teaming agreement with World Vision to develop a project to fortify local cereal products with soy flour. Another collaborator in this project is International Relief and Development (IRD).

## Upcoming WISHH Events

### Plan Now: WISHH Midwest Workshop in October 2004

WISHH is scheduling its annual Midwest Workshop for October 2004 in Illinois. Final dates are being set for this three-day program that allows representatives of hunger fighting organizations from around the world to get hands-on experience about soyfoods, their preparation, meet with processors and learn from others who are using soy in their nutrition programs. This year's fall date will allow participants to also experience a soybean harvest. Contact Anita Parker at [anitap@soy.org](mailto:anitap@soy.org) for more information about the agenda as well as travel scholarships to attend. Highlights of the 2003 WISHH Workshop are available at <http://www.wishh.org/workshops/midwestworkshop2.html#midwest>

In conjunction with the WISHH Workshop, the National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL) is offering a separate 10-day course for those who want even more information about product development and utilization as well as in depth training in commercial and public feeding applications of soyfoods. Interested individuals can contact Anita Parker [anitap@soy.org](mailto:anitap@soy.org) for more details and to register for both the WISHH Workshop and the NSRL course.

### Want to know more about WISHH ...

Because of soy's important role in international diets, the United Soybean Board, state soybean organizations and the American Soybean Association support WISHH. To learn more about WISHH, go to the WISHH website at <http://www.wishh.org/> or email [wishh@asaim.soy.org](mailto:wishh@asaim.soy.org)

