

Michigan's Andy Welden for Soy at Global

Michigan soybean grower Andy Welden joined more than 100 representatives of government agencies, nutrition and development organizations, businesses as well as farmers at the "Nutrition and Agriculture Value Chains: Finding the Links" conference on March 17th in Washington D.C. Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is a sponsor of the event convened by the

American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) Program and the World Soy Foundation.

The program draws diverse stakeholders who share the common interest in offering more nutritious diets for people in developing countries. Other sponsors include: Cargill, Solae, Monsanto and the Monsanto Fund, and Qualified State Soybean Boards.

"It is positive that government agencies, businesses, and groups fighting malnutrition are coming on board," Welden says. "There is support for improving nutrition and promoting soybeans worldwide."

Welden serves on the WISHH Program Committee. In addition to highlighting the need for better nutrition and what the U.S. government is doing to fight hunger and support development,



Michigan soybean leader and WISHH Program Committee Member Andy Welden (back row second from left) attended the WISHH-World Soy Foundation nutrition conference in Washington, D.C. where he met with staff working on the Soybeans for Agricultural Renewal in Afghanistan Initiative that will use soy to directly benefit more than 290,000 Afghan people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture funded WISHH to lead the three-year project in Afghanistan.

Sees Growing Role Nutrition Conference

By: Karen Coble Edwards, KCE Public Affairs Associates

the Washington conference provided updates on WISHH's activities, such as its new program in Afghanistan. In 2010, the U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) selected WISHH and a team of partnering organizations to implement a ground-breaking USDA Food for Progress program in Afghanistan. The three-year Soybeans for Agricultural Renewal in Afghanistan Initiative will use soy to directly benefit more than

290,000 Afghan people. "Getting them started on raising protein will improve the country's nutrition and the presence of a soy extruder will develop a domestic industry," Welden says. It will increase the long-term demand of soybeans for poultry and livestock.

"I am very pleased with the way WISHH has developed," Welden says. "It has really taken off in the last couple of years. A lot of underdeveloped countries live on

rice. To add soy protein will have a tremendous impact. If we can also increase the livestock in developing countries there is nothing that will grow the demand for soy more quickly.

"We are blessed in the United States with many sources of protein in our diets," Welden adds. "WISHH is helping improve protein levels in underdeveloped countries and building markets for soybean producers."



Photo credits: American Soybean Association, National Soybean Research Laboratory, Nebraska Soybean Checkoff Board, Nutrition and Education International Inc. and United Soybean Board

WISHH works with developing country entrepreneurs in the soy value chain to expand soyfoods industries that produce more nutritious breads, beverages, and other protein-rich foods. Through these activities, WISHH often identifies opportunities to grow livestock and aquaculture production that developing countries also seek to improve nutrition and their economies.