



Frontline News

September-October 2014

Asia

An important and growing customer in the soy value chain seen by the ASA/WISHH program's Soybeans for Agricultural Renewal in Afghanistan Initiative (SARAI) is the Afghan poultry industry, which is going through a rapid growth stage. SARAI is funded by USDA and is in its fourth year. Starting in 2013, ASA/WISHH conducted several poultry feeding trials to demonstrate to Afghan poultry producers the benefits of soybean meal-based poultry rations. Currently, most poultry operations use poultry feed imported from Pakistan or use older, less efficient feeding methods.

These trials used feed formulated with soybean meal produced by the Afghan Soybean Factory (ASF) in Mazar, the only producer of commercial soybean meal in Afghanistan. The trials demonstrated a clear economic advantage in using feed formulated with ASF produced soybean meal. Trial data revealed that the chickens eat less feed but still gain weight quicker, which enables them to reach market weight sooner. Based on the positive results, poultry producers are eagerly seeking out rations that include soybean meal. This resulted in increased sales of soybean meal for the ASF.



Dr. Sherif at Afghan poultry producer for feeding trial.

Latin America

ASA/WISHH hosted a seminar entitled, "Nutritional Properties of the Soybean and its Use in Social Programs" in Honduras funded by USDA's Foreign Market Development (FMD) program. Together Dr. Mark Messina and Dr. Marilyn Nash, of the University of Illinois' National Soybean Research Laboratory (NSRL), presented the following topics: Nutritional Attributes of Soy, Soy Protein Products and their Uses, Soy in School Feeding: A Practical Guide to Improving Nutrition for Our Children, and Soy Foods to Prevent Illness and Improve Health. The seminar was organized for staff members of the Secretary of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS) of the Government of Honduras and was attended by 33 people.



Dr. Messina speaks at seminar in Honduras.

Africa

With funding from USDA's Emerging Markets Program (EMP), the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA/WISHH) program organized a two week course at Auburn University's School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences for aquaculture professionals from Nigeria and Ghana.

The group included entrepreneurs, professors and consultants interested in learning new techniques and technologies that could improve their fish farming profitability and production. With strong demand for fish in the region, the use of soy protein-based feed has the potential to become an important part of the development of the African aquaculture industry.



Participants examine fish and learn about new techniques in aquaculture.