



## Frontline News

July-August 2014

### Asia

To help increase crop quality and post-harvest yields, the Soybeans for Agricultural Renewal in Afghanistan Initiative (SARAI) project, funded by USDA and managed by the American Soybean Association's World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA/WISHH) program, introduced two mechanized implements during the 2014 crop year.

Mechanization reduces the amount of physical labor and time farmers spend producing soybeans. In previous growing seasons, hand-labor was used to plant, harvest and thresh the soybean crop, which contributed to yields and crop quality that were lower than desired.

*Calibrating the planter for soybean planting*



In collaboration with Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and local farmer co-ops, ASA/WISHH provided planters and training to farmers, many of whom have not used mechanized planters before, which will help achieve greater results. With the mechanical planters, the concept of row-cropping was introduced to farmers, which will assist with cultivation, weed control, irrigation and harvesting. Stationary threshers will replace sticks and pitch forks and prevent unnecessary labor as well as damaged soybeans. These small threshers will be used during the upcoming fall harvest to help increase post-harvest yields.

### Africa

WISHH Executive Director Jim Hershey was in Washington, DC for meetings about trade and market development in Sub-Saharan Africa. President Obama, Secretary Vilsak and other U.S. government leaders stressed the importance of increased business engagement with Sub-Saharan Africa. Once again, the U.S. soy industry is in the vanguard of U.S. international efforts to increase trade, with more than \$1 million in commercial exports of value added soy proteins to six countries, from Senegal to Kenya. The President told an anecdote about an African importer that described how having the U.S. on the label gave her a competitive advantage. ASA/WISHH supply chain partners describe the same effect, asking ASA/WISHH to continue its USDA-funded promotion and technical assistance programs that support their imports from the U.S. Other ASA/WISHH experiences mirror positive factors the President mentioned, including the desire of our importing partners for "More trade, not aid!"

### Latin America

With funding from USDA's Foreign Market Development program, ASA/WISHH hosted a seminar in Guatemala titled, "Functional Properties of Soy in Food Applications and Processing Soy Protein into Meat, Analogue Using Extrusion Technology."

Dr. Mian Riaz led the course which took place at the Department of Engineering and Food Science at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG). Over 41 people were in attendance, including 18 representatives from different companies within the food industry of Guatemala. The seminar included detailed discussion on the benefits of soy and how it can be incorporated into different food systems, as well as how soy products can be processed into meat analogues using extrusion technology.

*Dr. Riaz leads seminar in Guatemala*

