National Conference on Sustainable Soy

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Organized By

Solidaridad
South and South East Asia

Partner

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Group photo, Annexure 1, 2, 3 and 4
INTRODUCTION

Solidaridad-South and South East Asia, ICAR-Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore and Society for Soybean Research and Development, Indore jointly planned and organized multi-stakeholder events i.e. Sustainable Soy Week during 1-7 June, 2015 across the country and National Conference on Sustainable Soy on 10th June, 2015 at Bhopal, India. These events were coordinated by the National Platform for Sustainable Soy (NPSS) in collaboration with its members. The eminent State Agricultural Universities, namely Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vidyalya and Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vidyalya were the knowledge partners for this multi-stakeholder initiative. National Conference on Sustainable Soy was planned and executed with the objectives of dialogue between stakeholders, panel discussions on sustainability issues and to augment strategic partnerships to support sustainability. The participants included representatives from Government, academicians, research institutions, scientific community, agricultural universities, extension institutions, industries, traders, corporates, financial institutions, civil society organizations, farmers and farmers’ organizations with interest and expertise in promotion of sustainable approaches. It was platform for representatives of stakeholder groups to discuss and to deliberate approaches, experiences, challenges and their vision for sustainable soy. The conference was culminated in recommendations by representatives of multi-stakeholders groups to promote NPSS for coordinating multi-stakeholder initiatives and decision on constitution of a coordination committee involving the representative from all the stakeholders. It will make out all efforts to ensure that the soybean cultivation should maintain Non-GM identity, productivity enhancement, promote inclusive, equitable, socio-economic and environment responsible initiatives in soy value chain in India.

CONTEXT

Agricultural is the bedrock of rural economy in India and contributing to livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction. Yet agricultural production - the vast majority of which is carried out by smallholders - is threatened by climate change, water scarcity, competition for arable land and ecosystem degradation. On the other hand in agriculture, the value chain actors are connected in various ways, such as research, production, processing, marketing, infrastructure, policy, extension, finance and other services, etc. These value chain actors cannot work in isolation. There is a growing realisation that many of the social, environmental and economic issues confronting by the country are inter-linked and require collaborative solutions that utilise the skills, knowledge and resources of different stakeholders and create an enabling environment of collective and coherent efforts to establish a responsible system for providing the sustainability to soybean production and value chain and create win-win situation for all the stakeholders.

Around 6 million farm families cultivate soy in around 10 - 12 million hectares of land and more than 95 percent of them are smallholders. Soybean has acquired a coveted position among nine major oilseeds in India in last four and half decades. Being a premier oilseed crop, it contributes 26 per cent of edible oil produced in the country. In addition it offsets the import bill on edible oil substantially by earnings through export of de-oiled cake. Since it is rich in quality protein and some phytochemicals, it can play an important role in providing food and nutritional security for Indian masses. India produces only Non-Genetically Modified (Non-GM) soy. Non-GM soy is the pride of India. This gives India leverage in those markets that have a preference for Non-GM products. At present, producers encounter several socio-economic issues, low productivity, issues in access to
resources, credit, markets and set-backs from climate change on one hand soy industries are getting limited supply of soy. Food insecurity and malnutrition in Indian populace are other issues, which is also a matter of concern. Government policies are also inclined to utilise the participation of private sectors in agriculture not only to sustain the productivity of crops at optimum level, but also to address the issues hampering the efficient production and value chain. So, it is the most appropriate time and a wonderful opportunity to create enabling environment to establish a responsible system through coordinated and coherent efforts for providing the sustainability to soybean production and value chain, and create win-win situation for all the stakeholders. To achieve it, it is of utmost importance to look into strengths we have, the issues which needs to be addressed and effective linkages among stakeholders so that entire chain gets benefitted and an enabling environment is created by unison efforts of multi-stakeholders.

**CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABLE SOY WEEK (SSW)**

The Sustainable Soy Week (June 1-7, 2015) was planned and celebrated successfully to simulate discussions, campaigning and debate by identifying key issues in the designated states, which were further crystallized and consolidated in National Conference on Sustainable Soy involving multi-stakeholders. SSW was celebrated with the key theme of sustainability at multi-stakeholders’ levels. Sustainability from environmental, social and economic point of view is of a great concern and tackling this issue responsibly necessarily requires an integrated and a holistic approach. Celebration of Sustainable Soy Week encompassed an approach, which integrates efforts, promotes participatory approach, creates an enabling environment and contributes towards transforming sustainability. It was planned to promote sustainability agenda through the joint, collaborative and coherent efforts in transition towards sustainability at various levels of soy value chain. The celebration of SSW, coordinated by NPSS, was celebrated with tremendous energy, enthusiasm and initiatives by the stakeholders. The intension of celebration that the week was to chalk out the key sustainability issues at stakeholders’ levels was effectively achieved.

The SSW was successfully celebrated by stakeholders from Government, Industries, Research Institutions, Financial Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Farmers’ Organizations. SSW activities reached out to more than 3,00,000 farmers. The activities organized were trainings, mass campaigning, quiz and competitions, etc. and the focused areas were sustainable soy production considering the climate change and relevant contingency plans and awareness about soy food uses. Followings are some pictures of SSW celebration by different stakeholder groups and more are in Annexure 1.
Recognising that solutions to the issues identified can only be provided and implemented with the active support of a wide range of stakeholders and hence the agenda (Annexure 4) of the conference worked out was very comprehensive as it enlisted stakeholders group-wise issues. The conference was convened with the aim of identifying challenges experienced, ways and means to address them and to initiate the process of outputs, collaboration and cooperation. The desired issues were to:

- establish a shared understanding of the issues that confront agriculture globally and nationally
- develop a framework containing a range of prioritised responses to the issues and associated risks
- stakeholders to develop the framework further outside the meeting and to work together on particular aspects of it

I. INAUGURATION SESSION

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Rajesh Rajora (Senior IAS), Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh along with Dr V S Bhatia, Director, Directorate of Soybean Research, Dr Shatadru Chattopadhayay, Managing Director, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia, Dr M H Mehta, Chairman- The Gujarat Life Sciences (Ex-Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Agril. University), Dr S K Srivastava, Director Extension Services, RVSKVV, Dr O P Joshi, Technical Advisor, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia, Mr Praneet Mutha, Director, Vippy Industries Pvt Ltd. and Dr G K Gupta, President, Society for Soybean Research and Development.

Dr Shatadru Chattopadhayay, Managing Director, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia welcomed the dignitaries and participating stakeholders in his opening remarks. He said that the issues earmarked for the discussion in the conference are important and the august gathering of all the stakeholders will be able to resolve the problems faced by soybean farming and industry in India. He said that an impact study by
the independent Indian consultancy MART shows that support to soy smallholders with 7 NGO partners in Madhya Pradesh organized by Solidaridad has been highly effective. The study showed that farmers who have an average farm size of just over 1 hectare, increased yields by more than 54% while reducing the amount of fertilizers used by 23%. Efforts to provide sustainability to soybean production involve simple production science and can conveniently be taken to farmers by the joint efforts of stakeholders. Presently the programme benefits nearly 80,000 farmers. He said that through the Sustainable Soy programme, soybean industry can get entry in the European market. He suggested that for sustainability to soybean, three step ladder model can be used; (i) transfer of technology by NGOs, (ii) working of all stakeholders together, and (iii) to adopt sustainable approach by all the stakeholders keeping in mind the sustainability of natural resources like land and water and environment.

Dr Suresh Motwani, Programme Head, Soy, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia deliberated on the growth and present status of soybean crop in India and its importance in oil and national economy, and in providing food and nutritional security to the Indian masses. He also said that the country produces only Non-Genetically Modified (Non-GM) soy, which given upper hand in trade as many countries prefer to import products processed out of it. Dr Motwani expressed his concern that in-spite of availability of soybean varieties with higher yield potentials and improved production technology in hand to take the productivity to 2 tonnes per ha; present national productivity is merely 1.18 tonnes per ha. The year to year fluctuation in productivity of soybean is also a matter of concern. There is a dire need for the different stakeholder to join hands and put in joint efforts to optimize productivity as well to sustain it.

Solidaridad has conceived and provided a multi-stakeholder platform (National Platform for Sustainable Soy), which is committed to work together for enhancing the accountability and credibility of sustainability in Indian soy sector. This platform is acting as a national contact point for the soy stakeholders for co-ordination, facilitation, knowledge support and advocacy for sustainable soy. There are more than 150 stakeholders as a part of this platform.

Another new initiative with a vision to manage water resource more effectively and efficiently was added to existing Farmer Support Program. Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF) is focusing on infusion of water use efficiency technologies in agriculture with the objectives to save the water under “Water for Public Good” in India. It is expected to reduce on farm water usage vis-a-vis increase agricultural productivity by 10%.

One of the other major aspects of the program is Round Table on Responsible Soybean (RTRS) certification and credit earning system. Through this the farmer or producer organizations can apply for certification. The major impacts of RTRS principles are in increase in productivity employing good agricultural practices, minimize the cost of cultivation and also to create salutary social and environmental impacts. Apart from this, there are several challenges like market value of RTRS credits, low market demand of RTRS soy and high cost of certification.
Thus, in nutshell, Solidaridad is working throughout the supply chain compressively encompassing multi stakeholder approach. The key agenda for forthcoming years will be as follows:

- Integrated farm systems
- Nutrient and food security aspects
- Developing ICT based scientific solutions, extension services and knowledge portal etc.
- Support to organizing farmers and building capacities of FPOs and civil society organizations
- Rural / Agri entrepreneurship development
- Active involvement of different stakeholder in Integrated Sustainable Soy Platform

Dr V S Bhatia, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore emphasized on the productivity of soy and shared that their yield simulation models revealed that the yield potentials of rainfed soybeans is 2.0-2.2 tonnes per ha and that of irrigated soybeans is more than 3 tonnes per ha under Indian conditions. Thus, there is a huge potential to increase the productivity and multi-stakeholder approach can play a great role in this endeavour. He said that integrated crop management technology for sustainable production of soybean is available and ready for dissemination to soybean growers.

In a recorded message, Mr Gert Van Der Bijl, International Programme Co-ordinator-Soy, Solidaridad, REC, Netherlands said that demand of soybean has been always more than the production world over. It has a growth rate of 4-5 % per annum and this motivates us to meet the demand with quality produce and sustaining the productivity, which is only feasible when all the stakeholders come together and make efforts to sustain soybean supply chain. He said that soybean is extremely important crop to India, where in almost 80% population is protein deficient. Soybean is the most viable option to address this problem. The soy production and supply chain can certainly be sustained by adoption of available production technology by soybean growers and sincere and active contribution from different stakeholders at each level of this chain jointly.

In a recorded message Mr Dinesh Sahara, MD, Ruchi Soy Pvt Ltd said that food and nutrition security is the biggest issue in the country. Soybean is the solution to these issues and it fulfils oil and protein demand of the country. In India soybean yield per ha is much lower than the world average. We, the Ruchi Soy have tied up with one Canadian research company which has experience in Canada that soybean yield can go up to 3 tons per ha; almost more than 2 times the yield that is realised in India at present. He said that field trials are in place and we will roll-out seeds by 2017. This initiative will benefit the Indian farmers. There is a need for a platform like NPSS to deal with the stakeholders issues. We welcome this movement and is a matter of pleasure for us to be a part of it. He hoped that this will lead to strengthen sustainable production and supply chain of soybean through which rewards obtained will be available for sharing among all the stakeholders.
Dr M H Mehta, Chairman- The Gujarat Life Sciences (Ex-Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Agril. University) appreciated the establishment of NPSS and said that next revolution will be of sustainable agriculture. He emphasised the role of soybean in addressing the issues of poverty, hunger and nutrition in the country. He visualised that the potentials of soybean is very large and joint efforts of all the stakeholders can certainly sustain the soy supply chain. He gave the example of castor where remarkable success in realising the productivity has been made leaving the then major producer Brazil. There is enormous value addition in castor and the same can be emulated in soybean. In case of groundnut as well with the efforts of Gujarat Agricultural University, farmers were supported to establish small crushing units which resulted in doubling their income. He said that the farmers expectations from the group are to direct them to lessen the cost of production and to harness sustainable optimum yield.

Dr Rajesh Rajora, the chairman of the session and Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh in his address said that although soybean is one of the rainfed crop which best suits to the agro-climatic conditions of Madhya Pradesh, it faces challenges from other crops like sugarcane, paddy and sorghum which are turning out to be more remunerative to farmers. Hence, it the right time to make efforts to enhance and sustain soybean productivity to a level of possible 2 t per ha. The farmers of Hoshangabad, Harda and Nimar are already inclined to crop like paddy, maize and groundnut, respectively. He said that if we can harvest 2 ton per ha of soybean in Madhya Pradesh, It will equate total soybean production in India. He said that in view of increasing cost of inputs and deteriorating soil health, the adoption of new high yielding varieties of soybean along with eco-friendly production technology and co-joint efforts by stakeholders can make the crop more attractive to the farmers and also strengthen the supply chain for other players. The other issues he touched upon were the price dependence of soybean on international market of DOC, fluctuating price of soybean year to year, high installed capacity of industries, low consumption of soybean as food, and faulty methods of cultivation. He said that although the government cannot take care of everything, but will certainly provide support to its best in these joint efforts. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is making all out efforts in making quality seed of improved soybean varieties which can stand to climatic vagaries available to farmers. Department is in the process of setting 313 soil testing laboratories to facilitate farmers, and transfer of eco-friendly production technology to farmers through its net-work.
Inauguration of Website- National Platform for Sustainable Soy  
Dr Rajesh Rajora inaugurated the website of National Platform for Sustainable Soy. It is a dynamic website which will have the features of members’ portal, farmer advisories, mobile based tools and farmers’ MIS etc.

Release of souvenir

In view of maximum coverage (around 85% of area under soybean) of soybean varieties developed by Dr A N Shrivastava, Professor (Plant Breeding), Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jablapur, the NPSS was utilized by M/s Ruchi Soy Pvt Ltd to honour him by providing a trophy. He received this honour by the dignitaries on the dais and Dr Akhilesh Sarraf, Director of Ruchi Group of Industries, Pvt Ltd.
II. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

A total of 6 sessions involving panellists from stakeholders were organised as per agenda (Annexure 4). Brief details of each session are enumerated below.

SESSION 1.

SUSTAINABLE SOY IN MARKET PLACE WITH RESPECT TO BUSINESSES, SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

This session was moderated by Dr Rajesh Rajora, Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the focus was on the role of businesses, their perspectives and experiences towards sustainability.

Dr Akhilesh Sarraf, Director of Ruchi Group of Industries, Pvt Ltd. said that the NPSS is a wonderful platform for all the stakeholders and the participation of farmer representatives in the conference deserves appreciation. He expressed that increase in soybean productivity in a sustainable way and its inclusion in daily diet will be steps to provide sustainability to soy supply chain. He informed that the quality seed replacement of soybean varieties and its disparity in state to state is one of the major factors for low productivity of the crop. Along with seed at reasonable cost, the timely availability of inputs like potent biofertilizers is also a matter of concern. The available varieties with traits like, vegetable soybean, null KTI and null linolenic acid are to be capitalised to promote food uses of soybean and soy processed products for general masses.

Mr Manoj Jain, Vice President, Sonic Biochem Extractions Pvt Ltd brought forth that the NPSS should consider the issues of farmers’ welfare and educates them to grow soybean with adequate care of environment with judicious use of agrochemicals to contain rising cost of cultivation. The Indian masses should be made aware of the benefits of inclusion of soy processed foods in their daily diet. He said that Sonic Biochem Extractions deals with nearly 40 value added soy processed products for food and industrial uses. He wished that these products are processed from quality soybean (as per standards and demand by other countries), so that we can build up “Brand India”. He also said that their Company is working hand-to-hand with farmers for transfer of production technology based on good agricultural practices and putting demonstrations on farmers’ fields to create awareness and belief in impact of technology so that the adoption can be hastened.
Mr Praneet Mutha, Director, Vippy Industries Pvt Ltd informed the house that under their “Samruddh Kheti Programme”, the industry is actively working with the farmers through providing training on good agricultural practices for soybean cultivation and allied agricultural services. The farmers are also provided market linkages so as to enhance better realisation of their produce. He also said that soy meal certification has specific requirements and sometimes it becomes difficult to meet, as number of farms is large due to small holdings of soybean growers. A big linkage gap among the stakeholders in soybean production and supply chain exists and efforts are needed to abridge the same to go ahead for sustainable soy in India. A lurking threat from promotion of palm cultivation in India to soybean cultivation was also visualised by him.

Mr Saumendra Kumar Nayak, Manager, Sustainability and Stewardship, BASF, gave an account of their work under “Soy Samruddhi” programme, wherein they are working with 2,30,000 farmers to optimise productivity of soybean and sustain it by adoption of production technology involving good agricultural practices. Under their programme, which is recognised by several international organisation, they take care of farmers training, gender issues, soil testing and use of ICT for instant communication. BASF has also have introduced the ‘Sanrakshan Kit’ for farmers with protection tools to safe application of pesticide on the crop. These kits are marketed on no profit-no loss basis. They have established dedicated Reach Expansion Centre, in which their associates call to farmers at frequent intervals, to guide them on different interventions. Due to their efforts, there has been increase in productivity of soybean by 25 % and net profit by 38%.

Mr Amol Mundada, Senior Marketing Manager, Agribusiness, Arvind Ltd informed that they are working with 10,000 farmers educating them in adoption of judicious cultivation practices, environmental protection, biodiversity preservation, water conservation and organic soy production practices. In the organic farming side their efforts led to optimise yield levels and were able to export 3 lakh tonnes of organic seed. Between 2007 and 2014, the growth of their organisation was 40 % CAGR. He said that the demonstration drive can lead to sustainable production of soybean.

Mr Kirti Mishra, Partner, MART and Lead SBM Forum, focused more on market, its current reality and the new generation consumer. He discussed about the promotional activities taken by their organisation and consumer behaviour. He shared findings of one of the recent survey done by them that food is key where Indian consumers are willing go little extra to consume responsible products. In order to change behaviour and practices towards soy products there is need to do certain consumer interactions. Packaging with adequate information coupled with right packaging material (recycled) make the real combination. One of their research suggested that people get influenced most at the point of purchase. There is a need for sharing information about the soy there itself. General education is important which can start spreading as NPSS already started doing through the Sustainable Soy Week.

Discussing on deliberations made, Mr Ashis Mondal, Managing Trustee and Director, Action for Social Advancement showed his concern on trade balance deficit. He said that we have to go for responsible cultivation of soybean and provide responsible produce to supply chain. He also said that the NPSS should be actively promoted in future in the direction of sustainable soy.
SESSION 2.

ROLE OF CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS AND CSR WITH RESPECT TO VALUE CREATION IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The session was chaired by Dr Shatadru Chattopadyayay, MD, Solidaridad, SSEA. He briefly introduced the subject and said that this is the right time when all the stakeholders of soy producing and supply/value chain should join hands and contribute significantly in sustaining it. He said that corporate foundations support can change the scenario rapidly and can play a larger role in this endeavor by appropriately utilizing the CSR and value addition to soy through their business.

In a recorded message, Mr Ravi Puranic, CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF) said about HUF’s “Water for Public Good Programme”; as water is utilized in maximum quantity in agriculture therefore water for public good is basically focused on the water in agriculture and treat water as deposit for future. He said about the two situations in water in agriculture one is rainfed and second is water in irrigated areas, as soybean is a rainfed crop hence water interventions in rainfed areas with the objectives to harness and save water would enhance water conservation, reduce the risks of shifting to other water intensive crops and saved water can be used for the second crop. There are various issues faced by various stakeholders like producers, promoters, industries and Government etc.; methodology associated with the water in soy like measuring how much water is required etc. Intent from the water perspective is to make soy such remunerative crop for better environmental and economic returns. Appreciated Solidaridad’s efforts of bridging between multi-stakeholders through the innovative idea of national platform. He said about to chalk-out an agenda and a road map for future so that a journey kind of just started at the end of platform.

Mr Giresh Mohan, Regional Manager-Cooperative Social Investments, ITC Ltd said that they have their presence in 17 states and 70 NGO partners. Mr Mohan highlighted the issues like fragmentation of land holdings, gender issues, groundwater depletion, soil health, increased cost of cultivation, minimum/zero tillage and said that for sustaining soy production and value chain. We will have to mitigate the negative side of these. He also emphasized on the customized solutions for farmers for enhancing the adoption of technology.

Mr B G Mahesh, Team-Sustainable Livelihoods, Reliance Foundation brought up some more factors like development of entrepreneurs in manure preparation so that recycling of organics may strengthen the soil for sustainable production of soybean. Efficient surface water conservation and facilitating ground water recharge another avenue which is to be looked into. Mechanization can play a significant role in timely agricultural operations for soybean and there is need to promote it. Efforts should be made so that entrepreneurs are supported to manufacture machines/tools so that farmers may get them at reasonable cost.
Mr Gaurav Kumar, Yes Bank, emphasized on responsible banking, in which the farmers may not only be brought out of economic crises, but also the credit made available to them may not be utilized in a manner that deteriorates the environment. He assured that the YES Bank will join the hands with the activities undertaken under the umbrella of NPSS, particularly in promotion of water saving modes.

Mr Abhijeet Bhosale, Project Manager, Nature Bio-Foods Ltd (LT Foods Limited) said that they started organic food business in 1997 and now is pioneer in organic food business in India. He said that their association with the farming community is beyond a business relationship. Their continued involvement in backward integration – farm production, manufacturing, packing and marketing has led them to success. While working with Government of MP in PPP mode, Harrai block of Chhindwara has been able to change the lives of tribal communities in an area of about 6550 ha land spread over 9 villages. In Fair Trade project, the farmers are being made aware of modern agriculture techniques and organic farming practices. The establishment of NPSS was welcomed by him.

Mr Naveen Kapoor, Programme Co-ordinator (Northern Region), Hindustan Unilever Foundation emphasized that there is dire need of bridging the gaps in soy production and supply chain. The activities like developing linkages between farmer and market/academicians and practicenor, operation of lab to land programme, reducing runoff losses of soil and water and taking advantage of economy of scale in the chain.

Mr Vaje Singh Solanki, Progressive farmer from Ujjain, narrating his experiences said that CARD, Ujjain as a part of Farmer Support Programme and HUF-Water Programme, has been much helpful to resolve the problem of hardening of land by continuous use of fertilizers. Such interventions are helping farmers to take care of soil health and adequate plant population in the field and thereby increased yield levels.

**SESSION 3.**

**DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE SOY PRODUCTION- WITH EMPHASIS ON SOIL WATER EFFICIENCY**

The session was chaired by Dr S K Srivastava, Director of Extension Services, RVSKVV. He informed that we have adequate technology and soybean varieties to enhance the productivity to 2 tonnes per ha. Similarly a number of corporate foundations and NGOs are actively involved in strengthening the soybean production and supply/value chain. Time has come now that all the stakeholders make unison efforts to achieve the goal.
Dr V S Bhatia, Director, DSR said that the DSR along with centres of AICRPs is functioning to develop sustainable technology and improved soybean varieties for cultivation in different agro-climatic regions of India. The available improved varieties along with the technology, if adopted by farmers, is capable of enhancing yield. Several farmers have proved it by harvesting 2500-3000 kg yield per hectare. The Directorate/AICRPS is committed to refine the existing production technology and breed improved varieties to meet the expectation of soybean farmers. He said that the newly released varieties like JS 20-29, JS 20-34 and NRC 77 are going to do well in Central India. He said that the worked out models have shown that the increase in temperature with simultaneous increase in carbon-di-oxide due to climate change is not likely to have adverse effect on soybean productivity. He welcomed the formation of NPSS, wherein multi-stakeholders will be able to put their efforts to sustain soybean production and supply/value chain.

Dr V N Shroff, Ex Dean, College of Agriculture Indore alternative agriculture and ways and means of surface and groundwater conservation. He deliberated on crop diversification, significance of organic matter enrichment in soil, and appropriate crop nutrition for sustaining soy productivity. Provision of food and nutritional security by soybean was as well highlighted.

Dr G K Gupta, President, SSRD deliberated on eco-friendly production technology and need for mechanization in soybean cultivation, particularly for surface water conservation and groundwater recharge. He also displayed the newer planting machines on screen and said that use of these can help to conserve rain water, recharge groundwater and precisely plant soybean in the field. The losses due to excessive and limited rains can be averted by using these planting machines.

Dr A N Sharma, Principal Scientist, DSR said that the increase in temperature due to global climate change is going to be favourable for the insect-pests and that will require preparedness for developing resistant varieties as well eco-friendly techniques to manage them. He came out with a novel idea of adoption of one village each by a stakeholder to popularize the IPM for containing the insect-pest menace. Dr Sharma suggested that the possibility of developing a corpus fund from CSR or a part of it available with each corporate foundations may be worked out and the fund thus available to be utilized for sustaining soy productivity. Dr Sharma also suggested that the web site of NPSS must have a page (My Page) for instant interaction between stakeholders and also the contact details of all the stakeholders on it.

Dr Bhaskar Sinha, Assistant Professor, IIFM, suggested that their organization can come forward to attach students with the programme for their mandatory dissertation. He said that a number of success stories have been told since morning and efforts underway to sustain soy need be published for information at large.

SESSION 4.

SOY FOODS PROMOTION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT – FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY
The session was chaired by Dr S K Kulkarni, Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Agriculture Engineering (CIAE). He said that although numerous health benefits for inclusion of soybean as food and its role in providing food and nutritional security in India are known, but now the efforts should be made to popularize soy foods in the general masses. Easy processing techniques to be popularized in rural households and more and more entrepreneurs are to be developed to make soy processed foods available. At the same time the more corporate foundations diversify for value added products.

Mr G P Saxena, Ex MD, Ex Additional Director, Agriculture elaborated on the advantages of consumption soybean as food, processed products, the strengths, the gaps in promotion and ways to popularize among masses to combat wide spread energy-protein malnutrition.

Dr Ratan Sharma, USSEC, Director – Soy food programme for India and Asian subcontinent, in his talk established the superiority of quantity and quality of soy protein over other sources and also deliberated on cost effectiveness. He also informed on health claims approvals of soybean by different agencies. He emphasized on need of training programmes on creation of awareness on soybean as food and for ways to process and consume at household level. He said that in NIN literature soybean is not included and efforts should be made for its inclusion. The soybean processed foods can be included in public distribution system for people below poverty line and also can be supplied to military canteens. A need was also felt that multi-taxation should not exist for processed soyfoods. Dr Sharma said that educating tribal people on kitchen level soy processing and inclusion in diet will be an appropriate niche for improving their nutrition in cost effective way.

Dr Jagadish Kumar, Plant Breeder, Canada enlightened the house on the work being carried out by him on specialty soybean in Canada as well with Ruchi Soy and the market demand for it in the world market. He expected that such efforts are to be given momentum.

SESSION 5/6.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY & FARMERS’ORGANISATION WITH RESPECT TO VALUE CREATION IN SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE SOY- A WAY FORWARD

The session was chaired by Dr M H Mehta, The Gujarat Life Sciences (ex-VC, Gujarat Agril. Univ) and Co-chaired by Mr Ashis Mondal, Managing Trustee and Director, Action for Social Advancement. Dr Mehta remarked that the establishment of NPSS is a wonderful idea and this will facilitate the
stakeholders to work out ways and implement measures to sustain soy production and supply/value chain. He said that time has come to awake the dormant players and speed up the active players of the chain. Representatives of all the stakeholders were present on the dais.

Ms Shilpa Gole, Business Head, Agribusiness Initiative, Dilasa said that in water and livelihood sectors, Dilasa covers 24 districts, 110 blocks and 3667 villages of Maharashtra. Since they are new entrant under the NPSS, will require support while working for sustainable soy, water use efficiency, extension activities, soil health assessment and finance for infrastructure and other facilities.

Prof. Amitabh Pandey, Assistant Professor, IIFM, discussed about the role of civil society and emphasized that their role is to create bonding, bridging between community and linkages with government. He said that the aspirational class is increasing in rural areas also, its an opportunity for agriculture sector and certain challenges related to this in the sector need to be worked out. He emphasized that Farmer Producer Companies should be promoted with intensive efforts on community mobilization, equity, efficient functioning and skills.

Mr Ram Singh, CEO, Samarth Kisan Producer Company Ltd. shared his experience of promoting sustainable soy with RTRS through Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). He shared that their FPO is engaged in the sustainable agriculture extension activities along with production of sustainable soy, RTRS certifications and supply of quality seeds while engaging local stakeholders. In their extension model service provider who is a local trained youth at village level ensures technical know-how with farmers and is being paid on the task basis by the FPO. Their FPO is emerging out as one of the success among other FPOs.

Dr S K Srivastava, Ex-Director DSR and Director Extension Services said that working groups should be framed with representatives from stakeholders to identify the issues and ways to tackle them followed by monitoring for the proper functioning of NPSS. There is a need for location specific technology packages to be adopted by the farmers for sustaining soybean productivity.

Ms Savitri one lady farmer and chairperson of Samridhi Mahila Crop Producers’ Company informed about the success story of their women led Farmer Producers Company constituted by Srijan. Starting with small contribution, the activities like promotion of good agricultural practices, seed production, creation of ware house facilities for member farmers and linkage with market/industry, supply of agri-inputs led them to have turn-over of Rs 2 crores. The model deserves emulation by other stakeholders.

Mr T P Shenoy, Advisor, ADM Agro Industries India Pvt. Ltd. expressed that the formation of NPSS is the major achievement. Now specific role is to be played by each stakeholder by setting goals and achieving them. At farmer level, the goal should be to enhance the productivity by at least 15% to support supply chain. The programmes should be targeted to meet the above goals, which will give them a set of purpose: (i) Increasing average yields through HY varieties, seed exchange programmes, seed production units, soil testing etc. (ii) Guidelines for water conservation (iii) Decreasing cost and increasing revenue, market linkages, storage, certification, financing, decreasing cost of credit, setting bench marks. Each farmer to be part of FPO and each FPO to be partner in the value chain and we should have less problems but more solutions to share.

Mr Ashis Mondal, Managing Trustee and Director, Action for Social Advancement hoped that the efforts will not end with this conference and formation of NPSS. The exercise to work in the direction of sustaining soy production and value chain should vigorously continue. He opined that NPSS needs to be developed and strengthened with representation from civil society, FPO, trade, Government, research institutions, industries etc. and it should be a members based platform for coordinating among the stakeholders. There is the need to develop working group representing to stakeholders groups to give momentum to the endeavor and it should be registered in any legal for like society act.
Dr Mehta, ex-VC, Gujarat University in his concluding remarks said that soybean is an extremely important crop for us and globally and hoped that India could be a bigger player in the world. He said that the factors like suitable niche and favourable environment for crop cultivation, more than adequate industrial support, possibility of sustaining productivity, importance as crop to provide food and nutritional security and Non-GM status are favourable to sustain soy production and supply/value chain. There are segments that can be substantially improved - production, advantage to farmer, ecological consideration in farming, growth of small and big industries, and advantage to consumer. The receptiveness of agriculture departments of the crop command area will also create conducive atmosphere for functioning of NPSS. He said that we must follow the 20:20 model with not getting into GM club yet increasing productivity with eco-friendly inputs, soil health improvement and water use efficiency as suggested by him to sustain productivity and maintain supply chain. The NPSS website should be globally connected for productivity solutions, trade, interactions etc. He suggested that from today onwards, we must celebrate 10th June as “Soy Day”.

The conference was wrapped up by Dr O P Joshi, Technical Adviser, Solidaridad, SSEA.

National Platform for Sustainable Soy has got the National presence within the very short span; it is emerging as a coordination, facilitation, policy advocacy and knowledge resource center for sustainable soy in India through the active cooperation and ownership of stakeholders on sustainability issues. It will make all out efforts to ensure that the soybean cultivation should maintain Non-GM identity, promote organic farming in special niche and as per demand, achieve average productivity of soybean; 20 quintals per hectare by year 2020. The deliberations by different stakeholders on the efforts being made by them has given us strength and confidence that we can achieve what we have envisaged. For proper functioning we propose to constitute a “Coordination Committee” involving the representatives from Government, academicians, research institutions, scientific community, agricultural universities, extension institutions, industries, trade, corporates, financial institutions, civil society organizations, farmers and farmers’ organizations etc.

III. RECOMMENDATION AND FUTURE ACTION POINTS

Based on the discussion held during the Celebration of Soy Week and National Conference on Sustainable Soy, the following are the recommendations and the action points.

1. The secretariat of NPSS will be hosted and facilitated by Solidaridad, SSEA at Central India Office at Bhopal.
2. All out efforts are to be made to maintain Non-GM status of soybean in the country.
3. Achieve average national productivity of soybean 20 quintals per hectare by year 2020.
4. NPSS needs to be developed and strengthened as a coordinating platform for all the stakeholders. A ‘Coordination Committee’ is to be constituted involving representatives from different stakeholders groups. The committee to be constituted after obtaining the consent of probable members.
5. NPSS will facilitate research and development for efficient use of soil and water resources along with increased adoption of efficient agri-water management using cultural technologies for focusing on per drop, more crop and surface water harvesting techniques for cropping system water management and groundwater recharge along with development and popularization of available farm machinery suitable for Vertisols, particularly in relation to water risk management.
6. Different task forces will be developed consisting of representatives from stakeholders for the issues like soil and water efficiency, Soy based Integrated farm system, sustainability certification, soy based food products promotions and addressing malnutrition and food security and ICT solutions, etc.

7. NPSS will continue to represent to Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) in India.

8. The website of NPSS should have features for the interaction of different stakeholders. The stakeholders (on-going and new) should be registered under NPSS and list of all the members should appear on the NPSS web site.

9. A brochure of NPSS will be developed and published for stakeholders to abreast them on the principals and functional details of NPSS and to be supplied to stakeholders.

10. The stakeholders should invariably create awareness and promote soy food processing at home level. The self-help groups already operating at stakeholders’ level to be trained for this activity. Efforts are to be made to develop entrepreneurs to process soy for food and market it. The help of Soy Food Processing Unit, CIAE, Bhopal and DSR, Indore may be sought for the purpose.

11. Efforts are to be made for inclusion of soybean in National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) literature. It should be ensured that multiple taxation of soy processed products is not levied. Also concerted efforts are to be made to channelize soybean processed products in mid-day meals and military canteens by creating awareness on food value of soybean and associated health benefits.

12. NPSS along with RTRS will also explore other sustainability standards like Proterra, Organic Certifications and Fair trade, etc and facilitate the best suitable for sustainable soy value chain at multi-stakeholders levels in India.

13. Regular dialogue should be made with government organizations/ policy matters to consider favorable policy for soy production and value chain in place.

14. To continue with the regular publication of newsletter “Sustainable Soy News” with contributions from stakeholders

15. The possibility of developing a corpus fund from CSR or a part of it available with each corporate foundations may be worked out and the fund thus available to be utilized for sustaining soy productivity.

16. Possibility is to be explored for adoption of one village each by a stakeholder to popularize the IPM for containing the insect-pest menace.
Annexure: 1

CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABLE SOY WEEK BY DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS
Annexure: 2

GLIMPSE OF THE CONFERENCE
Annexure 3

STAKEHOLDER’S EXHIBITION
### National Conference on Sustainable Soy

_Courtyard by Marriott, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India
June 9 - 10, 2015_

#### Agenda

**Tuesday, June 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Networking dinner</td>
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**Wednesday, June 10**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>0830</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inaugural Session</td>
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**Chaired By**
- Dr Rajesh Rajora (Senior IAS), Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh

**Co-Chair**
- Dr V S Bhatia, Director, Directorate of Soybean Research
- Dr Shatadru Chattopadhyay, Managing Director, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia

**Chief Guest**
- Dr M H Mehta, Chairman, The Gujarat Life Sciences (Ex-Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Agril. University)

**Special Guests**
- Dr S K Srivastava, Director Extension Services, Directorate of Extension Services, RVSKVV
- Dr O P Joshi, Technical Advisor, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia
- Mr Dinesh Shahra, Managing Director, Ruchi Soya Industries Pvt Ltd. (Video)
- Mr Praneet Mutha, Director, Vippy Industries Pvt Ltd.
- Dr G K Gupta, President, Society for Soybean Research and Development

**Lightening the lamp and Saraswati Vandana**

**Welcome and Opening remarks**
- Dr Shatadru Chattopadhyay, Managing Director, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia

**Sustainable Soy Programme**
- Dr Suresh Motwani, Programme Head, Soy, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia

**Sustainable Soy Global Scenario**
- Mr Gert van der Bijl, International Programme Co-ordinator - Soy, Solidaridad, REC, Netherlands (Video)

**Address by dignitaries of Conference**

**Release of Souvenir**

**Inauguration of website - National Platform for Sustainable Soy**

**Presentation of mementos**

**Vote of thanks by Dr G K Gupta, President, SSRD**

(1100 - 1130) **Visit to Exhibitions followed by Networking Tea Break**
Panel Discussions

1130
Sustainable Soy in market place with respect to businesses, society and environment

**Moderator:** Dr Rajesh Rajora (Senior IAS), Principal Secretary, Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh

**Rapporteur:** Dr Purushottam Sharma, Senior Scientist, Directorate of Soybean Research

- Mr Kirti Mishra, Partner, MART & Lead, SBM Forum
- Dr Anil Kesari, Director of Ruchi Group of Industries Pvt Ltd
- Mr Manoj Jain, Vice President, Sonic Biotherm Extractions Pvt Ltd
- Mr Praneet Murtha, Director, Vippy Industries PvtLimited
- Mr Shambhunatha Rao, Manager Sustainability and Stewardship, BASF
- Mr Arvind Mundada, Senior Manager Marketing, Agribusiness, Avind Ltd.

1215
Role of Corporate Foundations and CSR with respect to value creation in Sustainable Agriculture

**Moderator:** Dr Shatabhu Chattopadhyay, Managing Director, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia

**Rapporteur:** Dr B U Dupare, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Soybean Research

- Mr Ravi Puranic, CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation (Vidya)
- Mr Girish Mohan, Regional Manager Corporate Social Investments, ITC Limited
- Mr B G Mahesh, Team Sustainable Livelihoods, Reliance Foundation
- Mr Sanath, Senior Vice President, YES Bank
- Mr Abhijit Bhosale, Project Manager, Nature Bio-Foods Ltd (LT Foods Ltd)

Group Photo followed by Networking Lunch 1300 - 1400

1400
Development for Sustainable Soy Production - with emphasis to Soil and Water efficiency

**Moderator:** Dr S K Shivastava, Ex Director DSIR and Director Extension Service, RVS mand

**Rapporteur:** Dr S D Birla, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Soybean Research

- Dr V S Bhatia, Director, Directorate of Soybean Research
- Dr V N Shroff, Ex-Dean, College of Agriculture, Indore
- Dr G K Gupta, President, Society for Soybean Research and Development
- Dr A N Sharma, Principal Scientist, Directorate of Soybean Research
- Dr Bhaskar Sinha, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Forest Management

1445
Soy Foods promotion, opportunities for development - food and nutritional security

**Moderator:** Dr S D Kulkarni, Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering

**Rapporteur:** Dr M D Vyas, Professor, RAK College of Agriculture

- Mr G P Saxena, Ex MD, Ex-Additional Director Agriculture, MP Government
- Dr Ratan Sharma, United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), Director – Soy Food Programme for India and the Asian Subcontinent
- Dr Jagdish Kumar, Research Head, Ruchi Soya Industries Pvt Ltd.
Networking Tea Break

Role of Civil Society and Farmers’ Organizations with respect on value creation in sustainable Socio-Economic development

Moderator: Mr. Ashis Mondal, Managing Trustee and Director, Action for Social Advancement

Rapporteur: Mr. Amod Khanna, Director, Towards Action and Learning (TAAL)

- Professor Amitabh Pandey, Indian Institute of Forest Management
- Mr. Shubhendu Dash, CEO, Rajasthan State FPO, Forum
- Ms. Shipra Gole, Business Head, Agri-business Head, Agri-business Initiative, DILASA
- Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Functionary, CARD

National Platform for Sustainable Soy - A Way Forward

Moderator: Dr. M. H. Mehta, Chairman – The Gujarat Life Sciences (Ex- VC – Gujarat Agri. University)

Rapporteur: Dr. O. P. Joshi, Technical Advisor, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia

- Dr. S. K. Srivastava, Ex Director DSR and Director Extension Service, RVSKVV
- Mr. Pranay Mutha, Executive Director, Vippy Industries Pvt Ltd
- Mr. Ashis Mondal, Managing Trustee and Director, Action for Social Advancement
- Mr. T. P. Shenyoy, Advisor, ADM Agro Industries India Private Limited

Conference Wrap-up and vote of Thanks

- Dr. O. P. Joshi, Technical Advisor, Solidaridad, South & South East Asia (Session-wise presentations by the rapporteurs)

High Tea