

ASA-IM JAPAN JOINS JOPA SEMINAR

The Japan Oilseeds Processors Association (JOPA) hosted an industry seminar for members, oilseed trade, and media. ASA-IM Japan participated using the opportunity to meet a broad range of crushing, wholesale and trade contacts related to the oilseed business. The seminar focused on the Indian oilseed market as a consumer and producer featuring a presentation by President of the Indian Solvent Extractors Association. India has targeted 4% increases or one million MT annually while vegetable oil consumption is expected to rise much faster than production at 6-7% per year. Consumption is expected to increase to 16.5 MMT in 2011 and 20.8 MMT by 2015 with price an important factor so India is also trying to control domestic oil prices by lowering- removing import tariffs, etc. Palm oil is the largest vegetable oil import at 6.5MMT driven by lower vegetable oil prices as well as lower transportation costs given geographic proximity advantages of Malaysia-Indonesia.

The prediction that future exports of Indian SBM are on the decline was indeed good news to Japan's crushers and US Soybean growers. And, as domestic SBM demand continues to rise due to growing poultry production-consumption Indian exports also drive up prices at home which the government wants to control. So this could mean less Indian SBM available for export and lower volumes of Japanese imports. Japan's crush levels have declined over the last few years in Japan and less expensive Indian SBM imports has been a major factor. In 2008 Japan imported 902,711 MT of Indian SBM with a 53.67% market share...