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# Newsletter



**Solidaridad**

GOOD FARMING-GOOD FOOD



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



EAST-WEST SEED INTERNATIONAL



VIPPY



## Message from the Programme Coordinator



**Greetings, Dear Readers!**

In this edition of our newsletter, we shine a spotlight on the remarkable soybean and its ever-growing importance in shaping sustainable future. From its versatile applications to its significant contributions to human health and empowerment of smallholders, the soybean stands tall as a powerful crop with immense potential. As the world faces the challenges of feeding a growing population, soybean cultivation plays a vital role in ensuring global food security due to its high protein content, which is essential for human nutrition.

To celebrate the power of Soybean we celebrated Soy week followed by the Soy Mahakumbh this month. We received an award for exemplary work on Soybean Farmer-Industry linkage. Our team is ready to set up Soybean demonstration plots at the project areas with all necessary support to farmers. This newsletter offers many more our endeavours from this month. And yes, don't skip to read Mr. Vishnu Dhakad story from district Ujjain showcasing how an innovation bring about a massive change in a smallholder life.

Stay tuned for more enlightening articles in our future editions. Until then, keep exploring, learning, and advocating for a sustainable tomorrow!

**Happy Reading!**

**Dr. Suresh Motwani**

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## CELEBRATIONS



In Madhya Pradesh, the sowing season for soybeans begins in June and extends until July. These months correspond to the monsoon season in the region when there is sufficient moisture in the soil to support the growth of crops. Soybeans are a major agricultural crop in Madhya Pradesh, and farmers usually prepare their fields and sow the seeds during this time. Thus, to make farmers aware about soy as a valuable crop and its various applications in different industries, Soy week organised from 01 to 06 June 2023 in project areas.

Organising Soy Week before the sowing of soybeans served as a timely and effective initiative to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge, resources, and motivation to achieve higher yields and contribute to the sustainable growth of the soybean industry.

Soy week helped in raising awareness among farmers and promote the use of quality seeds, modern farming techniques, and sustainable practices. It was a platform to educate farmers about the latest developments and advancements in soybean cultivation.

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# SOYA

MAHAKUMBH 2023

The Grand Gathering Celebrating the Power of Soy!





The Soy Mahakumbh 2023, an event dedicated to promoting and highlighting the versatility of soybeans, took place at District Dewas, Madhya Pradesh on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 with great enthusiasm and participation from farmers, government departments, Companies, and Farmers producer organizations. The Mahakumbh was co-organised by Solidaridad organisation and The Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA). It aims to foster innovations and education in the Soybean industry, ensuring optimum profits to Soy cultivators, and promote sustainable agriculture practices. The event provided a remarkable platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and networking within the Soy farmers and industries. During the event, 21 farmers were felicitated in recognition of their excellent contribution in agriculture.

Around 1000 farmers across the Malwa region participated the event. Insightful sessions on soy farming were taken by officials and scientists from ICAR- IISR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agriculture Department whereas representatives from Soy industry leaders showcased market linkages for Soybean farmers. Emphasizing the importance of sustainable agriculture, the Soya Mahakumbh shed light on soybean cultivation practices that promote environmental stewardship. Experts explored topics such as regenerative agriculture and the impact of soybean cultivation on biodiversity. The Soya Mahakumbh also highlighted the latest advancements in soy-based technologies and products.

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## ACHIEVEMENT

### SFPWA's Prestigious Award to Solidaridad for Soybean Farmer-Industry linkages of the year 2023



Solidaridad is awarded with SFPWA's Prestigious Award for Soybean Farmer-Industry linkages 2023 awarded by Soy Food Promotion Welfare Association (SFPWA) in the august presence of Mr. Omprakash Saklecha, Honourable Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Science and Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh along with key stakeholders and dignitaries from Soy industries. Dr. Suresh Motwani, Programme Head, Edible Oils received the award. This award is a recognition to the contribution of Solidaridad in sustainable practices in agriculture, fair trade, and responsible sourcing within the soy industry and creating a synchronize between industries and farmers.

The award ceremony took place during the inaugural session of the 09<sup>th</sup> International Soya Food Conference at Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. During the conference an exhibition of soy products has also been setup by Solidaridad to showcase the diverse range of products that can be derived from soybeans. The exhibition served as a source of culinary inspiration for visitors.

# HEALTH & NUTRITION



Soy cannot be consumed without processing. It is important to make people aware on its processing and thereby making dishes with it. Nutrition team regularly organise culinary activities where they give a live demonstration of how a simple soy can be turned into a nutriment food.

Soybeans can be incorporated into a wide range of recipes, including salads, curries, desserts, and more. They provide a good source of plant-based protein, fiber, and other essential nutrients, making them a valuable ingredient for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes.

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## TOWARDS SELF SUFFICIENT



The Khalihan Farmers producer company supported by Solidaridad is giving an opportunity to women farmers to establish themselves as entrepreneurs through Khalihan FPO. Women's participation in Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) is an important aspect of agricultural development and empowerment.

Women farmers associated with Khalihan, an FPO based in District Sehore are now started making Soy biscuits, Soy Ladoo (Indian sweet) and making it accessible to the market for common people.

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## FACILITATING FARMERS IN Kharif SEASON



With the arrival of kharif season we are ready to establish more than 200 Soy demonstration plots in the 05 project districts where farmers are being facilitated with supply of certified seeds and inputs needed for optimum crop growth.

Demonstration plot are the effective way to showcase the growth and development of soybeans, educate farmers or individuals about soybean cultivation, and highlight best practices for achieving higher yields.

The month is dedicated to identification of demonstration plots, pre-sowing activities like seed treatment, compost application, seed germination and in some areas where rainfall is received sowing is started by the farmers.

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## People who are bringing change



The story of Mr. Vishnu Dhakad, a resident of village Barothiya District Ujjain showcases the transformative impact of drip irrigation on his agricultural practices and livelihood. Vishnu owns around 02-hectare agriculture land and where he majorly cultivates Soyabean in Kharif season and Wheat & Onion in Rabi season. He left his farm field unsown during summer season. Team Solidaridad advised him to grow watermelon this time.

Initially he was little reluctant because of less availability of water in his area and shared his doubts with Solidaridad team. Solidaridad team installed a drip irrigation system on his farm. Drip irrigation is an excellent choice for watermelon crops due to its ability to provide targeted water supply directly to the root zone.

**He planted watermelon in 01 bigha of his land. The results were remarkable. The controlled application of water and nutrients directly to the plant roots through drip irrigation allowed him to provide optimal moisture levels and nutrients to his crops, resulting in healthier and more productive plants. Mr. Vishnu saw a 60% reduced water usage and a reduction in fertilizer use. He received the production of 150 quintals of watermelon from 1 bigha, and earned Rs. 1,20,000.**

Mr. Vishnu says- "I never realised that watermelon crop can actually bring a good profit in my area. I am very surprised and overwhelmed to see the results of drip irrigation", I will continue this practice in coming years also."

Inspired by his success, Vishnu became an advocate for drip irrigation among fellow farmers and shares his story during farmer field school. He shares his experiences and knowledge, encouraging others to adopt this water-efficient technology.

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