

International Conference on Rice Bran Oil – 2023

Welcome Address

by

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Good morning everyone,

“Food is not rational. Food is culture, habit, craving and identity”, with this thought it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 7th International Rice Bran Oil conference, in Hyderabad, one of the most happening places in India.

On behalf of The Solvent Extractors' Association of India, a very special welcome to our Chief Guest, **Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao** (IAS, CEO-FSSAI & Secretary, Government of India) & our Guest of Honour **Mr. Jayesh Ranjan**, IAS, Principal Secretary (Ministry of information & Technology, Electronics & Communications, Govt of Telangana. Sir, we are honoured to have you here today and look forward to hearing your visions and valuable insights.

A hearty welcome to **Shri Ashok Sethia**, President, IARBO, and to our internationally acclaimed leaders of the “Rice Bran Oil” fraternity **Shri O.P. Goenka Ji, Padma Shri Dr. V Prakash, Dr. RBN Prasad, Dr. A.R. Sharma, Dr. Xeubing Xu, and Dr. Riantong**. We will be having the honour to felicitate them today with Life Time Achievement Award.

A very warm welcome to speakers from overseas and India and fellow delegates.

In this conference you will have the opportunity to hear and learn about advancements in Rice Bran Oil Processing technology from leading scientists as well as current status in the member countries and future prospects.

Now, I request to display the Audio Visual of the logo of the conference.

The theme of today's Rice Bran Oil Conference is A-R-I-S-E (ARISE). As you can see from the Logo ---- ***“Awesome Rice Bran Oil for Sustainable Ecosystem”***

To build the ideal ecosystem for Rice bran oil, we need to focus on:

- sustainable supply of quality raw material;

- efficient and advanced processing technologies (i.e., lower chemical & energy consumption and, better retention of natural ingredients etc.)
- developing value added products (like Oryzanol and other Nutraceutical extractions);
- working towards waste minimisation;
- ensuring regulatory and commercial compliances and being responsible towards safety (i.e. trans fat, 3-MCPD & GE, MOSH & MOAH etc.);
- focusing on R&D Activities;
- marketing strategies to strengthen position of RBO as premium health oil;
- and above all maintaining dynamism towards future challenges and opportunities.

I am not going into the details as for two days, you will be listening from the experts. In this conference, we are also having Poster Competition and Innovation Awards for scientists, students, and industry. The winning innovations and posters are on display and shall be awarded tonight in the cultural programme.

These activities and the theme of the conference have been managed by our knowledge partners **Food Pathshala** under leadership of **Mr. Nilesh Lele, Dr. RBN Prasad**, and other scientists including of our very dynamic joint secretary and convener of the conference **Dr. Prabodh Halde**. I thank them all for their time and effort in the selection process.

Today, India is the biggest edible oil economy in the world with consumption of around 24 Million Tonnes in which import is around 13 Million Tonnes per year. In this context, role of our Association SEA becomes important, being premier association of vegetable oil industry and trade in India representing all stakeholders and well recognised by the Government of India.

We are now showing you a small film on SEA as I think pictures always communicate better than words.

I am happy to share that from this conference, SEA has launched its mobile application, which shall house all presentations for ready reference, delegate list with appointment booking option for easy networking. I suggest all the delegates to download this app and make most of it. Also SEA has

recently started a monthly web knowledge series, where you get the opportunity to interact with industry leaders and experts on current issues. I also appeal to the members to participate in this activity.

SEA will be holding the next **Annual General Meeting** on **28th September23** in Mumbai. Followed by "*GLOBOIL India*" one of the signature events of SEA & TEFLA on **29th and 30thSep**. This event is attended by over 800 members from India and abroad. On behalf of SEA & TEFLA, we invite all of you to participate in GLOBOIL-23.

In conclusion, I hope that this conference will be both productive and enjoyable for all of us. Let us make the most of this opportunity to learn, share, and collaborate with one another. I wish you all very successful and fulfilling conference.

Thank you & Jai Hind!