

## **Welcome address by Shri Sandeep Bajoria, Chairman**

### **All India Cottonseed Crushers' Association**

Honourable Chief Minister, State Government of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, and other dignitaries on and off the dias, learned speakers, industry friends and members of the press.

As AICOSCA Chairman, one of the organisers of today's Conclave, I am extremely pleased to welcome you all to the 5<sup>th</sup> SEA- AICOSCA Cottonseed, Oil & Meal Conclave – 2024 being organised in the industrial city of Gujarat, which is also the capital city of the State.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India, the Apex Body representing the Solvent Extraction Industry, having about 800-900 members, and also the Premier Association of the "Vegetable Oil Industry and Trade" and the "All India Cottonseed Crushers' Association", the only Association for Scientific Processing of Cottonseed Industry and Trade, are jointly organising today's Conclave, the 5<sup>th</sup> such Conclave. Both the Associations have organised such Conclave in the past at different cities of the country to promote scientific processing of cottonseed and its extremely valuable by-products, viz. bleached linters, bio-enriched hulls, healthy cottonseed oil, protein rich seed meal and peptones, on the one hand and to popularise more use of cottonseed oil & cottonseed meal as cattle, poultry and aqua (fish) feed, on the other. The economic advantage of the above by-products are in crores of rupees, in value terms.

According to CIRCOT\* (ICAR) scientists, decorticated cottonseed meal is a rich source of protein (next only to soyameal), which increases ration efficiency and supplies highly digestible protein for tissue development, healthful activity of feed digesting rumen microorganism and adequate production of hormones and enzymes. It stimulates appetite and may be used in unrestricted amounts without the fear of digestive disturbances or adverse effects. This meal with Gossypol content less than 0.04 percent and tolerable levels of aflatoxin has been exported in the past, without any problem. The best practical approach for detoxification of cottonseed is by treating the meal with calcium hydroxide and ferrous sulfate.

---

\* Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology – Mumbai – Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Cottonseed - Cake or Meal is an excellent cattlefeed and is very rich source of protein. It is fed to cattle as concentrate, along with fodder or roughage in India and in other countries. Cottonseed - Meal/Cake

contains about 60% high Quality protein and is rich in essential amino acids compared to other oilseeds. Cottonseed - Cake/Meal is one of the best feed for cattle and milch-cows.

The basic raw material for cottonseed is the cotton crop. Historically, India is the oldest cotton producing country in the World and presently, the second largest country after China, with its production of 5.72 million metric tonnes of cotton in the year 2022-23 (equivalent) of 236.60 lakh bales of (170 kgs each), as per COCPC, the Government Body for estimation of cotton production and consumption. Thus, India produced 112.18 lakh tonnes of cottonseed in the year 2022-23 and 13.45 lakh tonnes of cottonseed oil in the same year.

It will not be out of place to mention that out of a number of cottonseed products, cottonseed oil is of prime significance in international trade. This oil is readily acceptable as an edible oil, considering the number of properties it possesses, compared to other edible oils. Hence propagating the use and value of cottonseed oil assumes great significance.

With the above objectives in view, the two Associations have taken up the task of organising the 5<sup>th</sup> Cottonseed Oil Conclave. We hope to achieve grand success since about 250-300 Delegates are expected to participate.

In the Conclave today, we have many learned speakers and researchers among ourselves who will deliberate on various aspects of cottonseed oil and cottonseed meal which will extremely benefit the entire sector of cottonseed oil processing industry and trade.

I thank all of you for your presence in the Conclave and look forward to very useful outcome of the deliberations here. In the end, I profusely thank the office bearers of the Solvent Extractors' Association, Mumbai, specially, its Executive Director, Dr. B.V. Mehta for all the spade work done for organising the Conclave and AICOSCA office bearers for extending helping hand to Solvent Extractors Association.

I wish the Conclave all success.

I thank you all once again

(Sandeep Bajoria)  
Chairman