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U.S. Soy strengthens Southeast Asia trade ties, focusing on resilient supply chains, global trade, and long-term food security

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More than 400 agricultural leaders and stakeholders from over 20 countries gathered inÂ Jakarta, for the S.E. Asia U.S. Agricultural Cooperators Conference. Co-organized by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) and the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council and held under the themeÂ *"Enabling Trade Today, Unlocking Tomorrow,"*Â the event underscored shared goals in strengthening global trade, building resilient supply chains, and ensuring long-term food security.

The three-day event featured business-to-business networking, keynote addresses, panel discussions, and expert sessions on key topics including logistics, market access, regulatory trends, and sustainability across the agricultural value chain. Delegates explored opportunities to enhance trade in U.S. soybeans, corn, and co-products to supportÂ Southeast Asia'sÂ rapidly evolving food and feed sectors.

Southeast AsiaÂ andÂ Indonesia: Strategic Partners for U.S. Soy

Southeast AsiaÂ remains a vital and fast-growing destination for U.S. agricultural exports. In Marketing Year 2023/24, the region imported approximately 9.08 million metric tons (MMT) of whole soybeans and 20.89 MMT of soybean meal[1], reflecting strong demand from both the food and feed sectors.

"Southeast AsiaÂ continues to be a key region of growth for U.S. Soy, driven by rising demand, a growing middle class, and expanding protein consumption," saidÂ Timothy Loh, USSEC Regional Director,Â Southeast AsiaÂ & Oceania. "Through long-standing partnerships and a shared commitment to innovation and sustainability, we're delivering value to the region and helping build a more secure, resilient future together."

Within the region,Â **IndonesiaÂ stands out**Â asÂ Southeast Asia'sÂ largest importer of U.S. soybeans for food use, underscoring its strategic importance to U.S. producers. Strong consumer demand and a cultural preference for traditional soy-based foods like tempe and tofu continue to drive soybean imports, while the country's rising protein needs are unlocking new opportunities for U.S. soybean meal in the feed sector.

Advancing Shared Priorities

The conference spotlighted how long-term collaboration between U.S. Soy producers and Southeast Asian partners helps ensure supply reliability, strengthens market access, and unlocks mutual value. Throughout the conference, speakers emphasized the importance of transparency, trust, and innovation in navigating an increasingly complex global trade environment.

In a leadership dialogue, USSEC CEOÂ **Jim Sutter**Â and USSEC ChairÂ **Janna Fritz**Â discussed how data, technology, and farmer-led innovation are shaping the future of agriculture. They emphasized the unique strengths of U.S. Soy: its lowest carbon footprint, superior sustainability and the dedication of multi-generational U.S. farmers to qualityÂ and long-term supply. Both leaders highlighted the value of close engagement with customers to better understand evolving market needs.

Across multiple sessions, speakers also underscored the region's rising demand for high-quality protein and the growing importance of secure, sustainable supply chains to meet that demand. Food safety, traceability, and consistent product quality were noted as top priorities for Southeast Asian buyers and consumers.

Strengthening Partnerships for the Future

The conference reaffirmed the value of strong, collaborative partnerships across the agricultural supply chain. By bringing together U.S. producers, exporters, buyers, feed millers, processors, and government leaders, the event provided a timely platform to shape a more resilient, sustainable future for global agriculture.