

## CME Group expands South Asia edible oil industry stability with industry support

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CME Group, the world's leading derivatives marketplace, has introduced four new South Asia edible oil futures contracts, enhancing price discovery and risk management for the region's market participants.

Launched on March 2, 2026, these cash-settled products include two outright contracts—**South Asia Soybean Oil (Fastmarkets) Futures** and **South Asia Crude Palm Oil (Fastmarkets) Futures**—and two spread contracts that reference Fastmarkets' Soyoil CFR India and Crude Palm Oil CFR West Coast India assessments. The contracts provide tools for better hedging and investment strategies in the volatile edible oils market.

The first trade of 100 contracts of the **South Asia Crude Palm Oil (Fastmarkets) Futures** occurred on March 5, 2026, brokered by ICAP between Avere Commodities and Olam Agri. This early activity signals strong industry support for the new offerings.

John Ricci, Managing Director and Global Head of Agricultural Products at CME Group, emphasized the significance of the launch, stating, “The addition of these contracts provides South Asian market participants with enhanced price discovery and risk management capabilities and will further support their investment and hedging strategies.”

Preston MacKenzie, Senior Trader at Avere Commodities, noted, “CME Group's exchange-cleared products that represent cash markets are great tools to add to our portfolio.”

Similarly, Rix Huffman, Senior Tropical Oils Trader at Olam Agri, highlighted the value for major shippers like Olam Agri, saying, "We embrace the addition of another tool to optimize our hedging strategies."

ICAP, as the first firm to broker the new product, underscored its role in advancing risk management solutions. James McKay, Co-Head of APAC Ags, Softs & Biofuels at ICAP, remarked, "We're proud to be the first firm to broker this new product. It's an important first step in developing new and innovative ways for our customers to manage their risk in these volatile and ever-changing markets."

The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) also expressed enthusiasm for the contracts' potential impact. Sudhakar Desai, IVPA President, stated, "We envision these becoming the global benchmarks that other major destinations adopt for buying and selling CIF India contracts."

This sentiment reflects the broader industry view that these futures could set a standard for effective risk management in the Indian vegetable oils sector. With these new products, CME Group has taken a significant step in supporting South Asia's agricultural and commodity markets, providing participants with innovative tools to navigate price volatility and optimize their trading strategies.