

Welcome Address
by
Shri Sandeep Bajoria
Chairman
All India Cottonseed Crushers' Association

Respected Shri Nitin Gadkari Sahib, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping, and Shri Nitin Patel, Deputy, Chief Minister, State Government of Gujarat, our Chief Guests for today's function and Shri Devchand Thakkar, President, All Gujarat Cottonseed Crushers Association, Shri Natubhai Patel, President, All Saurashtra Cottonseed Crushers Association, Shri Dilipbhai Patel, Raja Industry, Kadi, Special Guests, Shri Pasha Patel, Chairman, Maharashtra Agriculture Cost & Prices Commission, Government, of Maharashtra and Shri R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Guests of Honour. I welcome you all to this 1st Cottonseed Oil Conclave, 2017 being held today in Ahmedabad, Gujarat State which has been jointly organised by the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) Mumbai, and All India Cottonseed Crushers' Association's (AICOSCA), Mumbai. Both these Association's have been organising such Seminar/Conclave jointly from time to time at different places in India, the recent being the Feed and Feed Ingredients Conclave in Pune, Maharashtra in the month of July, 2017. In the wake of huge success achieved in the said Conclave, the present Conclave on Cottonseed Oil is being held in Ahmedabad (Gujarat), the hub of Indian industries.

India is now the leading cotton producing country in the world with a total production of 386 lakh bales (170 kgs. each), in the year 2014-15. Though cotton production in the two subsequent years, i.e 2015-16 and 2016-17 declined, a bumper production of about 390-400 lakh bales is expected in the current year i.e 2017-18 due to significant increase in acreage under cotton cultivation (about 18-19%) and favourable weather conditions. With higher production of cotton, there will also be higher availability of cotton seeds (i.e. about 130 lakh tonnes). This is highest in terms of production tonnage among all major oilseeds currently produced in the country, that is higher than the production of popular oilseeds like soyabean (105 lakhs tonnes), groundnut (78 lakh tonnes) and rape and mustard seed (70 lakh tonnes)

Our Association i.e All India Cottonseed Processor's Association (the only Association in the country for cottonseed processing industry and trade), represents scientific processing of cottonseed which puts cottonseed to its maximum use by subjecting it to a number of processes and obtaining from it maximum oil (cottonseed oil), apart from other by-products like linters, hulls and cottonseed meal/oil cakes.

The theme of today's Conclave is "Cottonseed Oil". Unlike other major edible oils where the seeds are grown mainly for oil, cottonseed oil although obtained from cottonseeds, the cotton crop is not grown mainly for oilseeds but for fibre, the single largest source of fibre in the world. Thus, cottonseed oil is a vegetable oil extracted from the seeds of the cotton plants of various species/varieties, after the cotton lint has been removed. Some of the other attributes of cottonseed oil are:

- i. Its primary use is for cooking and it is considered to be one of the most popular cooking oils in kitchens.
- ii. Cotton oil is used as a yardstick for measuring the flavor as well as odour qualities in other edible oils.
- iii. Unlike many other edible oils, this oil does not revert rapidly in flavor even when heated to very high temperatures.
- iv. Cottonseed oil is one of the main ingredients in most oriental dishes.

It will also 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 1st Cottonseed Oil Conclave. We hope to achieve grand success since about 300 Delegates are participating.

In the Conclave today, we have many learned speakers and researchers among ourselves who will deliberate on various aspects of cottonseed oil which will extremely benefit the entire sector of cottonseed oil processing industry and trade. Incidentally, we also have in our midst, our Chinese friends, (the inventor of Cottonseed Degossypolisation Technology), who have travelled all the distance from China to Ahmedabad to attend the Conclave. They have generously shared this prestigious technology with India through Patel Brother's Services and Engineering Pvt. Ltd., who are also amongst us. Also present in the Conclave, is Shri Prashant Mohota, the Managing Director, Gimatex Industries, who are the first implementer of this technology in India.

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