



## **Soy program to assist USDA reconstruction in Afghanistan**

**Compiled by Staff**

**© Copyright Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.**

Washington, March 4. The USDA said this week that the American Soybean Association's (ASA) World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program and three partnering organizations will undertake a cooperative agreement for work in Afghanistan. The USDA Food for Progress program ships in soy protein to fight some of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, as well as help rebuild Afghanistan's food industry. The estimated value of the project is \$26 million.

The cooperative agreement will provide 240 metric tons of defatted soy flour over the next three years to meet immediate nutritional needs of 5,000 women and their families. The agreement also includes 13,750 metric tons of soybean oil that will be monetized or sold into the local market in support of the project activities. The project will also bolster the processing end of the agricultural value chain, with the shipment of 6,000 metric tons of soybeans over three years. Afghan soybean processing facilities will use the soybeans to produce soy flour and soybean oil for the local market. Over the life of the program and all of its activities, this project will support more than 220,000 direct beneficiaries.

According to UNICEF, more than half of all children under five suffer from moderate or severe stunting. Twenty five percent of children die before reaching their fifth birthday. The health of rural Afghan people, particularly women and children, is often the worst in the nation.

The three-year project will mark the ASA program's first extended effort in Afghanistan. Joining WISHH on the project are Shelter for Life International, which is headquartered in Minnesota; California-based Nutrition and Education International Inc. (NEI); and CBI Global, located in Ohio. The organizations have seen the need and enormous potential for soy in their approximately 20 combined years of work in the war-torn country.

"We are excited to help Afghan farmers rebuild their infrastructure while we make healthy food available to their fellow citizens and to build a market for soy," said WISHH Chairman and ASA Board member Scott Fritz, a soybean producer from Winamac, Ind. "Diets will improve and soy consumption will increase as Afghan agriculture and the local economy develops. When this happens, everybody wins."

For more information, go to: [www.Agri-Pulse.com](http://www.Agri-Pulse.com)

