



## NEW SOY FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS



In an effort to create a more self-sustainable soybean production sector, Afghan farmers are establishing Soy Farmers Associations (SFAs) in each province. The SFAs help recruit new soy farmers, plan trainings, coordinate the rental of post-harvest equipment, and facilitate the purchase of soybean for processing into soy flour and other products. Recently, NEI is supporting new Soy Farmers Associations (SFA) in Kabul and Badakhshan provinces. The photo above shows a farmer recruitment and selection meeting taking place last month in Kabul Province.

## 1ST STERILIZED SOYMILK FACTORY SHIPMENT HEADING TO AFGHANISTAN



NEI is making history in Afghanistan. We are in the process of establishing the first ever commercial scale sterilized soy milk factory in the country. This factory will produce 40,000 packs daily of 10 month shelf life, soymilk without requiring refrigeration. This is important because it will increase accessibility to protein and reach more food insecure households in rural households without electricity. Twenty-five containers of equipment will be sent to Afghanistan soon. The fabrication of the equipment took place in Korea over the last 10 months. A tape cutting ceremony was held to send off the containers and we were honored to have representatives from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Daesung Food Technology, the Korea Soybean Society, the World Food Programme, and the Korea-Afghanistan Friendship Association attend the event.

## 3RD ANNUAL SOYBEAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

In a continuous effort to build the technical capacity of research agronomists and seed growers, NEI held the 3rd Annual Soybean Science & Technology Workshop with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, & Livestock last month. Mr. David Quarles, an internationally known Soybean expert from the United States, conducted a two day workshop where 95 participants learned about the best practices in soy cultivation including how to conduct soil testing, harvest data collection, irrigation, and pest management.



## OPINION LEADERS TRAINING IN HERAT

Soy food culture is relatively new in Afghanistan and NEI is training educators, public health professionals, business people and other leaders about soy nutrition and soy food preparation. Participants learn about the health benefits of soy and they have the opportunity to taste traditional Afghan dishes made with soybean. The community trainers receive

soy nutrition education and hands on experience with preparing soy dishes. Participants spread the word to their families and communities about the health benefits of soy nutrition.



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