

## ASIAN FEED

MAGAZINE



# Building up the industry amid cost, disease challenges







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#### Indian feed industry looks for solutions to volatility

The Indian feed industry is going through volatility and change. This year the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India (CLFMA) focused on finding data driven solutions to these challenges during its 55th AGM in Mumbai.

With the theme "Changing dynamics of Indian animal agriculture", speakers focused on using modern technology to monitor crop data, manage price volatility through value addition and sustainable use of energy and waste at the feedmill/farm.

"India's livestock industry is transforming alongside positive macroeconomic and demographic trends. Our focus is on adoption of modern solutions to overcome challenges," said Neeraj Kumar Srivastava, Chairman, CLFMA.

He told Asian Feed Magazine that the industry was not mature enough to adopt many of the new strategies, but this is a good start to the conversation.

### Innovative solutions to old problems

A major breakthrough this year is the government's change in stance on GM crops. The government has allowed field trials in growing GM corn and other seeds to improve productivity.

"We see that the government has been responsive to the volatility in feed raw materials in the last few years. It would take three to four years for trials and approvals to come in," Mr Srivastava said.

He said the government's plan to increase ethanol



Balram Singh Yadav (center) moderated a panel on the experiences of poultry, shrimp and dairy industry leaders on how to move towards value addition in the livestock sector.

production for biofuels to 25% by 2025 will help with a new feed protein source. This would increase DDGS availability, though quality would be a factor to work on.

One of the sessions during the symposium focused on data and analytics. According to Amit Saraogi, Managing Director of Sarawagi Agrovet, there is a need for unbiased and robust data to prevent unfavorable situations.

RMSI Cropalytics' Kumarjit Mazumder also shared how its digital crop map tool uses satellite images to capture plots of standing crops. A price outlook on relevant commodities like soymeal, mustard cake, cottonseed oil cake, baira and maize was revealed by Prerana Desai, Head of Research at Samunnati Agri. She shared observations on the impact of feed substitution, margin pressures and global macroeconomic trends.

#### Value addition in meat

CLFMA this year also touched on ways in which poultry consumption can be increased.

Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director of Godrej Agrovet, expects the industry to grow by a CAGR of 7.5% this year. "The next decade will see investments in animal husbandry outstrip any industry. Our contribution to agriculture GDP will grow from 37% to 50% in the next 5-6 years," he said.

For this, building customer experiences, adopting innovation in branding and hyperlocalizing for the domestic market are key, said a panel discussion on the topic moderated by Mr Yadav.

In the final session, Dr Parminder Singh, Professor of Animal Nutrition at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, brought up a gap in the standardization and regulation of feed. He spoke about technical challenges faced by livestock breeders in implementing standards.

#### Phytobiotics gets new Managing Director



Kurt Wegleitner

Kurt Wegleitner has assumed the role of Managing Director of Phytobiotics Futterzusatzstoffe. He will be responsible for the business and product management sectors.

The current Managing Director and owner of the company, Hermann Roth, will focus on banking, suppliers, and other administration departments.

"We have invested strategically in our production facilities in recent

years, made the product portfolio more attractive for our customers, and expanded our global distribution network. Kurt will now create the best conditions for us to develop our growth opportunities globally and to be close to our customers with our subsidiaries and partners," said Dr Roth.

Mr Wegleitner has held various positions in sales, marketing and regional management at Biomin for 10 years before joining the Addcon group in 2008.

About his move to Phytobiotics, he said: "I have known Phytobiotics Futterzusatzstoffe since its foundation. Over all these years, I have followed and admired the development. I see my new task in the Phytobiotics Group and the cooperation with all stakeholders as a positive challenge. I look forward to mastering it together with the teams and the owners."

✓ fluctuations with soybean and corn.

From wheat to cassava, the range has been wide, and this usage has increased the need for feed enzymes and gut health optimization feed additives to increase productivity and efficiencies in livestock.

With alternative protein gaining popularity, the demand for soybean may increase, affecting future supplies for the livestock industry. This would mean that animal feed producers will have to continue their search for cheap feed protein alternatives.

When it comes to new and emerging feed protein alternatives, we see insect meal, animal byproducts, and algae gaining ground. These have good potential in the aquafeed and pet food industries. The use of these ingredients would open opportunities for industries dealing with micronutrients as alternatives such as insect meal, need supplementation such as calcium, vitamins, thiamine, etc...

These gains in the feed alternative and additive industries are at a time when world economies are undergoing slow or even negative growth. Thus, producers are looking to spend less or optimize spending on only the most effective additives and solutions. Hence few will take risks with novel or a range of feed additives next year.

#### Mycotoxin challenges

Climate change has exacerbated the prevalence of mycotoxins in feed. Research indicates the prevalence of higher contamination in grain worldwide. Delays in shipping and the need for longer storage periods have also added to the risk of mycotoxin contamination. Research also indicates the growing prevalence of hidden and emerging mycotoxins which producers/feedmillers need to be made more aware of. This opens the market for more toxin binders and other additives that deal with mycotoxin contaminations. However, feedmillers need greater awareness of the risks of mycotoxins, to fully exploit this potential.

#### Feed hygiene and disease

ASF and avian influenza have been the two economically important diseases this year, wreaking havoc on the pig and poultry industries respectively. The increasing Larger feedmillers looking to save on labor and increase efficiency are investing in automation. Areas such as automated bagging, loading, and unloading conveyor belts, and areas of high labor usage are important for automation."

importance of feed as a carrier of these diseases has been highlighted. There is a greater emphasis on feed hygiene and the use of acids/ products to sanitize feed leaving the feedmill.

#### Construction sector

The Asian Feed Magazine Construction Sector Report for 2022, revealed that overall construction had slowed down in Asian markets following the pandemic. However, two areas that have seen growth are investment in silos and dryers. Feedmillers looking to control ingredient price volatility are building long term storage units. Some are also looking to retrofit their existing feedmills to accommodate more feed types, to spread risk in the business. Aquafeed and pet food are two such lines, feedmillers are investing in, to recoup from the downturn in the poultry and pig sectors.

#### Technology

Low investment but high impact

start-ups have come up, especially in countries such as Indonesia and India. The use of apps to formulate feed, improve feed efficiencies through Internet of Things (IoT) are gaining popularity. These companies are promoting low-cost solutions to farmers who want to improve their operations and animal performance targets.

Larger feedmillers looking to save on labor and increase efficiency are investing in automation. Areas such as automated bagging, loading, and unloading conveyor belts, and areas of high labor usage are important for automation.

#### What to expect in 2023

The Asian feed sector is optimistic that things will start to recover by Q2 of 2023. With recovery in global travel and tourism along with some normalization of supply chains, the feed industry can pick up some of its pre-pandemic vigor.

Sectors that are showing the most promise have been aquafeed and

**Neeraj Kumar Srivastava,** Chairman, Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India

"The Indian Feed industry is expected to grow at around 6-7% over the next year driven by increase in consumer demand and increased production across the segments.

Further, the future of the industry is expected to be bullish with increased growth opportunities in terms of modernization of broiler units through automation and more stabilization with increased holdings in the layer segments.

Despite this, the Indian feed industry continues to face the challenge of commodity price instability due to various new demand sectors like ethanol and starch. In addition to high price of raw materials like corn and soy, producers may have to deal with challenges in sourcing good quality raw materials and their supplies. Increased energy and supply chain costs are going to be another challenge the industry will continue to face, impacting production

Opportunities are seen in the Indian feed additive market which will continue its growth due to various growth drivers like increased feed production, increased need for improving production efficiencies and reducing production costs. Challenges in the availability of good quality raw materials and usage of alternate raw materials will enhance opportunities for some of feed additive segments like enzymes, eubiotics and other additives."

