

Research in Review

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Experiment Station soybean grant to aid Guatemala agriculture

COLLEGE STATION—The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has been awarded 15,000 tons of soybean meal to further agricultural development among indigenous populations in Guatemala.

The allocation is part of USDA's Food for Progress program, which will distribute \$125 million in international food assistance this year.

Partnering with the Experiment Station in the Guatemala project is Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. Advanced Business Concepts International, a subsidiary of Land O'Lakes Corp., will handle the sale of the soybean.

The Texas A&M University System Agriculture Program, which includes the Experiment Station, began work with Universidad del Valle de Guatemala more than a decade ago. This is the A&M System's second monetization award, said **Dr. Ed Price**, associate vice chancellor of international agriculture and federal relations at Texas A&M.

"We look forward to building substantially on our long relationship with UVG, which will provide numerous opportunities and benefits for the people of Guatemala as well as A&M faculty, researchers and students," Price said.

Proceeds from the soybean sales will be used for agricultural development activities at the main campus in Guatemala City, the UVG-Altiplano campus in Sololá located in the Guatemalan highlands, and on the south coast at the Programa Educativo del Sur (PROESUR) campus in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa.

Agricultural production, food processing, farmer education, cooperatives and agribusinesses will be the focus areas.

PROESUR provides economic, social and cultural development opportunities to the southern coast where the primary agricultural activity is sugarcane and production. UVG-Altiplano was established in 1999 on the site of a former military base derived from the 1996 Peace Accords that ended three decades of civil war.

Food for Progress allocations include more than 300,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat and flour, corn, rice, soy products, vegetable oils, beans and other commodities that will be purchased on the U.S. market and donated by USDA.

The commodities will go to nonprofit organizations and the United Nations World Food Program to support agricultural and rural development projects, while helping to address food shortages.

The development projects are funded by sales of the donated U.S. commodities within the recipient countries.

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