COUNTRY SNAPSHOT:
SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is an island nation off the coast of India with a GDP per capita about 80% higher than that of India. The agriculture sector contributes around 7% to the national GDP, out of which the fisheries sector contributes 1.3% and the livestock sector 0.9%. The contribution of the poultry industry within the livestock sector is huge, accounting for roughly 64%.

U.S. Soy has collaborated with Sri Lanka since 2008.

MARKET STATS

- Sri Lanka is the largest container market for U.S. soybean meal
- Annual requirement of soybean meal for animal feed production is estimated at 235,000 MT for 2022/2023
- A recent economic crisis that led to the ousting of the former government has severely impacted demand and poultry growth.
- A lack of U.S. dollars has led to importing challenges.
- U.S. soybean meal exports to Sri Lanka were estimated at just over $80 million in 2022.
- Soy flour requirement is equal to about 10,000 MT per year. The major non-GMO soy food product in Sri Lanka is soy nuggets.
STRENGTHS

- A strong preference for U.S. soy, based on the essential amino acids profile, higher digestibility, less fiber and reliable supply chain with over 70% market share.
- Sri Lanka does not have avian influenza and has not yet been impacted.
- Relatively high GDP per capita and disposable income, when compared to other South Asian nations.

OPPORTUNITIES

- An evolving lifestyle is moving toward quality food and quality protein, yet over 25% of the child population is still deficient in protein.
- State of the art processing plants and international quality standards in chicken processing and cold chain management provide the opportunity to enter the export market.
- While Sri Lanka as a nation has embraced eco-tourism and sustainability, its adoption of the SSAP remains relatively low at around 25%. This is a great way for the animal protein industry to embrace the potential of environmentalism and leverage it for growth.
- A failed policy of embracing organic agriculture, and banning any synthetics has been reckoned with and lessons learned will be applied to for improvement in the agriculture sector, including imports, potentially on GMOs and commodity corn/soybean imports.
- A de facto ban on corn imports results in the energy potion of feeds being artificially high. This creates a great opportunity for US soy, having high energy content as a result of sucrose and sugars.

CHALLENGES

- The country is currently undergoing an extreme financial crisis and is overly burdened with debt which has created a lack of U.S. dollars in the economy.
- While the port of Colombo is ranked 17th in the world, its inland infrastructure is in poor condition.
- Currently there are no import tariffs for soybean meal, however officials are wondering if there could be a potential to generate U.S. dollar revenue.
- A lack of energy availability, due to a de facto ban on commodity corn imports inhibits growth, as it makes feed production artificially high.