

Pay attention to Asian buyers, SEA tells palm oil producers

Our Bureau

Mangaluru

India, which is one of the major consumers of palm oil in Asia, has urged global palm oil producers to pay attention to the needs of Asian purchasers also.

Speaking at the second meeting of the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Ajay Jhunjhunwala, President of the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India, said all major producers tend to respond more to the demands from buyers in Europe rather than pay attention to the needs of Asian purchasers.

“European Union accounts for less than 9 per cent of the global palm oil imports. Asian buyers share around 40 per cent. But pro-

ducers try to comply with EU's demands and ignore Asian buyers,” he said.

Dorab Mistry, Director of Godrej International Ltd, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, among other Asian countries, consume 40 per cent of palm oil, and they do not create hurdles for palm oil-producing countries. Key producers -- Indonesia and Malaysia -- need to realise that Asian countries are their most trusted buyers and that they make purchases without creating trouble for the industry, he said.

The Secretary General of APOA, Suresh Motwani, said APOA is a coordinated platform of the palm oil consuming countries to unitedly address common problems, interests, and aspirations of the Asian palm oil sector stakeholders.