Sushil K. Bhalla has been named technical director of the **J.M. Huber Corp.'s Chemical Division** in Havre de Grace, Maryland. He has over 20 years of experience in the management of R&D activities. He succeeded **Lloyd E. Williams**, who is retiring after 29 years with Huber Chemicals.

EVAL Co. of America (EVALCA) has appointed **Kyoichiro Ikari** to the newly created position of director of research and technical service. Part of his responsibilities will be to coordinate EVALCA's research efforts with those of Kuraray Co. Ltd. and Quantum Chemical Corp. to develop new ethylene vinyl alcohol resin products and applications. EVALCA is a joint venture of Quantum and Kuraray.

New Japan Chemical Co. of Japan, **Henkel KGaA** of West Germany and **Lucky Corp.** of South Korea have agreed to build a fatty alcohol facility in Malaysia. Production at the 30,000-metric-ton capacity plant is scheduled for March 1991. Henkel will hold 55% of the shares in **Henkel Rika**; New Japan Chemical will hold 25%, and Lucky will hold the remaining shares.

The PQ Corp. has appointed **Allan Burns** as an associate director of its Research and Development Center. **Jed Seybold** has been named market development project manager in the company's specialty chemicals division.

FROM WASHINGTON

ASA: Give Russia favored status

The American Soybean Association (ASA) has asked the Bush Administration to grant most-favored-nation status to the Soviet Union. Most-favored-nation status would allow the Soviets nondiscriminatory access to the U.S. market.

According to ASA, as long as the U.S. denies most-favored-nation status to Russia and restrictive import tariffs remain in place, the Soviets will be hindered from exporting to the U.S. Soviet ability and willingness to purchase U.S. goods, including soybeans, also are lessened without most-favored-nation status, ASA said.

In a letter to President George Bush, ASA President James Lee Adams proposed that the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 be waived for 18 months. The Jackson-Vanik amendment prohibits nonmarket economy nations such as the Soviet Union from receiving nondiscriminatory access to the U.S. market as long as those countries restrict the emigration of Jews and other groups.

Adams said that without the waiver, South American competitors would gain a competitive edge in the potentially large Soviet market.

Reports available on grain quality

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has available two publications from the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) describing the increasing competition in world grain markets and the importance quality plays in global trade.

"Grain Quality in International Trade: A Comparison of Major U.S. Competitors" costs $7.50. Its GPO stock number is 052-003-01140-9. "Enhancing the Quality of U.S. Grain in International Trade" is $13 and the stock number is 052-003-001139-5. Contact: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Congress considers soybean checkoff

Legislation to create a nationwide soybean promotion and research checkoff program was introduced in the U.S. House and Senate in May. Senators David Pryor of Arkansas and Christopher Bond of Missouri and Representatives Dan Glickman of Kansas and Ron Marlenee of Montana sponsored the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Education Act of 1989.

The purpose of the bill, Pryor said, is "to establish a farmer-controlled, nationwide soybean promotion and research program which will expand export markets, protect domestic markets, develop new and improved uses for soybeans and soybean products, and raise consumer awareness of the benefits of these products."

U.S. soybean farmers favor the program because it is fair to all soybean farmers and would be run by the farmers, according to Don Heil, chairperson of the ASA Checkoff Development Committee. If adopted, the program would require that 50% of the funds stay in the states and would prohibit the use of checkoff funds to influence legislation.

A poll of a cross-section of U.S. soybean farmers conducted by ASA indicated that 38% strongly favored, 32% somewhat favored, 12% opposed and 14% strongly opposed a nationwide soybean checkoff; the remaining 4% had no opinion.

NutraSweet cites European opinion

The NutraSweet Co. has told the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that regulatory officials in the United Kingdom (U.K.) and

West Germany consider the fat substitute Simplesse a "natural food substance," and thus it does not have to be regulated as a food additive under their regulations.

NutraSweet's Acting Director of Regulatory Affairs Steven J. Goldberg told FDA that certain European government officials confirmed that Simplesse constitutes "a known food substance or ingredient, not a food additive or novel food."

However, although there appears to be no legal impediment to marketing Simplesse in the U.K., a letter from the U.K.'s Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) to NutraSweet indicates MAFF would "wish to give further consideration to the nutritional implications." Details: *Food Chemical News,* May 1, 1989, pp. 14–15.

Tropical fat use minor in the U.S.

Despite increased concern in the U.S. concerning the presence of tropical fats in processed foods, total U.S. consumption of palm, palm kernel and coconut oils for edible uses totaled only 550 million pounds in 1987/88. That represented about 4% of the total U.S. usage of edible fats and oils in 1987/88, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

A 50% reduction in tropical fat consumption in the edible sector would have only a marginal effect on U.S. fats and oils markets because these oils represent only a small portion of total use, USDA said. The agency estimated such a reduction would result in an import decline of approximately 110,000 metric tons (MT). On a 1987/88 basis, that would equal about 1% of world tropical oil imports and 9% of U.S. total vegetable oil imports.

Any decline in U.S. imports would not significantly affect Malaysia or the Philippines because most exports from those countries are for oils used in nonfood products, USDA said. However, if Europeans become concerned about the presence of tropical fats in their diets, the market impact would be greater because the European Economic Community (EEC) is the largest importer of tropical fats, USDA said.

USDA said a 50% reduction in EEC food use of tropical oils would mean imports could drop by 500,000 MT (based on 1988/89 consumption estimates). That would be about 6% of world tropical oil imports, 28% of EEC tropical oil imports and 11% of EEC total vegetable oil imports in 1988/89. Details: *Agricultural Outlook,* May 1989, pp. 15–18.