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## Indonesia

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### Indonesia's Tempeh Producers Celebrate U.S. Soybeans

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**Report Highlights:**

The U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia recently visited a tempeh manufacturing plant in central Java. The visit highlighted the importance U.S. soybeans have in Indonesian consumers' food security and nutritional status. Furthermore, the visit showcased U.S. soybean industry's successful commercial partnership with Indonesian tempeh producers.

## Indonesia's Tempe Producers Celebrate U.S. Soybeans

During a visit to *Tempe Village*, a neighborhood specializing in home-based tempeh production in Semarang Province, Central Java, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Joseph R. Donovan Jr., saw first-hand how tempeh is produced and learned why Indonesians favor U.S. soybeans. Tempe is Indonesian consumers' primary protein source, and imported U.S. soybeans account for 90 percent of the soybeans required to produce it. With exports of 2.4 million tons, valued at almost a billion dollars in 2017, U.S. soybeans are the number one U.S. agricultural export to Indonesia.

"Soybeans from the United States are number one," the Indonesian Tempeh Forum's Central Java Chairperson, Harnina Bintari, told Ambassador Donovan. Ms. Harnina explained that U.S. soybeans are more consistent in size and quality, and can be stored for longer periods of time. These characteristics are critical for tempeh producers.

Harnina also expressed appreciation for past U.S. government and soybean industry assistance to small-scale Indonesian producers. She said these technical assistance programs resulted in improved hygiene standards and boosted manufacturing quality. USDA, in partnership with the U.S. Soybean Export Council, established the Indonesia Tempeh Forum in 2008 to provide technical assistance to thousands of small-scale tempeh producers. With Ambassador Donovan's full support, USDA will continue to partner with the U.S. soybean industry to ensure U.S. soybeans remain number one in Indonesia!



*Figure 1: Ambassador Donovan with a tempeh producer and finished product (left); Ambassador Donovan with Ms. Harnina learning about the tempeh production process (right).*



*Figure 2: Ambassador Donovan observing the tempeh production process.*



*Figure 3: Ambassador Donovan with bags of U.S. soybeans (Kedelai) and finished tempeh product.*

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