

**Opening Remarks as "Session Chair Person"**  
for the **TECHNICAL SESSION III**

**OPENING REMARKS FOR SEA**

We all know that Ricebran oil is very nutritious oil with lots of health benefits. It is the Rice bran which is a rich source of essential nutrients like carbohydrates, proteins, fats, dietary fibers and antioxidants like tocopherols, tocotrienols, phytosterols and oryzanol. It has the potential to be used as functional food. It can also be used for the production of value added products in nutraceuticals and pharmaceutical industry mainly due to gamma-oryzanol which tends to have cholesterol lowering properties. Oryzanol is used in certain cosmetics applications too.

After oil-extraction what is left is the defatted ricebran which also possesses unique functional and nutritional properties as it is a rich source of proteins, carbohydrates and phytochemicals. Since it is defatted it can be stored for a long time too. Hence the rice bran can be used as a source of healthy food as well as a source of oil, provided it is stabilized properly to inactivate the enzymes.

Ricebran wax is another byproduct obtained during the processing and is gaining a lot of importance. There are companies manufacturing it on a commercial scale. Crude Ricebran oil contains 2-4% of wax which has to be removed to market it as cooking oil and mainly for consumer acceptance. These waxes are high molecular weight esters and have varied applications in food, pharma and cosmetics. Mineral Waxes have been and are being used in many cosmetic preparations and pharmaceuticals formulations. Ricebran wax once purified are very safe to use can replace or substitute these costlier waxes and make the final product cost-effective. They can also replace waxes which are used in fruit and vegetable coating, paper glazing etc.

Rice bran and Ricebran oil and its by products have a huge potential in India which needs to be tapped. The oil is gaining immense popularity and we will see a significant growth in rice bran oil production in future. Thus very soon India's dependency on edible oil imports would reduce. This will also give a boost to our agricultural industry especially in rice farming thus benefitting the farmers in a big way.