

Economic Opportunities

American Vegetable Soybean & Edamame

Mulberry, AR

Project Profile

SNAPSHOT

Activity Type – Economic development.

Beneficiaries – Area soybean farmers and the 100 new employees of the processing plant.

Project Total – \$5.2 million

CDBG Funds – \$994,000

Leverage Ratio – 1:4

Key Result – Local farmers have been selling their new crop to the processing plant, which has capacity to expand.

Words of Advice – Be willing to support new ideas.

More Information – www.arkansasedc.com



PLACE

An agricultural community with a history of soybean farming, Mulberry has begun producing edamame, a soybean product popular in Asia and increasingly in demand in the United States. Mulberry is the first place in the United States harvesting edamame for a U.S. processing plant, also in Mulberry. Previously all edamame consumed in the United States had been imported from China.

PEOPLE

Both area farmers and employees of the new processing plant hope that Mulberry will become a major edamame production center. One reason the new plant located in the area was because local farmers were willing to grow non-genetically modified vegetable soybeans.

PROJECT

A Texas-based Asian foods importer was seeking a site to build its company, American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame Inc. They chose Mulberry, in part due to an economic development loan from the Arkansas CDBG program. The company completed its 32,000-square-foot processing plant in summer 2012. The plant has added 100 jobs to the community. Additionally, the area has been introduced to edamame, a nutritionally rich, healthy food. The company will soon be adding a second plant in Arkansas.

PARTNERS

American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame's sister company, JYC International, was founded in the mid-1990s and specializes in Asian frozen food products such as edamame and spring rolls. The company had previously imported edamame from China. An important partner is the University of Arkansas, which is conducting research about edamame varieties. The State CDBG program is administered by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

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